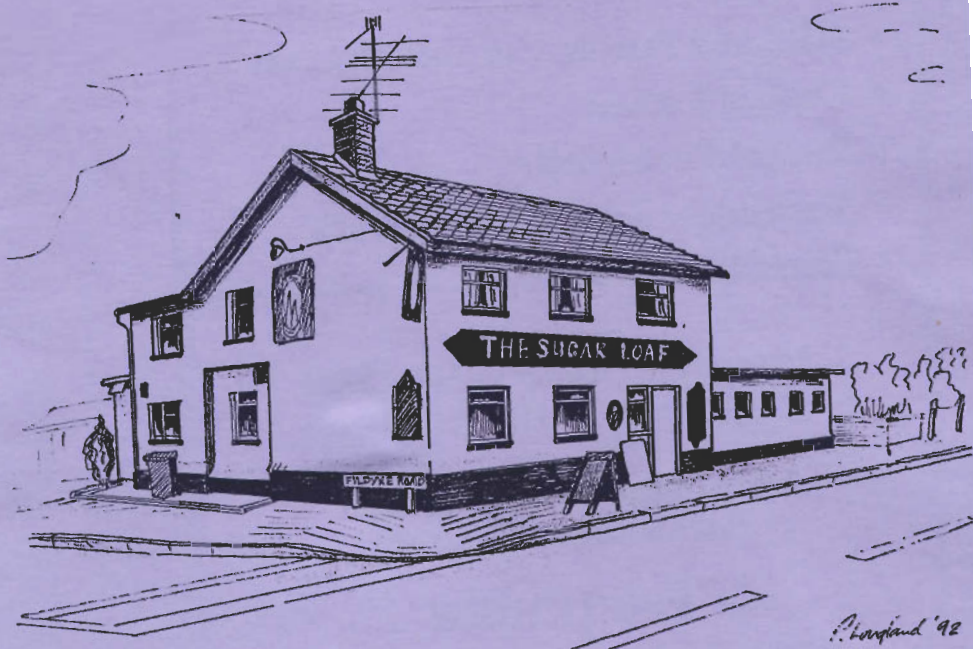


THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



NOVEMBER 2005

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Volume 21 Issue 7

November 2005

I have been completely overwhelmed by the response to my intended resignation as Editor at the Annual General Meeting in December. I have received letters, telephone calls and comments, asking that I reconsider. I had no idea there would be the reaction there has been, and I am most grateful to everyone for their kind words of support and encouragement.

Somebody said to me that you cannot be liked by everyone and you cannot please everyone. There will always be some who criticise rather than contribute and support. From the response I have received over the past couple of weeks, there is tremendous support and gratitude from 99% of the village. Thank you all, very much. I have always believed that The Messenger is an important part of the village; indeed, that is why I took on the position as Editor in the first place. I would not want to see The Messenger discontinue.

Taking everything into consideration, not having received any nominations and having time to reflect, I have decided to continue as Editor. The magazine will be produced in the same manner in which it is now, except no future articles or letters will be published anonymously. Just to remind everyone, however, the Annual General Meeting will be held in December, should anyone wish to object and put their name forward as Editor.

The deadline for articles for the DOUBLE edition of the magazine, December 2005 and January 2006, is 12th November 2005. Please either leave them at the Post Office or drop them through my letterbox at 7 Brookmead. Thank you.

Linda Gold
Editor

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Editor:	Linda Gold, 7 Brookmead
Advertising Manager:	Steve Ansell, Post Office Stores
Distribution Manager:	Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road

Dear Editor

This week, three bags of household waste were left on our driveway when our bin was "emptied". This was the straw that broke the camel's back following months of frustration with a scheme that was introduced in the winter of 2004, which has resulted in Mid Beds residents smelling rotting rubbish outside their doors and windows. Fortnightly collection of recyclable waste should not necessarily mean that domestic rubbish should be treated in the same way. This policy has been instigated without knowing the implications for public and environmental health.

Our bin cannot contain the domestic waste a family of four produce over fourteen days. Mid Beds Council contractors are only allowed to empty one bin of domestic waste once per fortnight. If the lid is not down and the bin is too full, it will not be emptied. What about the health and safety of the residents of our area? Beds on Sunday have reported that there have been maggots and rats, as a result of this policy. How does it help the environment if I am driving rubbish to the nearest tip?

