

# **THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER**



**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER  
2005**

# THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

**Volume 21 Issue 5**

**August/September 2005**

The Post Office Fete on 2nd July was a huge success, and on behalf of everyone I should like to say a very big "thank you" to Steve and Carolyn for all their hard work, hospitality and kindness. As far as I know, everyone who took part had a good afternoon. The Messenger Raffle had 45 prizes, most of which have been claimed, and raised £204 with the addition of donations. Thank you to everyone for their generosity. Any unclaimed ticket numbers have been posted up in the shop, and they also appear in this month's magazine. As there are many new residents in Meppershall, I thought it would be rather nice to include in each monthly edition a bit of history about Meppershall. The other day a lady came into the shop to photocopy an old photograph of Fildyke Road when it was just a dirt track! It was very interesting and I, for one, would love to know more about the history of the village I live in. If any of you out there agree and have any old photographs, or would like to write a small article about the village, please let me know. Any documents supplied will be returned in the condition they were lent!

This month's edition is a double issue, allowing "the team" a month off for the summer. Whether you are going away or spending time at home, I hope you all have a good summer break. The deadline for articles for the October 2005 edition of the magazine is 12th September 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 . . .*

I very much enjoy reading The Meppershall Messenger and have found the publication extremely useful and informative. However, it appears of late that one topic seems to be mentioned frequently, and I would like to take this opportunity to air my views surrounding noise disturbance, and also the Bovis development.

My husband and I moved to Meppershall approximately two years ago from Dunstable, and we currently enjoy living on the Bovis estate. The main reason for us moving to Meppershall centred around the village way of life. We enjoy the beautiful countryside, the birds and wildlife not often seen in more built up urban areas, together with the prospect of starting and raising a family in a respectable, safe and quiet village. I therefore understand the frustrations and objections of many villagers within Meppershall at having a new housing estate built on their doorstep. I also understand their dismay when a very small number of the new residents in the new housing estate cause anguish by creating too much noise or disturbances. That said, I feel that all residents within the Bovis development are being judged unjustly due to the fact that (a) we live on a new estate that traditional residents were very much opposed to, and (b) there are one or two houses that perhaps do create too much noise within the new development.

I am certain that the majority of residents within the Bovis estate would agree that quad bikes, noise disturbances and the like are totally unacceptable. We seem however to be "tarred with the same brush" due to the fact we happen to live in the same area of the village!

Please be assured that the majority of residents within the Bovis development are actually rather a nice bunch of people, who do fall in step with the village ethos. We also very much hope recent disturbances are the exception rather than the rule and would hope that you understand the majority of us share the same opinion as the rest of the village on this matter!

(name supplied)

Just over a year ago I was diagnosed with bowel cancer. I had no major symptoms and like most people, the thought of undergoing tests made me delay consulting my doctor. I was very lucky, as the vast majority of people who leave the diagnosis so late do not survive. Bedford Hospital were (and still are) wonderful and the reason I am still around today is down to their skill, care and support. The charity, Colon Cancer Concern, try to raise awareness of bowel cancer, the UK's second most common cause of cancer death. They helped me by giving me good advice and information during treatment and recovery. They are also very involved in developing "non-intrusive" testing to support the introduction of a national screening programme. (I should have been offered screening as my brother had bowel cancer many years ago).

On 18th September I will be taking part in the Great North Run, which is a 13 mile half marathon! I will be running with five of my family and friends to raise money for Colon Cancer Concern. I have managed to persuade Dave Hankins to run and we are both taking training very seriously! My son and daughter, Matthew and Anna, her partner Chris and Dave's son Peter, have also agreed to run. I have put sponsor forms in Roger's Bakery, the Post Office and the Sugar Loaf. You can gift Aid your donation so we can get another 28p for every pound raised. We want to raise as much as possible to support the vital work of Colon Cancer Concern.

Thank you for your support.

Frank Keen

On 26th June 2005 both Louise Woodham and Karen Bull successfully completed THE RACE FOR LIFE in aid of cancer research. Together we raised approximately £400 - as a team total we raised over £1,000.

Thank you very much to everyone who sponsored us.

## EARLY WARNING !!

On Saturday 25th September from 10am to 6pm the sponsored Cycle Ride or Walk will be happening. As you know by now, half the money raised will go to our Church in the village, St. Mary's. The other half to help the many other churches in need. More details nearer the date, but I shall again be dealing with the entry forms, etc. Please think about it and ride with us, the more the merrier!

