

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



MAY 2005

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Volume 21 Issue 2

May 2005

The position of Editor is not an easy one, and when I agreed to take the job on, it was with some trepidation. I have no experience whatsoever in "editoring" and each month try to produce a readable, informative publication. The quality, layout, etc. could be better, but I don't have the facilities at home to produce such a publication. I have a basic word-processing programme and everything you read has been (with a few exceptions) typed by me. The articles have to be A5 in size, as this is the size of the magazine, and every article I receive which is larger or smaller than this, has to retyped. I am not complaining, as I believe this to be one of the jobs of the Editor, but I do get things wrong from time to time, for which I apologise. The 12th of the month comes around very quickly, and it seems like one issue has been delivered and it is time to do the next. Like most people, I have a very busy life working, looking after my children and home and, along with the other members of the Messenger Team, volunteer a considerable amount of time to perform the tasks required. I think we are very fortunate to have a village magazine, and one that is published every month!

The deadline for articles for the June 2005 issue of the magazine is 12th May 2005. 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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Advertising Manager:	Steve Ansell, Post Office Stores 811252
Distribution Manager:	Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road 816177

Dear Editor . . .

Well done to the writer of the timely plea for support for St. Mary's in the April issue of the Messenger. I say "timely" because knowing the condition of parts of the building and of the Tower in particular, we are going to need the support of the whole village. But, supporting our Parish Church is not just a question of digging into our pockets. We also need to dig into our hearts and consider just where we are heading.

Our village school is indeed providing an excellent education for our children thanks to the skilled, caring and dedicated staff and weekly input from the Rector. The Church too provides sound Christian education for adults and children alike and a lot of thought and preparation goes into ALL our services. Are all the efforts of our Rector and his wife, and others, to no avail?

It doesn't take much research to discover what falling attendance and support leads to CLOSURE!! After all, neither the Church of England or any other denomination is in the business of propping up ailing churches, especially in rural areas, so it is up to us. Can we rise to the challenge? I hope so.

Brian Bellamy

Editor's Note: The writer of the letter in question was Maureen Cole, and omission of her name was entirely my fault! Apologies Maureen for any problems this may have caused you.

On Monday 4th April, at approximately 11.15pm, my car (whilst in my garage) was set on fire and burnt out. Considerable damage was caused not only to my garage but also the garages either side. It is incredible that none of the cars in the garage block exploded and only thankful that no one was injured. Shefford Fire Service were soon at the scene and the courage and bravery of the fire-fighters should be commended; they were so efficient and very reassuring. Many thanks also to the person who called the fire service, for which I am most grateful.

I am now slowly recovering from the ordeal. I hope the culprits will soon be tried and punished, as I have deep concern that no one else should fall victim to such a mindless and unnecessary incident as this.

Elsie Lawrence
12 Fildyke Road

RACE FOR LIFE - 26TH JUNE 2005

Louise Woodhouse and Karen Bull are both taking part in the Race for Life for Cancer Research. If anyone would like to sponsor us, we would really appreciate it. A sponsor form will be available at the Post Office Counter, or contact Karen on 812971. Thank you for your support.

Louise and Karen

Antisocial Behaviour Relating to Vehicle Nuisance

There is a rash of activity involving off-road motorcycles, powered scooters and quad bikes in the area, particularly on and around the Bovis Estate and adjoining fields. In some cases it seems that parents are actually taking their children to these areas to ride. If the police bother to turn up, the persons reporting the matter have already been subjected to abuse from the riders who then proceed to speed off across nearby roads and pathways, causing a danger to themselves and others. None of the riders are wearing safety helmets! This sort of behaviour could be dealt with under Antisocial Behaviour guidelines. If you aggravate others, bear in mind that the law now enables the authorities to take action against you. Petrol driven mini scooters sometimes described as "Go Peds" and quad bikes are being used on public roads, bridle paths and fields under seed. These vehicles are regarded as motor vehicles as defined in the Road Traffic Act 1988. They need:

- European Whole Vehicle Type approval
- To be registered with the DVLA
- Road Tax
- Number plate/s
- Break Lights
- Indicators

The age limit for someone to use such a vehicle is the same as for a moped. They must have a valid driving licence and the vehicle must not be driven on a public path. Riders must comply with the Highway Code and all relevant driving legislation. They also have to wear a proper motorcycle helmet.