Surprisingly there have not been enough complaints for Local Councillors to take note. We would urge all those who have concerns use local democracy to effect change and contact Mid Beds District Council (08452 304040). We would also encourage individuals to talk to their District and County Councillors and alert our MP to encourage them to reconsider the frequency of domestic waste collection.

Carolyn & Alex Holmes

RECORDED CRIME INCIDENTS

September 2005

<u>Location</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Date</u>
The Acres	Criminal Damage (not building)	15.9.05
High Street	Criminal Damage (to vehicles)	18.9.05
Fildyke Road	Theft from motor vehicle	19.9.05
Orchard Close	Interference with motor vehicle	30.9.05



** Special Delivery**

We would just like to say congratulations to Stephanie and Paul on the arrival of their new baby son DYLAN PAUL. He was born on 25th September 2005, five weeks early, by caesarean section at Bedford Hospital, weighing 6lb 4oz. Both mother and baby are making an excellent recovery. Many congratulations from around the village!

Amy and Dean Truett

Village Hall News...

Observations

Following on from last months progress report, a number of people have made observations concerning the haste with which the electrical installation was carried out. All I can do is agree with you.

If time were on our side we would have planned exactly what fittings were required. We would have consulted with all the groups to see whether they wanted to add anything into the works. We would have given the electricians proper notice, so that we knew exactly when they would be in. We would have ensured that groups had plenty of notice so that they could make appropriate plans. And we would not have taken bookings for that period.

However, we did not have time. From a safety standpoint, I would have had no option but to close the hall. In addition, we needed to arrange for a safety certificate to be produced for our licence renewal, which was imminent.

It came to this position because previous committees were focussed on obtaining funds for a new hall and therefore did not want to commit funds into renovating a hall that was due for replacement. This is understandable. However, it meant we had to act immediately.

I hope that answers some questions that some of you may have had.

The Village Hall Emergency Fund

Next month I hope to set out our fund-raising plans for 2006, and there will be an Emergency Fund barometer, so you can see how we're doing!

As usual, visit the hall from the comfort of your own home, at:

www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

Email: post@meppershall.uktc.com

Kind Regards,

Chris Addams - Chairman

The Great North Run

We all arrived in Newcastle early Sunday morning. We quickly made our way to the start line where we had to change. We all looked the part in our running gear with our bright orange Colon Cancer Concern running vests. The morning started cloudy but it soon warmed up. We had to wait for about two hours before the start – lining up along markers estimating how long it would take to run the race. Matthew and Peter, being young and fit, decided to move to the front while the more sensible amongst us stayed about 100 metres from the start line. It was amazing to be in a crowd of over 55,000 runners waiting to go. Everyone was so friendly and supportive of us 'new boys!' The female athletes and the wheelchair races started first and then it was the turn of the male athletes and the 'ordinary' runners.

The atmosphere was electric and we all got a good sending off by various celebrities at the start. Crossing the Tyne Bridge was a very moving experience – a sea of bodies all running towards Gateshead. The weather had warmed up considerably and the first water station was four and a half miles into the run. Luckily we came prepared and all had a drink to carry with us. Running soon became difficult as so many people were already walking – we wanted to try to run the whole 13 miles – so dodging large numbers of bodies became the order of the day. When we got to the eight mile water station they had run out of water! Runners were scrambling around the floor looking for discarded bottles with any water still remaining. There were thankfully several helpful spectators with hosepipes at the ready to help us keep cool.

All around the course there were live bands to entertain us – when we passed them, everyone started to run in time with the music! The local support was fantastic – lots of encouragement and ‘Geordie’ humour

After about five miles, Anna and I had lost contact with the rest of the team. We got to ten miles within our target time of 2 hours thinking we were almost there – how wrong! The last three miles were long and painful but we made it to the finish still together. We crossed the line exhausted but elated. We had run the whole 13 miles without stopping once and felt very proud yet humble. There were so many runners supporting so many good causes. We saw parents running while pushing their children in wheelchairs – 13 miles! We saw people with messages on their shirts saying things like ‘I’m running in memory of my Dad’. Would we do it again – you bet! We have already pre-registered – and the year after, maybe the London Marathon!!!