Shireen Longland  
(814053)

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On Thursday 30th June, the Evergreen Club held their 43rd Birthday Party in the Village Hall. Superb refreshments including a lovely cake were donated by Mary and Roger at the Bakery. Many thanks to them.

New members are always welcome. We meet at 2.30pm on alternate Thursdays.

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Due to a very small minority of parents of children attending Meppershall Lower School making ridiculous allegations, we (the remaining parents) are not allowed to take photographic images of our children performing at Sports Day, School Plays, Outings, etc. until further notice. What *is* the world coming too?! These parents have ruined it for all concerned; I hope they feel justified in what they have done. All I can say is "how sad....."!

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A memory jog for the older residents of the Village and a valuable lesson for us "newcomers"

### Follow the Country Code

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Keep to public paths across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Help to keep all water clean
- Take your litter home
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise
- Consider other people

Also we moved into the village exactly one year ago and should have done it 20 years ago! We would like to thank the following villagers whose kindness, help and consideration have made it a move to remember.

Rev. John & Mrs. Sandra Harper, Brenda Wright, Brian Bellamy and all the members of St. Mary's PCC, Pat Bass, Steve & Carolyn at the PO Stores, Ian & Pippa McLuskie, Archie Russell, Barbara & Joyce from the WI for great tea biscuits, Viv Clark for my Dad's flowers and finally the Editor of the Messenger, Linda Gold, who always has a sympathetic ear for a good grouse and never misses a deadline.

Sincere apologies to anyone we missed.

Alan & Marylyn Milton

Instructions on a Greek tin of enamel paint:

If is used right on corrosion and it is functioned like primer and finishing color. It has glossy appearance remains for a long time. It new technological composition makes it have high elasticity and when its impregnated the corrosion. Its enchains it and it does not leave it developed.

Way to use

Surfaces must be cleaned from oil, greace or coulour peelings. They must be cleaned from humidity and well undust when we want to use pistol. It can be applicated and passed to one or two layers depending on old or new. It's needed to cover the pores very well. The dilution for brush is 15% with white spirit. For pistol in 20% with thinner.

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**Meppershall Messenger  
Raffle  
Unclaimed Tickets**

BLUE	123
ORANGE	100
	165
	400

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# Village Hall News

**Money.** That's what it's going to take to get the hall up to the mark.

The village hall is located in the centre of our village, and therefore it's the focal point. In its present state of repair, is it saying positive things about the village?

However, we have plans to turn things around for the old place. To make her feel 'shiny and new' again. But these plans can only be worked out in practice if we have the funds available to carry them out. So I'm looking for money!



Since taking over as Chairman, I have been very impressed with the positive attitude of my colleagues on the committee. And I have also been impressed with people who use the hall, who have shown me how much they care about the role of the hall.

We have people looking into possible grants. But think of this. If we were able to demonstrate that there was a passion for the place by the fact that we had raised our own funds, wouldn't we be in a better position to ask for a grant?

What could we do? What events could we lay on? Do you have any bright ideas? Would you be prepared to help?

Do let me know your thoughts. Contact me on 814707.

You can visit our web-site at:

**[www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk)**

where you can leave a message on the message board, or send me an email.

Kind Regards,

Chris Addams,  
Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee

Tel: 814707      Email: [Chris@meppershall.uktc.com](mailto:Chris@meppershall.uktc.com)  
(Please note change of telephone number).



# The Meppershall Players

**Your local amateur dramatic group – famous for:**

- Professional productions including Pantomimes, Plays and Variety shows.
- Involving local talent from 9 years old - both on and off the stage.
- Having fun – including drama workshops, theatre visits and other social events.

**We are currently looking for new members to become involved in any of the following:**

- Acting
- Dance/Choreography
- Directing
- Set design and construction
- Lighting and sound
- Costume and props



## Interested?

We are busy preparing for our 2005 Pantomime – **'Sinbad the Sailor'**. Rehearsals start Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in being involved on or off the stage, please come and meet us, or ring Karen on **01462 816336** for more details.

# MEPPERSHALL PRE SCHOOL



We would like to welcome Tailor-Shea Hunt and Liam Sturgeon who have just joined us at Pre-school.

Also a big welcome to the following children who will be joining us in September:

Chloe Thorne, Robert Andrews, Jessica Read, Kerys Henderson, Thomas Clark, Lewis Bridger, Samuel Derrick, Georgia Nesbitt, Dylan Woodcock, Alexander Davies, Alice Geneux, Daniel Truett, Neve Moan, Lee Britton and Elise Simpkins.