Be warned! If you are caught riding a vehicle illegally you could be prosecuted. The worst scenario is that someone could be seriously hurt or killed. We are sure that this is the last thing that any parent or relative would want to happen. So take action now before it is too late!

A Plea for Help from the Parish Council

The Parish Council is seeking help with two projects that are about to be undertaken; namely the production of a Parish Plan and What To Do With The Village Hall.

About ten years ago a Village Appraisal was undertaken with Ron Mitchell leading the project. The appraisal took the form of a questionnaire developed by Ron and a small band of Parishioners from various groups, organisations and individuals and it was distributed to all households with numerous questions on most aspects of village life. The end report was used, where possible, to guide the direction the Village went in. The original guidelines for appraisal did not allow for Planning to be included.

The Parish Plan follows the same format but this time Planning can be included. So to develop the questions to be put to the Parishioners a working party of up to eight people is required. The Parish Council will be represented on working party and will arrange the necessary finance for the project but the Council would like it to be a Village run project so volunteers are required. It is thought the project will take just under a year to complete with most of the work at the beginning with working what questions should be asked and how they should be worded. So if you think you can help please contact me by one of the methods below.

In last months Messenger Paul Carne, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, wrote about the condition the Village Hall is in and what should be done about it. It is obviously going to be topic for the questionnaire mentioned above but the Parish Council would like to have investigated as many of the alternatives for the hall as possible so that decisions can be as soon as the results are known. To this end I am asking if anyone with a knowledge of business or the ways of local government or maybe have been involved with major fund raising, possibly just retired or just wants to get involved please contact me by one of the following methods to obtain more information. Even if you do not you fall into any of those groups but still want to help, please, get in touch.

I personally believe that a Village Hall is a necessary part of any Village and would hate to lose the facility.

Peter Chapman
Chairman Meppershall Parish Council
9 Brookside, Meppershall. Telephone 813497
e-mail via the Meppershall Website www.Meppershall.org

News from the Meppershall Players

We are currently rehearsing a Variety Concert to be held on the weekend of 24th and 25th June 2005. The concert is to help us to commemorate this year's 60th Anniversary of VE and VJ Day. The concert, directed by Karen Mitchell, will be a special way to remember these important dates in our recent history. We will also be raising money to support the excellent and necessary work of the British Legion. Posters and details of when tickets will be available will be published soon.

With the financial help of the Parish Council, we are planning to produce a special commemorative programme which will be available at the concert and in local outlets. We would love to have any special memories, photographs or memorabilia that we could include in this programme. We would like to be able to record and pass on memories of Meppershall from these times. If you think you could help in any way, could you please contact Frank Keen on 01462 815387. We will take special care to any items loaned to us.

MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday 7th June 2005
8pm**

Any person who wishes to join the Village Hall Committee of Management should contact the Chairman, Paul Carne, on 01462 813305 or email: paul.carne@midbeds.gov.uk

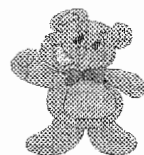
THE SUGAR LOAF PUBLIC HOUSE

Will be holding its Annual Bungee Jump this year on Friday 20th May from 6-8pm. There will be a pig roast during the evening and throughout a disco by our local resident Andy Cannon. Sponsor forms can be obtained from the Sugar Loaf and Post Office, so please come and have a try. For any of you faint hearted there will be a masseur to ease away any doubts you may have, free of charge! All proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Heart Foundation, so please come and have fun. Enjoy and make this year as good as last year.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Ron and Doreen

MEPPERSHALL PRE-SCHOOL



A Big Welcome to

*Marc Neilson, Daniel Sellors, Cameron Heathfield,
Timothy Newman, Niamh Fairweather, Lewis Savuto
and James Metcalf who all started with us in April.*

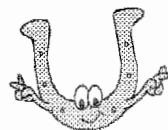
We will enjoy introducing you to all the variety of fun and educational activities we have for you including;



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

We all hope you will enjoy the special and fun times we have 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
- ☺ Sports day in the park
- ☺ Your parent/carer coming in to help
- ☺ Learning something new



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.