Everyone has been so generous sponsoring our team. We have been promised well over £2000 and money is coming in fast. A very BIG thank you to everyone who has supported us.

Results

Peter Hankins – 2hrs 18mins
 Matthew Keen – 2hrs 19mins
 Chris Barker – 2hrs 26mins
 Frank Keen – 2hrs 44mins
 Anna Keen – 2hrs 44mins
 Dave Hankins – 2hrs 58mins

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2005

Brown Owl (Christine Elbourne) wrote in the August/September Messenger that the Brownies, with the help of the village, would be participating again in sending shoeboxes full of gifts to disadvantaged children around the world who would otherwise have no gifts at all at Christmas time. The organisation in charge of Operation Christmas Child is Samaritan's Purse and because the logistic of the operation demand that the filled shoeboxes must be sent off some time before Christmas, I have been asked to remind you that now is the time to take your gift donations to Mary and Roger at the Bakery, and Steve and Carolyn at Meppershall Village Stores.

This year the 1st Meppershall Brownies will be packing the shoeboxes with gifts and sending goodwill and greetings from the people of Meppershall with every box. Since the Brownies will be packing the shoeboxes, all we need you to do is to select appropriate gifts from the list at the end and take them to the Bakery or Meppershall Village Stores. If there are any keen knitters among you, ring Christine on 01462 450111 and she will supply wool. If you have shoeboxes or know of a good source of them please let Christine know, or take them to the Village Hall between 6pm and 7.30pm on Mondays. Please do not take them to the shops as space for storing them is not available.

From feed back from the two shops it seems you have been very busy donating all kinds of good gifts for the children, and everything you have donated is greatly appreciated and your kindness will bear fruit when the children open their gifts with delight. If you have not donated yet or want to add to an earlier contribution check the list below. You do not have to give a fortune, colouring pens or a small packet of sweets are received with huge enthusiasm by children who have little or nothing. Items which CAN be included:

CUDDLY TOYS, TOOTHBRUSH AND TOOTHPASTE, NOTEPADS, PICTURE BOOKS, PENCILS, CRAYONS, FELT TIPS, HAT, CAP, MITTENS, SCARVES, BALLS (NOT TOO BIG), PUZZLES AND JIGSAWS (SMALL), TOY CARS, PASSENGER PLANES, GIRLS JEWELLERY, SOAP, FACECLOTHS AND PACKETS OF SWEETS (WELL WITHIN SELL BY DATE).

Items which CANNOT be included: LIQUIDS, CLOTHING (NOT ITEMISED ABOVE) SHARP OBJECTS, BOOKS WITH WORDS, GLASS OR FRAGILE ITEMS, ITEMS RELATED TO WAR OR VIOLENCE (TOY GUNS, SWORDS), BATTERY DRIVEN TOYS AS BATTERIES CANNOT BE AFFORDED WHEN THE ORIGINAL BATTERY RUNS DOWN.

Brown Owl and the Brownies would like to thank all who participate in Operation Christmas Child in Meppershall, especially The Bakery and Village Stores and all who work there, and the Meppershall Messenger, it's Editor and volunteers, who by their willingness to take part have made an almost impossible task so very manageable. To all you good Samaritans in Meppershall, THANK YOU for your giving and goodwill. And on a personal note, thank you to Brown Owl and the 1st Meppershall Brownies and all Brownie helpers for all their hard work, their helpfulness in reaching out to children who have so little, and for their energy and enthusiasm.

Julie Taylor

(On behalf of Brown Owl and Meppershall Brownies)



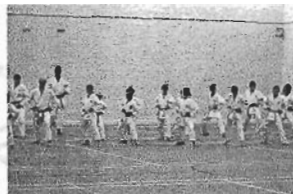
Ataru SKC

Shotokan Karate Club

www.ataru-karate.co.uk

We are a local **non-profit** Shotokan Karate Club, teaching at Shillington Lower School. We are dedicated to teaching traditional Shotokan karate to **anyone** who wishes to learn.