We hope you all enjoy your time with us.

## 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, seesaw and rockers. An art and activity table. 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.

### **Post Office Fete**

Our stall at the fete was a great success and we raised a grand total £81.00.

Thank you to everybody who helped run the stall, donated items and visited us on the day.

The winners of our roll the dice competitions were Lucy Stanbridge with the highest score of 50 and Thomas Clark with the lowest score of 21.

### **Summer Break**

Even though we will not be meeting in the village hall during the summer break, we will arrange to meet up and various locations on Tuesdays afternoon. Contact a committee member for further details.

### **Photographer**

The photographer is booked for **Tuesday 11 October 2005 from 2-3pm**. Please come along and have your child's photo taken, ideal Christmas gift. No obligation to buy, you will be able to view the photo before you decide to purchase or not. We will receive a donation from each photo purchased.

Enjoy your summer holidays, have fun and we look forward to seeing you back at Baby and Toddlers on Tuesday 13 September.

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

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

I expect many of you will have heard of or been involved with the above in some form or another, not least everyone who has helped or contributed over the last two years in Meppershall. The idea is to spread a little Christmas joy to children around the world. The method is simple.

1. Obtain an empty shoe box
2. Cover it with pretty paper
3. Fill it with suitable items for a child from 2 to 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 14, boy or girl. The items need not be new but must be in good condition.
4. Send it to the local organiser

The box then gets sent to a child somewhere in the world who are homeless, live in orphanages or are without family support or whose lives have been blighted by poverty, ill health, natural disaster, conflict or war.

Here is how you can help. Meppershall Brownies are making this their Christmas effort for this year again and plan to fill as many shoe boxes as possible - I have several already that are ready to be filled. We would be very grateful for any items that you could donate to us. Has anyone the time to knit as hats, scarves and gloves are needed? If you need to be provided with wool please call me during the day on 01462 450111.

Steve at the Post Office and Mary and Roger at the Bakery have agreed to accept any donations or please give them to a Brownie or call in at the Village Hall on a Monday between 6 and 7.30p.m.

Please consider buying a small packet of sweets when shopping and dropping that in the donation box.

You may have many items around your house or workplace which could go in the box. I have been saving the free pens that come with surveys you receive through the post. Bars of soap from hotels etc

Some suggestions of items to go in the boxes are :

Cuddly toys, toothbrush, toothpaste, notepad, writing pads, picture books, pencils, pens, crayons, felt tips, hat, cap, gloves, scarf, ball, puzzle e.g.

small jigsaw, toy car, truck, passenger plane, girl's jewellery, soap, facecloths, sweets (well within their sell by date).

The items that cannot be included are liquids, clothing if not listed above, sharp objects, books with words, glass containers and other fragile items, was related toys as many of the children have only too much experience of the real thing. Please also avoid battery driven toys as replacement batteries will not be available or affordable.

Any suitable items will do. We will pack the boxes at Brownies so don't feel that you have to fill a box yourself. All contributions however large or small are valuable and gratefully received.

I have lost my source of supply of shoe boxes so if anybody has a source - friend works in a shoe shop etc, please let me know and I would be delighted to receive them as soon as possible - gives me more time for covering them.

We will also be holding a fund raising event at Brownies during October. Please help by coming to that. There will be a raffle and various side shows. We need your support on this as £2 goes with each box to cover its transport costs across the world. More news later.

It takes such a little effort to give a child such great happiness at Christmas and that must be what Christmas is all about. Last year our boxes went to children in such desperate areas that they would almost certainly be the only present they received. Please help to make them happy and joyful children, as all children should be, even for a short while.

### **Thank you. . . .**

Gerry and Helen Gillet have very much appreciated the kindness and friendship extended to them during Gerry's final illness.

This kindness has continued to be extended to me following Gerry's death. Thank you all.

Helen Gillett  
July 2005

## Meppershall Brownies

Clifton Brownie pack recently informed local Brownie packs that they held the “Golden Toadstool” award. They had started this award a couple of years ago and invited all the local Brownie packs to challenge them to any activity suitable for Brownies with the winner retaining the Golden Toadstool until successfully challenged and beaten by another Brownie pack.

We challenged them to a game of netball and, thanks to excellent coaching from our secret support team, we won. Not only are we the proud holders of the Golden Toadstool but we also had a great time winning it. Everyone played during the three matches held in the evening and the parents’ support around the court was fantastic. We finished the evening off with drinks and a great cake from Roger’s bakery which was decorated with an edible golden toadstool. Many thanks Roger.