We have ride on toys, pushalongs, bikes, slide, seesaws and rockers. An art and activity table. Separate soft baby area (from new born). Toy Library. Organised events for children including Christmas Party, Teddy Bears Picnic, Easter Events and Halloween Fancy Dress Party. Photographer sessions. Book, craft and clothes sales

£1 per session for one child

£1.50 for families with two or more children over 1

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.

We would like to say a big welcome to those members who have joined us recently. We hope you and your children enjoy our weekly meetings.

We hope everybody enjoyed our Easter party. Thank you to everyone who supported us. The raffle raised £30 for toddler funds. We held a Easter egg colouring competition and the winners were:

Under 2's - 1st George Sale
 2nd Luke Merryweather

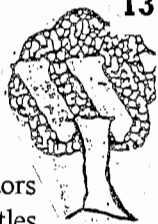
Over 2's - 1st Daisy Lucas
 2nd Olivia Mardell

Thank you to all the children who participated. We also held an Easter egg hunt and the children received a party goody bag in exchange for the paper eggs they found. As usual the bouncy castle was a favourite with the children.

Watch this space for details of future events, including our Teddy Bears Picnic.

For contact details, please see the Organisations section of the Messenger.





MEPPERSHALL W.I.

President, Barbara Horwood, welcomed 27 members and six visitors to our open meeting on 13th April. Barbara welcomed Penny Castles as our new secretary. Future events in the area include Petanque at Cross Keys, Pulloxhill on 15th June cost £7.50, which includes a basket meal. Archery on Wednesday 29th June (WI members only) 7-9pm at Clophill Village Hall cost £6 per head maximum number 20. There are still some tickets for the London outing on Saturday 14th May leaving Clophill at 9.15am cost £10.50 coach fare only. Treasure Hunt on foot around Potton on Friday evening 22nd July meeting in the carpark at the Hallow, Biggleswade Road, Potton between 6.15pm and 6.45pm finishing with a chicken or fish & chip supper, cost £8, open to family and friends. Outings to Ball Colegrave in Banbury, Oxon on Wednesday 3rd August tours of the trial grounds plus gardens questions and planting presentations, price £20. A flower festival at St. Pauls Church, Bedford, 12th - 14th May on 26th June - 12 open gardens at Potton End, Berkhamstead plus crafts, cost £5. Bedford Show at Old Warden Park on 9th and 10th July.

The first match for our Darts team will be at Cranfield. Our speaker for the evening was Ms. Alisa Savage - Bedford County Recycling Officer, on the very topical subject of recycling our waste. Beds is split into three sections each with differences in collecting methods. 200,000 tons were collected in 2003/4 with targets of 4% increase each year. There is a great need to recycle as we are running out of landfill sites and we need to reduce the demand for raw materials. When everything has been sorted (plastic, tins, paper and card) and packaged it is sent to various destinations throughout the country, some to be made into other materials such as fleece, etc. One of the uses of recycled glass is as aggregate for road building. A very informative talk followed by many questions from our audience.

Our next meeting is on 11th May followed by a beetle drive.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

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<i>Monday 9th May</i>	<i>Bible Society Action Group Fowlers Farm, Meppershall</i>	<i>7.45pm</i>
<i>Friday 20th May</i>	<i>Bungee Jump Sugar Loaf Public House</i>	<i>6pm</i>
<i>Saturday 21st May</i>	<i>Jazz by The Vine Street Six St. Mary's Church</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>
<i>Tuesday 7th June</i>	<i>Meppershall Village Hall Annual General Meeting</i>	<i>8pm</i>
<i>Saturday 24th</i>	<i>Meppershall Players</i>	
<i>Sunday 25th June</i>	<i>Variety Concert at Village Hall</i>	

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. 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
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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 Came, 6 Hoo Road, Meppershall	857803
	Email: paul.came@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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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

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. Suzanne Brightwell		815752

<u>Beavers</u>	Fridays at 6pm - 7.15pm	Stondon Village Hall	
Beaver Scout Leader:	Mr. Steve Mann		816208
	Tuesdays at 6.30pm - 7.30pm	Shefford Scouts HQ	
Beaver Scout Leader:	Mrs. Hayley Henshall		817446
Beaver Scout Leader:	Jan Montgomery	Shillington	712386

Bingo Fridays at 7pm Village Hall

Conservative Association

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

Cubs

Shefford	Wednesdays	6.45pm	David Cousins	811441
1st Stondon	Thursdays	7pm - 8.30pm	Michael Hammond	811548
Shillington			Pauline Goodman	711943