Ataru SKC is headed by Sensei Jamie Thomson and Tracii Gainsford who are both Meppershall residents. Sensei Thomson has been training for 16 years and has been teaching for 10 years. Over that time, Sensei Thomson has produced a number of Black Belt students and competed in regional & national tournaments with good successes.



Sensei Thomson also has experience in Aikido, Ju-Jitsu, Tae-kwon-do and Kickboxing making his instruction both traditional and very practical.

Ataru SKC is affiliated to the Japan Karate Association England (JKA England) and in turn the Japan Karate Association (JKA), the first, largest and arguably the best Shotokan organisation in the world, with head offices in Tokyo, Japan and groups in almost every country in the world. Additionally we have Sports Council recognition via affiliation to the English Karate Governing Body (EKGB).

These affiliations require full insurance cover, Criminal Record Bureau enhanced checks (for working with children and vulnerable adults) for all club officials as well as attainment of nationally recognised Karate Instructors certification for those who teach.

We have around 30 students **male & female, from all ages and capabilities** (from 6yrs). We would like to invite you to come and join with us to attain a small insight into the benefits which Shotokan karate has to offer.

New Adult Class: Wednesdays 7.30pm – 9.00pm



Introductory 3 sessions for £5

Please note, we are a non-profit making club

To register, please call Tracii on **07890 42 40 10** or e-mail **tracii.gainsford@ataru-karate.co.uk**

For further information please visit our web site **www.ataru-karate.co.uk**.

Congratulations to

Natasha Hirst, Joel Hirst, Philip Challenor, Tracy Challinor, Jamie Challenor, Adelle Gainsford, Robert Kitchener, Rosemary Kitchener, and all of our other students from surrounding villages/towns who recently passed their gradings.

Well Done!

Affiliated to
Japan Karate Association England
English Karate Governing Body
www.ataru-karate.co.uk

MEPPERSHALL W.I. October 2005

President Mrs. Barbara Horwood welcomed 26 members to the October meeting.

Future events in our area include Christmas Shopping trip to London on Saturday 19th November, cost £10.50 coach, still a few seats left. Murder Mystery Evening "Deadlier Still" at Westoning Village Hall on 1st, 2nd and 3rd December, start 7.30pm with break for supper and bar (now full on 2nd 3rd December). Carol Concert at Elstow Abbey on Friday 9th December 8pm, refreshments served 7pm – 7.45pm, Salvation Army Band leading the singing, cost including refreshments £5. International Women's Day on Wednesday 8th March 2006 at Millbrook Village Hall, speaker Jenny Moody MBE, 2-4pm, cost £2.50 including light refreshments. We are hoping to arrange a trip, possibly later in November, to Welney to view the spectacular sight of swans, etc coming in to feed at their winter hides. More details to follow. Open to everyone.

We didn't have a speaker at our October meeting but we held a very successful auction of items brought in by members. Half of the proceeds will be donated to our Village Hall fund. After the auction we had cheese and wine to celebrate 90 years of the WI, also two quizzes to tax our brains. A very enjoyable evening. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 9th November when our speaker will be Mr. J. Whippey on World War 2 Normandy – D Day. This will be an open meeting, ladies and gentlemen welcome. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

<i>Tuesday</i> <i>1st November</i>	<i>Meppershall Baby & Toddler</i> <i>Halloween Party</i> <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i> <i>2pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>5th November</i>	<i>Bonfire Night</i> <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i> <i>7.15pm</i>
<i>Monday</i> <i>14th November</i>	<i>Bible Society Action Group</i> <i>17 Langford Road, Henlow</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>12th November</i>	<i>Meppershall Lower School</i> <i>Quiz Night at Village Hall</i> <i>7pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>19th November</i>	<i>Meppershall Lower School</i> <i>Autumn Craft Fayre</i> <i>Meppershall Lower School</i> <i>2pm – 4pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>26th November</i>	<i>St. Mary's Church</i> <i>Christmas Bazaar</i> <i>Village Hall</i> <i>2pm</i>
<i>2nd, 3rd, 8th, 9th</i> <i>10th December</i>	<i>Meppershall Players</i> <i>"Sinbad the Sailor"</i> <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i> <i>See Advert/Poster for Details</i>
<i>Sunday</i> <i>11th December</i>	<i>"Sparks" Musical Nativity</i> <i>St. Mary's Church</i> <i>6pm</i>
<i>Tuesday</i> <i>13th December</i>	<i>Meppershall Baby & Toddler</i> <i>Christmas Party</i> <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i> <i>1.30pm</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 Amphyll Road, 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 and Community College	Head	Mr. Owen	629900
	Adult Education Tutor	Mrs. 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 each month (except August), Shefford Library 10am – 11.30am