Thank you for all your support at the Post Office Garden Fete. We raised almost £300 which is great in just two hours. Thanks also to the Brownies and parents who helped man the very busy tombola stall and thanks also to Steve and Caroline for the use of their garden.

Gluttons for punishment – the day after the Fete we set out for Legoland. Despite the coach not turning up, apparently it came the previous week, and not being able to find a replacement, several parents volunteered to drive and a great time was had by all – even if wet at times and that was not just the rain. Amazing how the boat with Brown Owl on got stuck under the squirting elephant.

Our last meeting of the term will be a picnic in Shefford maze always a fun meeting.

Christine Elbourne, Brown Owl  
Suzanne Brightwell, Snowy Owl

## MEPPERSHALL W.I.

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

Future events include a visit to Somerset House on 8th October 2005, cost of coach only £10.50, various galleries can be visited at advertised prices, tickets to be bought on the day. Knitting & Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace on Friday 14th October, cost £19 per head including entry. Autumn Federation Meeting at the Corn Exchange Bedford on Monday 24th October at 7.30pm, speaker Bob Champion retired champion jockey, tickets £5.50 members and £6.50 non members. Christmas Shopping trip Saturday 19th November, dropping off at Covent Garden, coach only £10.50. Craft Fair at Flitwick Village Hall on 16th October, more details to follow.

Our VE Day celebration cream teas on 18th June and our stall and teas at the Post Office Fete on 2nd July were both very successful events. Good news again for our Darts team - we beat Tingrith 4-1. Summer Outing to Beth Chattos gardens near Colchester on Wednesday 10th August, there are still seats available, coach leaves Village Hall at 9am returning about 6pm, cost £11.50. We have details of the scheme run by the police which enables people to have door chains, window locks, etc fitted for security. We are hoping to have a meeting later in the year showing a video relating to distraction burglary and cold calling. Subscriptions for 2006 will be £22 per person.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr. Nick Griffin, a farmer on the subject of Buffalo milk. Mr. Griffin ran a family farm initially of dairy cattle but following the introduction of milk quotas and then BSE he decided to give up the cattle and grow crops which he did for a while, until prices fell considerably and



in 1998 he bought 120 six month old calves of Indian Water Buffalo and now has 400. Buffalo milk is very good for people with lactose intolerance, eczema and irritable bowel syndrome, but he is not allowed to claim the benefits of the products without expensive trials being carried out.

The milk is very low in cholesterol and high in calcium, also cheeses, yoghurts and ice cream are available, and the meat is similar to beef but very low in fat content. There are no milk quotas for Buffalo milk and the animals are easy to feed on grass etc and straw, also no BSE cases recorded.

After many ups and downs to find dairies to take his milk he now supplies Waitrose supermarkets with his products. By-products also available are Buffalo Gold Fertiliser which is very good for fuchsias and tomatoes.

Visitors Centre at Mill Road, Slapton, Leighton Buzzard is open every day Monday - Saturday 9.30am to 5pm and Sundays 10am to 4.30pm, admission free. Mr. Griffin brought samples for us to try and to purchase. A very interesting and enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting will be 14th September when our speaker will be Mr. Parry on the subject of Royal Ladies of Bedfordshire.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

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**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

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*Calendar of  
Forthcoming Events*

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*Saturday*

*13th August*

*St. Mary's BBQ*

*Rectory Garden*

*6.30pm*

*Monday*

*12th September*

*Bible Society Action Group*

*Shefford Baptist Church*

*7.45pm*

*Saturday*

*25th September*

*Sponsored Cycle Ride*

*10am*

*Monday*

*26th September*

*Harvest Supper & Auction*

*Village Hall*

*Saturday*

*15th October*

*Friends of St. Mary's*

*Brass Band Concert*

*7.30pm*

## 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 & Partners, The Health Centre, Iveldale Drive, Shefford	814899
Puritz & Collins, The Surgery, 109 Station Road, Lower Stondon	850305

### LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

County Councillor - Cllr. Robin Younger, Jesmond House, High Street, Flitton	01525 717090
Email: robin.younger@bedscc.gov.uk	
Surgery/Advice Centre: 1st Friday of each month (except August), Shefford Library 10am - 11.30am	
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. David Foskett, 11 Orchard Close	851770
Clerk: Mr. C.J. Waghorn, 19 Icknield Green, Letchworth, Herts.	637531
Email: wagggers.uk@ntlworld.com	
Member of Parliament:	
Mrs. Nadine Dorries, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA	0207 2194239