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

Meppershall 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

Meppershall Baby & Toddler Group 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

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

Scouts
 Sheffield Diane Landau 01234 381153
 Shillington Paul Major 834251

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

Youth Club Fridays 7pm Village Hall
 Linda & Matt Ford 851567 OR Sue & Steve Covington 815736

AMENITIES

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

Dentist Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Sheffield 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
 Sheffield Road 12.25
Library High Street, Sheffield 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 01234 841212
 Or 01582 471212
 Sheffield Police Post (non-emergencies) 01234 841212

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

Whitbread Wanderbus 850075

St Mary's Parish Church Meppershall

In the United Benefice of Meppershall and Shefford

Rev John Harper, The Rectory, Church Rd, Meppershall 01462 3813334

Churchwardens:

Brenda Wright 816446 Brian Bellamy Honeysuckle Cottage, 125 High St .

Services in May

Sunday 1	8.30 Holy Communion 6p.m. Evensong
Thurs 5	Ascension Day - School service 9.30a.m.: 7.30p.m. Holy Communion
Sunday 8	8.30a.m. Holy Communion 11a.m. Family Service
Sunday 15	Whit Sunday 8.30a.m. Holy Communion, 6p.m. Evensong
Sunday 22	Trinity - 8.30 Holy Communion, 11a.m. Family Communion
Thurs 26	Confirmation service with Communion for the Shefford Deanery. 7.30p.m
Sunday 29	8.30 Holy Communion, 11a.m. United Communion with St Michael's Shefford

There is also a service of Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) every Wednesday 10a.m. and the night time service of Compline is held every Friday at 7.30p.m. Morning prayer is said at 9.30a.m. on Saturdays.

Dear friends,

Just before the last General Election I was encouraged to witness a debate involving three M.P.s from different parties, all of whom had more in common than their contrasting allegiances might have suggested. Their plea was not for a particular vote, but that Christian people should let their voices be heard, both in the political arena and in the whole context of building a just community for Britain. The M.P.s were practising Christians, and they recognised that when the Christian community prays and speaks with a united voice, God honours their requests, and things happen that show the marks of His Kingdom.

When Election Day arrives this time we have another opportunity of using our hard won democratic rights to contribute to a society where the things of God are honoured. Maybe it's sheer coincidence, but May 5 is Ascension Day, - the day when Christians give thanks for the sovereignty of Christ at the completion of his earthly ministry. The challenge of the election is to use our vote in such a way that this God we see in Jesus is shown to 'reign' in our nation's life and values. That may represent a costly decision, because it may well conflict with the choice that would best advance our personal interests. And yet we have the assurance that if we 'seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, all these things shall be added unto you'. And that applies not only at election time, but whenever we have the chance to stand up for what honours God and his ways - his truth, his compassion, his justice. Ascension Day can be a single opportunity to 'Make the Cross count', but every single day is a chance to demonstrate whose authority really matters.

With good wishes

John Harper, Rector of Meppershall and Shefford

For the first time for many years the Bishop of Bedford will conduct a Confirmation service at St Mary's on Thurs May 26. 7.30p.m. Young people and adults from Meppershall, Shefford and the wider Deanery will be confirmed and receive communion for the first time. You are warmly invited to support them, and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

This year's Annual Meeting produced a renewed sense of God's encouragement and direction for the year ahead. Brenda Wright and Brian Bellamy were both re-elected as Churchwardens, with Pat Bass continuing as Deputy. All the P.C.C. officers remain in post and Morag de Luca becomes our Deanery Synod representative along with Peter Longland. We welcome Alan Milton as the new face on the Council, joining Linda and John Chillman, David Bartlett and Anne Parsons. Anne would be delighted to hear from those interested in bellringing, regardless of experience.

Do feel free to speak to any of the above or myself regarding matters relating to St Mary's.

'Pentecost Praise' - come and celebrate the birthday of the Church. All age presentation on the green at rear of St Michael's Church Shefford. Sat May 14, 10.30a.m. - 12.30p.m. Bouncey Castle and birthday cake (Shefford Churches Working Together)

'Light within' - a weekly journey of discover into deeper ways of praying, seeing and knowing, using all the senses. Wednesdays 8p.m. at St Michael's, May 4, 11, 18, 25 June 1. Details Jenny 817337.