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 1st Wednesday each month, Methodist Chapel at 7.45pm

Chairman:	Mr. David Foskett, 11 Orchard Close	851770
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Clerk:	Mr. C. Waghorn, 19 Icknield Green, Letchworth	637531
	Email: wagers.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)		
	Mon-Fri 8.15am – 5.30pm / Sat 8am – 1.30pm	813398
Post Office & Village Store, 6 High Street		
Post Office:	Mon-Fri 9am – 1pm & 2pm – 5.30pm (half day Sat)	
Shop:	Mon-Thurs 6am – 6pm, Friday 6am – 7pm	
	Saturday 6.30am – 7pm, Sunday 6.30am – 1pm	

PUB

The Sugar Loaf Public House	25 High Street (Ron and Doreen)	857991
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ORGANISATIONS

Meppershall Village Hall Committee

Chairman:	Mr. Chris Addams, 9 Hill Top View	07939 144190
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Birch	817014
Booking Secretary:	Kate Hall, Culpeper House, Chapel Road	812869
Village Hall Telephone Number		817359

<u>Babysitting Circle</u>	Mrs. Sharon Edwards	814326
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<u>Brownies</u>	Mondays 6pm – 7.30pm	Village Hall	
Brown Owl:	Mrs. Christine Elbourne		811964
Snowy Owl:	Mrs. Suzanne Brightwell		815752

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

<u>Bingo</u>	Fridays 7pm	Village Hall	
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Mid Beds Conservative Association

Chairman:	Mrs. Pippa McLuskie, 4 Stondon Road	813417
Secretary:	Mrs. G. Bird	811260

Cubs

Shefford	Wednesdays	6.45pm	David Cousins	811441
Shillington			Pauline Goodman	711943

<u>Evergreen</u>	Alternate Thursdays 2.30pm	Village Hall	
(over 60s)	Miss E. Ashton (Poppy), 20 Fildyke Road	07931 636544	

Friends of St. Mary's Church

Chairman:	Mr. Trevor Thorley, 9 Hoo Road	813357
Secretary:	Mrs. Margaret Evesham, 107 High Street	814291
Treasurer:	Mr. H. Davies, 15 Hoo Road	812127

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

<u>Meppershall Baby & Toddler</u>	Tuesdays 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 9.30am – 12 noon	Village Hall	
Chairman:	Sarah Saunders		850817
Secretary:	Paula Standbridge		811160
Registrar:	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>	2 nd Wednesday in month 7.30pm	Village Hall	
President:	Barbara Horwood, 8 Rectory Road		816177
Secretary:	Doreen Pritchard		
Press Secretary:	Betty Mather		

<u>Youth Club</u>	Alternate Fridays 7pm	Methodist Chapel	
	Linda & Matt Ford		851567
	Sue & Steve Covington		815736

AMENITIES

Banks	Barclays, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford	01438 202122
	Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm	
Dentist	Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Shefford	814020
Electrician	Mr. R. Price, 118 Spring Drive, Stevenage	01438 361715
	Mobile:	07710 821878
Fishmonger	Les Braithwaite (Mobile Van) – Thursdays approx 11.45am	
Greengrocer	Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) – Fridays 2pm – 6pm	711802
Hedgehog Rescue	Beds & Herts Hedgehog Rescue – call Jeanette	711370
Mobile Library (alternate Wed)	Nursing Home 10am Rectory Road 10.25am	
	High Street/School 10.50am High Street/Taliesen 11.10am	
	Village Hall 11.30am Fildyke Road 12 noon	
	Shefford Road 12.25pm	
Library	High Street, Shefford	639070
Kennels/Cattery	Wayside, Chapel Road	813261
Newspapers	Meppershall Village Stores & PO	811252
Plumbers	Alan Dellar	814584
	G.A.S., 14 Cherry Trees, Lower Stondon	813781
Police	Emergencies/Police attendance required	01234 841212
		Or 01582 471212
	Shefford Police Post (non emergencies)	01234 841212
Livery Yard & Training Centre	Caroline Carter, Fildyke Road	07747 686118
Whitbread Wanderbus		850075