### SHOPS

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

### PUB

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

### Meppershall Village Hall Committee

Chairman:	Mr. Chris Addams, 9 Hill Top View	835176
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Birch	817014
Booking Secretary:	Kate Hall, Culpeper House, Chapel Road	812869

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

### Mid Beds Conservative Association

Chairman:	Mr.s. Pippa McLuskie, 4 Stondon Road, Meppershall	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

<u>Mepp'shall Players</u>	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>Meppershall Baby &amp; 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. Sarah Saunders		850817
Secretary:	Mrs. Paula Standbridge		811160
Registrar:	Mrs. Viv Thorne		850821

<u>Scouts</u>			
Shefford	Diane Landau	01234	381153
Shillington	Paul Major		834251

<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	Methodist Chapel	
	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/Taliesen 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 &amp; Training Centre</u>	Caroline Carter, Centre Line Dressage	
	Fildyke Road, Meppershall	07747 686118

<u>Whitbread Wanderbus</u>		850075
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## St Mary's Parish Church Meppershall

In the United Benefice of Meppershall and Shefford

Rector: Rev John Harper, The Rectory, Church Rd, Meppershall, Shefford

Churchwardens:

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

### *Services in August and September*

- Saturday 6      2p.m. Wedding: Nathan Rook and Ella Horwood
- Sunday 7      8.30a.m. Holy Communion; 11a.m. Family Service and  
Baptism (change      of normal pattern with 2nd Sunday)
- Sunday 14      8.30a.m. Holy Communion; (11a.m. VJ Commemoration  
and      Thanksgiving Service, Shefford - outside  
St Michael's)
- Saturday 20      1p.m. Wedding : Gary Bavister and Deborah Smith
- Sunday 21      8.30a.m. Holy Communion . 6p.m. Evensong
- Sunday 28      8.30a.m. Holy Communion  
11a.m. Family Communion with Sunday School
- Sunday Sept 4. 8.30a.m. Holy Communion. 6p.m. Evensong
- Sunday 11      8.30a.m. Holy Communion . 11a.m. Family Service.  
Also 3p.m. Ecumenical Service at The Methodist Chapel
- see below
- Sunday 18      8.30a.m. Holy Communion . 6p.m. Evensong
- Sunday 25      **Harvest Festival** 8.30a.m. Holy Communion 11a.m.  
Family      Communion with Sunday School (For  
Supper see below)

### Midweek services:

Weds 10a.m. Holy Communion. (Book of Common Prayer)

Fridays 7.30p.m. Compline (night time prayer service - 15 mins);

Saturdays 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer

### Also coming up:

**St Mary's Barbeque** - Saturday August 13, 6.30p.m. for 7p.m. in the Rectory Garden.

Tickets £6.50 or £20 for family of 4. (2 adults, 2 children under 10), available from Post Office, Bakery, Rectory and P.C.C. members

**Sponsored Bike Ride** (Beds Historic Churches Trust) - Sat Sept 10.  
10a.m.- 6p.m.

Raise funds for your own cause as well as helping maintain the county's churches - details from Peter Longland - 814053

**Harvest Supper and Auction** at the Village Hall: Monday Sept 26th.  
Tickets available shortly from Post Office, Bakery, and Rectory -  
details and offers of help from Pat Bass 851609

The **United Benefice Junior Choir** (Meppershall and Shefford) starts its practices after the holidays on Sunday September 11, 3p.m. All 7 year olds and upwards are welcome - no experience needed - just enthusiasm. For details please contact Sandra 813334

### **Gift Weekend**

Thanks to all who contributed in various ways to St Mary's over a rather breezy two days in June. A considerable amount of interest was raised by the displays, and the donations reflected a widespread concern to ensure that the church building is adequately restored in the near future. A total of £4430 was received, (before tax relief on the Gift Aided donations) - a wonderful response.

### **The Methodist Chapel**

It was good to see evidence of support for the re-establishment of regular worship at the open meeting in June. Plans were made to begin a monthly ecumenically minded service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, starting on September 11, 3p.m. Please pray that God will inspire the worship that is offered in such a way that more will be encouraged to meet in His Name and receive his good news.

**Confirmation?** Are you interested in finding out what's involved in being confirmed ( and /or being baptised if you weren't as a child)? If so you will be welcome at an enquiry session on Thursday Sept 22 at The Rectory. 7p.m. for 10-16 yr olds, and 8p.m. for 17's and over.