News of events and other information in both parishes can be found on the weekly 'Link' newsheet, available from Church and Rectory, and also from the Meppershall website meppershall.org and St Michael's : sm3a.org.uk

The Junior Choir

Many, many congratulations to the newly formed choir that sang in the church on Easter Sunday with such clarity and confidence. I am sure that to perform in front of a large congregation they must have felt a little nervous, but nothing was outwardly showing from these very young children. I sat in the west isle quite far back but heard every word they sang; they obviously enjoyed fulfilling their task which they had practised for. The prayer too, which they sang to the Taize music, was so meaningful. I thought it was wonderful.

Extended congratulations must, of course, go to their choir mistress, Mrs. Sandra Harper, who must have spent many hours with the children to have got them to such a high standard. Well done children. Well done Sandra.

Ann Herman

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

First Mass of Sunday

Saturday Evening

6pm

RAF Henlow

9am

Shefford

5.15pm

Shefford

Weekday Services

See notice at Church of phone

Parish Priest:

Parish Secretary:

Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436

Rose Boulton 811547

JAZZ CONCERT

Yes, it is true. Jazz really IS coming the Meppershall!!

As you have probably read before, The Vine Street Six will be performing in just three weeks time when, at the invitation of The Friends of St. Mary's, they will be playing a fantastic programme of Traditional and New Orleans jazz music. For the concert, in St. Mary's Church, on 21st May at 7.30pm, tickets are selling fast for what promises to be an evening of delightful, foot tapping entertainment.

To purchase your tickets, which are £10, to include extensive home-made buffet style refreshments, washed down with red wine, or squash, you may contact Trevor Thorley (01462 813357), Margaret Evesham (01462 814291), Roger's Bakery and The Post Office. But, please act soon to avoid disappointment.

Creating opportunities with disabled people

LEONARD CHESHIRE



A warm, friendly home is what we're all proud of being a part of in Agate House. Have you thought of calling in and meeting us? From all those who do, we frequently get told, "I never dreamt that the building is so large ... Everyone is so friendly ... There's so much laughter ... What a lot of fun you all have". All very true and we'd very much like to share this with you. We absolutely love visitors. Recently we have entertained groups of Year 6 pupils from Alameda School in Ampthill. We were really pleased to help them with their Religious Studies Unit of other people in our community and we all learnt a lot from each other.

I'm on what seems like a continual plea for more kind people to pledge a little of their time to come in and gossip with a resident or take on some driving for us. We will advise and train as necessary. So, please why don't you think about paying us a visit. It's safer to call me beforehand and we can be sure there's someone at home to meet you and show you around!

Coming up is Teddy Afternoon on Saturday 14th May 2-4pm, Leonard Cheshire Week 4th-12th June various events throughout, and Gala Day on 9th July. We do need lots of unwanted gifts, good quality bric-a-brac, plants and cakes for these events - all would be gratefully received.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Warmest good wishes from all at Agate House.

Judith Hagger

Volunteer Coordinator/Fundraising (01525 403247)