St Mary the Virgin Meppershall

Rector : Rev John Harper 813334
Churchwardens: Brenda Wright 75 High St
Brian Bellamy 125 High St

Services for November

Sunday 6	8.30a.m. Holy Communion 6p.m. All Souls service, especially in memory of those who have died locally - please see below
Sunday 13	8.30a.m. Holy Communion 10.45a.m. Remembrance Service, with 2 minutes silence at 11a.m.
Sunday 20	8.30a.m. Holy Communion 6p.m. Evensong
Sunday 27	8.30a.m. Holy Communion
Advent Sunday	11a.m. Family Communion, with a taster of the Christmas musical 'Stable Manners'

*All Souls Service - this is designed to remember before God those whose memories are cherished, particularly those who have died locally over the past year or so. All are welcome, and there will be opportunity as people arrive for other names to be remembered during the service. There will be a similar service - 'Special Memories' at St Michaels' Shefford at 10a.m, the same day - Nov 6.

Weekday Services:

Wednesdays	10.a.m. Holy Communion (B.C.P.)
Friday	7.30p.m. Compline (Night prayer)
Saturday	9.30a.m. Morning Prayer

Looking ahead

Sunday Dec 11	6p.m.. Christmas musical 'Stable Manners'
Sunday Dec 18	6p.m. Christingle and Crib Service
Weds Dec 21	7.30p.m. Village Carol Service

And into the New Year.... A revised pattern of Sunday services will be launched, details of which will be published next month. The aim is to provide more opportunities for growth, with extra provision for nurturing children.

This will include 3 family friendly services a month at the new time of 11.15a.m. and a Sunday School twice a month.

Methodist Chapel

It has been encouraging to see good congregations at both the new monthly united services held so far. This month this will take place on Sunday 13, 3p.m.

Garth Hewitt - internationally renowned composer and singer, will present a concert - 'Holy Ground' at St Michael's Shefford on Thurs Nov 11, 7.30p.m. His songs will reflect on his recent journeys to Palestine and Israel and to India, and will tell the stories of some of the most vulnerable in those societies. His music will be accompanied by images of his trips. Tickets £6 in advance, £7 at the door. Contact Jenny Dann - 01462 813334

ST MARYS MEPPERSHALL CHURCH BAZAAR



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26, FROM 2P.M.

MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE HALL

FATHER CHRISTMAS	X	CARDS & CHRISTMAS GIFTS
TOMBOLA	X	TEAS AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
RAFFLE	X	GROCERIES
		X
		CAKE STALL
FACE PAINTING ETC, ETC		

If you would be willing to contribute a raffle or tombola prize, cakes or tinned goods, please contact Brenda Wright on 816446

SPARKS MUSICAL NATIVITY 'STABLE MANNERS'

for 7 - 13 yrs

Singing places only left

Tues. 3.30 - 5.30pm

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ARRIVE
AT ANY TIME BETWEEN 3.30 - 4.30pm**

MEPPERSHALL SCHOOL HALL

50p an hour per child [UBJC choir FREE]

Performance

Sunday December 11th 6.00pm

St. Mary's Church, Meppershall.

INFO: Sandra Harper The Rectory, Meppershall 01462 813334
sandraharper@tiscali.co.uk

**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 or telephone

Parish Priest:

Parish Secretary:

Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436

Rose Boulton 811547

I should like to thank those who sponsored the two cyclists who rode in this year's Cycle Ride for the Historic Churches. We raised £239 which I thought very good. Half of this goes, as ever, to keep our/your Parish Church in one piece, and the other half to other such buildings in the area. Also another thank you to all the "welcomers" who gave up their time to give tea, etc. to any who wanted it on the ride. It is always much appreciated by the riders.