There's no obligation at all to take further, - those who wish to will be offered preparation sessions at times to suit. Please ring if you'd like to know more

John H 813334

## **What about baptism?**

### **The story so far..**

For over 800 years children and adults have come to the font at St Mary's for their baptism, and happily, they still do. It's a straightforward ceremony which focuses on pouring of water over the head as the person is addressed by their Christian name : "I baptise you in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit". But the meaning behind the words and actions takes us further. From the Church's beginnings in New Testament times, adults were welcomed into the fellowship of Christians as they openly expressed their love for God as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Their new faith was then expressed symbolically by baptism (full immersion-usually in the local river!), as the sign that they were turning away from a self motivated life and turning towards one that was Christ motivated, sustained by His Spirit. The model for this sacramental act was the baptism of Jesus himself at the start of his life's work.

Soon Christian parents were able to have their children baptised on the basis of their faith, reinforced by the prayerful support of other Church members. These sponsors in time became known as the godparents. The baptism of children eventually became referred to as 'christening' - being made Christ-like, but the meaning is just the same.

### **So much for the history - what about today ?**

Everyone of whatever age is welcome to ask for baptism in their local Church.

It's a special step to take, and rather like a wedding, carries important implications for the future. Part of my job, together with other representatives of the Church, is to help enquirers recognise the relevance of baptism, so that they can start to enjoy its long term consequences.. The style of preparation varies a little from church to church, but locally what's involved looks like this:

#### **For the baptism of children..**

After an initial chat, parents are invited to meet up with other enquiring parents at a session designed to explore the significance of a child's baptism. We look at the questions and responses contained within the



service, and the responsibilities of parents and godparents.

We also take a look at the option of a 'Service of Thanksgiving for Childbirth'. This doesn't involve promises, but is available to all parents either as a preliminary to baptism, or when baptism is thought not to be the appropriate choice, - at least for now. This takes place in Church either within a normal service or at a separate time.

At this stage parents are asked to make a firm decision about how they wish to proceed, and consequently, arrangements are made for the date and details of the service. Where baptism is requested, this is the best time for godparents to be approached. If practicable I also like to meet the godparents with the parents, and talk with them about their own role and responsibilities.

The baptism itself is held within one of the regular Sunday services, so that the congregation can welcome the child on behalf of the worldwide Christian family, and also be reminded of the ongoing meaning of their own baptism.

### **For an adult...**

who hasn't been christened but who wants to make a positive step of faith, baptism may well be where God is leading them. A larger proportion of adults are being baptised these days, as in New Testament times.

Preparation is offered that's designed to suit the person's circumstance, though ideally is provided in a small group setting. There will also be opportunity to explore the meaning of confirmation, as this is intended to lead on from baptism, and contains very similar affirmations of belief.

Please see note above re '**Confirmation...Enquiry session**'

**Whether for children or adults**, the act of baptism speaks of the way God cherishes his people, and has an individual purpose for them that's reflected in the light of the gospel.

Whatever your spiritual journey has entailed, if you feel the time is right to travel further, do please enquire. You're likely to find fellow travellers heading in the same direction.

With good wishes,

John Harper

## THE FRIENDS OF St. MARY's CHURCH

It is not often that there are three items I wish to mention all at one time, but as this is a double issue, what I have to say is all the more important.

Firstly, I want to thank all those of you who supported our Jazz Concert on Saturday, May 21. I trust, like our committee, that you enjoyed the event as much as we did arranging it for you. Thank you to Mary at Roger's Bakery, and to Steve at Meppershall Stores, for their assistance in selling tickets, also, without the co-operation of Mark Brinkley, we would also have had a problem with parking, thank you Mark. We were delighted to have a sell-out of our ticket allocation once again, the concert appeared to go down well, as did the social gathering that followed with the refreshments that were provided, washed down by the glass or two of wine. It says something to me to note that the 'party' did not break up until 11.45pm! As always, the proceeds from the event will go into the fund for the benefit of St. Mary's Church, on this occasion, £580 was raised and this will go towards the installation of a sound system, which it is hoped will be in place later this year.

Secondly, thank you to those who visited our stall at the Meppershall Stores Fete and took part in our photo teaser of 'Who's Who'. Many of you appeared to enjoy the test, not surprisingly; we did not have an outright winner for some photos were rather difficult. Four people got 6 right out of 9, and we had to make a draw for the winner of the bottle of champagne, which was won by Jose Lane, congratulations Jose, we hope you enjoyed it. The total raised from the event was £35.