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

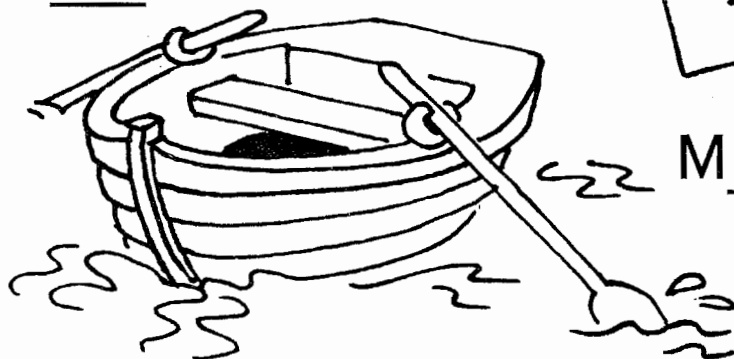
Recently we held our get together at the Memorial Hall in Shefford. This event was so well supported we unfortunately had to turn people away. After our fish and chip supper we were entertained by a local group Bustles and Beaux. They performed a very entertaining Old Time Music Hall and afterwards we were able to present a £2,000 cheque to Hilary, a representative from Keech Cottage Children's Hospice, the proceeds from our raffles during the year. Bustles and Beaux also donate to charity and presented a cheque for £750. A day trip has been arranged for the London Eye and Riverside, offering an 11.30am flight on the London Eye and a choice of drops/pick ups from the Eye to Tower Bridge. Opportunity to visit the London Aquarium or other nearby attractions. Coach only price is £8.50. Bournemouth: Tuesday 27th - Friday 30th September. Day trips have been arranged for Covent Garden and Kensington Palace, the home of Princess Margaret on Sunday 12th June. Once again we have booked The Palace of Varieties in Wood Green, London for Thursday 21st July where we will enjoy roast beef lunch and Bless em All celebrating the 60th anniversary of the second world war. Tatton Park Flower Show - Sunday 24th July. The RHS National Flower bed competition, the Plant Plaza and the Country Living Magazine Pavilion showcasing all the best arts, crafts, and local produce. Wednesday 3rd August a visit to Ipswich to spend time in the historical town followed by a Harwich Harbour Cruise on the Orwell Lady. The cruise takes three and a half hours through beautiful wooded stretches of the River Orwell and down to the Stour Estuary, Bressingham, Norfolk Sunday 21st August - whether strolling in 14 acres of world famous gardens, travelling by steam train or shopping in Blooms Garden Centre - this is a must for all the family. Glenn Miller Festival - Sunday 28th August and the Mapledurham experience (nr. Reading) on Saturday 10th September. By special request we have arranged a return visit to the Poppy factory in Richmond on Thursday 20th October. We now have our ticket allocation for the very popular Thursford Show. We have booked two coaches for matinee performances. The first is Saturday 12th November and the second Thursday 17th November. Most of the tickets had already been reserved so we only have a few left at the time of going to press. We have booked a few seats at the Milton Keynes Theatre for the following Magic of the Dance - Wednesday 17th August evening performance. This talented troupe is led by eight times Irish Dance World Champion John Carry, and The Rat Pack Thursday 8th September - Matinee Performance. For further information and prices please contact Enid 01462 851397.

Pairs of words for these pictures rhyme. Can you write the words and join those that rhyme? 23



S _ _

M _ _

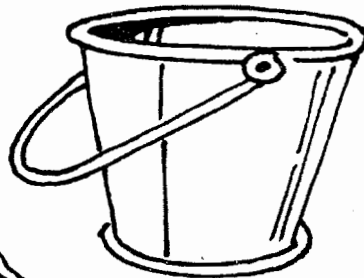


M _ _



B _ _

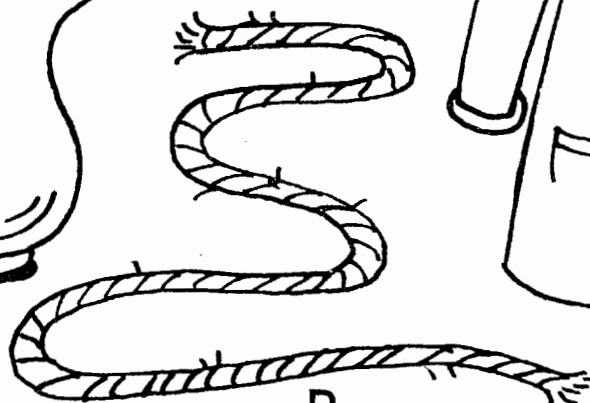
P _ _



J _ _



C _ _



R _ _

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

Sophie Hayes who will be 13 on the 1st
Charlotte Wolton who will be 12 on the 3rd

Joseph Daniel who will be 7 on the 3rd

Annabelle Fox who will be 8 on the 4th

Laura Stock who will be 4 on the 4th

Samuel Boggon who will be 5 on the 7th

Stuart Lovelock who will be 12 on the 8th

Sasa Kovacs who will be 5 on the 8th

Frank Donachie who will be 6 on the 10th

Michael Bull who will be 6 on the 11th

Adam Palmer who will be 4 on the 12th

Sophie Palmer who will be 4 on the 17th

James Parrott who will be 5 on the 18th

Jamie Mountcastle who will be 15 on the 22nd

Chloe Thorne who will be 3 on the 23rd

Kieran Clark who will be 11 on the 27th

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