Perhaps next year we may be able to raise a few more cyclists? I have to admit there were a good many drowned rat types around, including me! Any late donations can still be pushed through the letterbox of 86 Fildyke Road, cheques made out to Historic Churches of Beds & Herts, with sponsor forms, if any.

Thank you again all.

Shireen Longland

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 November 2005

We are greatly appreciative of the wonderful, kind donations of harvest produce we have received from our many kind friends. Again we have all been very fortunate to be able to look at all the beautiful colours and admire the range of gifts. Our thanks to everyone for their kindness.

It's that wonderful time of the year, where we sit back and reflect upon all the joys and pleasures that summer and the first part of the year brought us - we look forward to the nights drawing in and Christmas just around the corner. Not that any Residents have, as yet, mentioned going Christmas shopping, except John. In fact, John has completed a significant amount of his planned gift purchasing from Jeff's shop! Jeff, and all of us, remain enormously touched and pleased with your kind and very generous donations made to the Home, and thank you all most sincerely. Certainly, we have more than John as one of our 'happy shoppers', thanks to you. So, please do keep the donations coming in!

We frequently seem to be asking for help and we do need lots of volunteers, as you know by now, with many of the every day tasks and activities with which the Residents are involved. However, we do want to say how grateful we are to those who have and do come along to see us, helping and supporting in the life of Agate House. Without you, so very few of the extras and the little things that make life go with a zing, would be achieved. So heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. Long may our friendships continue.

Our **Christmas Bazaar** is coming up on **Saturday 19th November**, 10.30am-3pm (stop for lunch - ploughmans and soup available). Do come along and support your local Cheshire Home.

Our warmest good wishes to you all.

Judith Hagger

Volunteer Coordinator/Fundraising

Tel. 01525 403247

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

The beginning of October several of us enjoyed a day in Essex. We collected our friendly guide from the Birchanger Service Station, who gave us a running commentary as we made our way to Thaxted where we stopped for morning coffee. Refreshed we drove through Finchingfield and onto Saffron Walden where we were spoilt for choice to decide where to go for lunch. After lunch we were off to see The Chocolate Lady at Steeple Bumpstead. Not only were we given samples and a cream tea, her humour kept us all highly amused. A small group of us visited Keech Cottage Children's Hospice, this is a very informative trip and explains the dedicated work of the hospice as well as being to see the facilities available. We will arrange future visits and if anyone is interested to go, please do not hesitate to contact me. They also arranged a Craft Fair at Barnfield Cottage on 30th October. Other trips include Camden Lock Market by the Canal, visiting the poppy factory at Richmond.

For November we have planned Friday Night is Music Night on the 1st, this will take place at Watford Coliseum, Woburn Safari Park Craft Show (now full), two separate visits to Thursford Christmas Spectacular, Scrooge at the London Palladium. Our Tinsel & Turkey (with a difference), we will be spending time in Ostend, in Bruges (visiting a chocolate factory), Gent with time to visit the mediaeval Castle and Cathedral. We will also visit Lille for the Christmas Markets. On our return to Calais via Ypres, with a chance to visit the famous Menin Gate before returning home. Other trips include Cruising into Christmas, where we can visit the museum at Greenwich before boarding our boat The London Rose, and we can enjoy the riverside illuminated buildings entertained by our skipper with his lively commentaries on our way towards the floodlit Tower Bridge, After rejoining our coach we will enjoy a fish & chip supper before making our way home.

On all of our trips, raffles are held, most of the prizes are donated, all of the proceeds will be presented at our 'Get Together' next April to a representative from Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. Anyone interested in joining our friendly group, or would like to receive a monthly newsletter, please telephone Enid for further information – Telephone 01462 851397.

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

Ben Halford who will be 1 on the 4th
Graham Woods who will be 15 on the 6th
Elliot Cooper Hughes who will be 7 on the 10th
Danielle Savory who will be 12 on the 10th
Mikey Long who will be 14 on the 10th
Emily Crowson who will be 9 on the 13th
Daniel Truett who will be 3 on the 15th
Abbie Saunders who will be 6 on the 19th
Lucy Wallace who will be 2 on the 23rd
Alex Thorne who will be 7 on the 28th
Joe Thomson who will be 14 on the 29th
Rebecca Croft who will be 12 on the 30th
Alice Geneux who will be 3

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