Finally, we have yet another concert to look forward to in the autumn. It gives The Friends great pleasure to announce that the Woburn Sands Brass Band will be returning for a third successive year! They enjoy playing to a Meppershall audience, and we enjoy having them. The past two concerts by the band have been superb and have enjoyed sell-out performances, this one promises to be no less a success and compulsive listening. Woburn Sands Brass Band will be playing in St. Mary's Church on Saturday, October 15 at 7.30pm. Tickets are again priced at £10 to include the usual quality refreshments. We hope to have tickets on sale from early September and they will be available as before from Roger's Bakery, Meppershall Stores, Margaret Evesham on 01462 814291 and myself on 01462 813357. Please look out for the posters and, to avoid disappointment, we look forward to your enquiries as early as possible for we are again anticipating a huge demand for this event.

Have a wonderful summer; we look forward to seeing you in October!  
Trevor Thorley (Chairman)

## **New Life for Meppershall Chapel**

After a year in which there has been no worship taking place at Meppershall Methodist Church, there are now great signs of hope for the future.

At the second Public Meeting looking at the future of the building which was held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, a new initiative unfolded. After reviewing the statements made at the first meeting, Rev. Martin Dawes (the Methodist Superintendent Minister) said that he had been in conversation with the Rector, Rev John Harper and that they had discussed the possibility of running the chapel ecumenically, providing a regular act of worship which would be open to all. During the discussion which followed, it was decided that initially there would be a monthly service at 3.00pm on the second Sunday in each month, beginning on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. This recommendation was accepted the Church Council at Shefford (which currently is responsible for the chapel) on 7<sup>th</sup> July as a way forward. The progress of the new services will be reviewed in 12 months time, or before if necessary.

This decision enables the chapel once more to be a centre of Christian worship and outreach, and also to enable it to continue being the valued community centre it already is. From the very warm response of the meeting and the strong commitment of the community (twenty out of twenty three present declared that they would support the proposed acts of worship), it is hoped that the work of the chapel will develop in new and exciting ways in the coming months.

At the end of the meeting it was felt appropriate to spend some time in prayer, which was very fruitful and uplifting. We will continue to meet in prayer at the chapel in the time leading up to the resumption of services there in September.



Bedfordshire Cheshire Home  
 Agate House  
 Woburn Road  
 Ampthill  
 Bedford MK45 2HX  
 Tel: 01525 403247 (3 lines)  
 Tel: 01525 404470 (Residents)  
 Fax: 01525 840244

## For Church/Village Magazines – Copy for August 2005

Ampthill Festival proved to be a good day, full of fun. Our Residents bedecked in home made carnival hats and waving enthusiastically from their vehicle as it joined the carnival procession through the town.

Now we're into the full flood of holiday season and together with various day trips out, we tend to see very little of our Residents. Which is excellent news. As some of you may have seen, we keep pushing forward the positive approach to including all people with physical disabilities into a normal life, rather than excluding them from activities. Something that still happens, unfortunately.

Jeff is about to achieve an outstanding milestone. Thanks to the bric a brac and donations you kind people bring to us, after 7 years of selling these items in his shop, any day now his total hits the £9000 mark! So, he joins me in sending his sincere thanks for all your help and support over the years and is pleased to announce his shop continues onwards and flourishes! So, please remember him when you do your next spring clean!!!

We hope you are enjoying a good summer.

Our best wishes and warmest regards

**Judith Hagger**

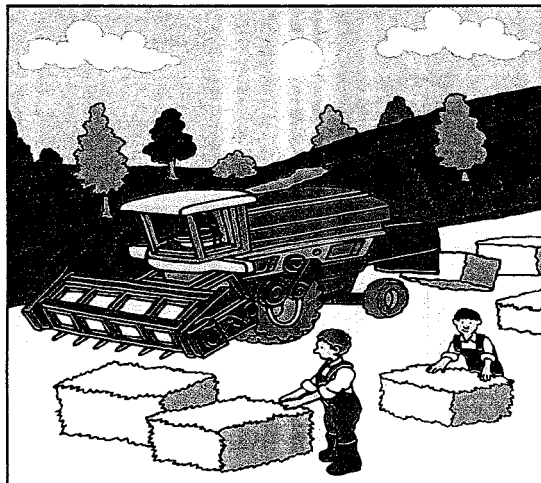
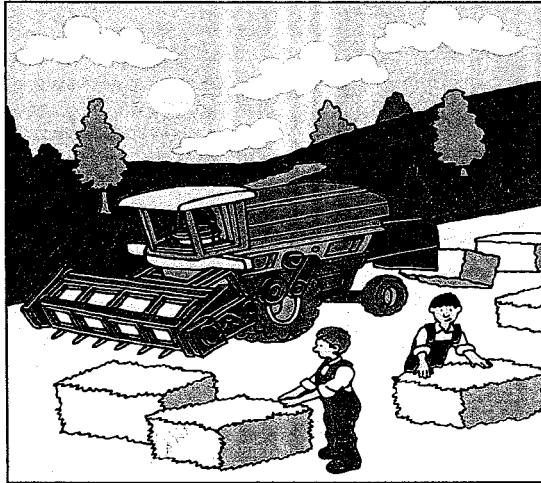
Volunteer Coordinator/Fundraiser

#### SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

The beginning of July we were in London where we met our guide who escorted us through the Law Courts, Elizabethan Middle Court (not normally open to the public), Courts of Justice where the public were allowed to 'sit in'. Lunch in Fleet Street followed by a stroll through stately Lincoln's Inn. There is a trip to Newquay and The Eden Project – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August to Bank Holiday Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August. Staying at the Clifdene Hotel which is located on the Sea Front of Newquay. The price includes entrance to The Eden Project but not to The Lost Garden of Heligan. Other excursions include Charlestown, a Cider Farm & Falmouth. The recording of BBC2's Friday Night is Music Night August 5<sup>th</sup> – this is always a popular event. Huntingdonshire – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August stopping at Huntingdon Garden & Leisure Centre, St Ives for lunch and The Rapport Owl Sanctuary for a flying display. Glenn Miller Festival Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August. The Ampthill & District Lions have invited us to their musical evening with Billy Keys for a celebration of 60 years of the end of the war. This will be held at Flitwick Village Hall. Entrance is free but a small charge of £4.00 will be charged for transport. Mapledurham Experience (Nr Reading) – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September – A very pretty part of the River Thames and the boat leaves Caversham to cruise through 'Wind in the Willows Country' with scenery of the Forsythe Saga passing Purley on Thames. Poppies & Periwigs – Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, Richmond. Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October. A buffet lunch will be provided at the Royal British Legion Remembrance Club. Woburn Safari Park Craft Show – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Take a coach ride through the Safari Park before entering the Craft Show from some of the Countries finest artists, designers and craftsmen. Demonstration areas, plus excellent catering facilities within the show. Further information and prices please contact Enid 01462 851397.

On behalf of Shefford Leisure Group, we would like to congratulate the Meppershall Players on their superb performance 'We'll Meet Again' recently held at the Village Hall. The programmes were so well designed and it was obvious to all the amount of research taken place prior to the presentation. Congratulations also to Steve and Carolyn Ansell for allowing the Fete to take place in their garden – also for everyone who took part. It is a golden opportunity for residents to socialise at the same time trying to raise funds for their worthwhile cause. Well done to all.  
Enid Pamment

How many differences  
can you find?



Colour this picture.



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

Christopher Cain who will be 14 on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Beth Donachie who will be 8 on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Thomas Clark who will be 3 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Lucy Standbridge who will be 4 on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Billy Gower who will be 4 on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Sarah Allen who will be 13 on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Manishka Hart who will be 5 on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Georgia Thomason who will be 4 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Toby Standbridge who will be 1 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Lucy Edwards who will be 5 on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Kate Chappell who will be 5 on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Max Chappell who will be 5 on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Ethan Kovacs who will be 7 on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Katrina Robbins who will be 10 on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Lorena Jarvis who will be 13 on the 31<sup>st</sup>  
 Hannah Boggon who will be 11 on the 31<sup>st</sup>  
 Archie Zimmerman who will be 1 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **...and September**

Emilie Doran who will be 15 on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Matthew Waring who will be 15 on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Zoe Waring who will be 11 on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Thomas Clark who will be 13 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Robert Kitchener who will be 13 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Chloe Burr who will be 6 on the 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Harriet Scott who will be 13 on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Ben Horsford who will be 6 on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Georgina Brinkley who will be 14 on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Jack Gregg who will be 4 on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Ross Earl who will be 14 on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Rebecca Lancaster who will be 15 on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
 George Gavin who will be 10 on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Giles Norris who will be 12 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Katie Halford who will be 6 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Peter Curran who will be 13 on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Jonathan Bull who will be 2 on the 26<sup>th</sup>

If you are under 16 and would like your name added to the birthday page, please call Tracey Norris on 815 694