

MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



May 2007

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Volume 23 Issue 2

May 2007

I can't believe where the time has gone! The 12th of the month comes around so quickly.....!

Apologies to the few advertisers whose adverts were omitted from last month's edition. These have now been included and appear in this month's magazine.

The main village event this month is the May Fayre being held in the field at the rear of the Village Hall. A tremendous amount of work is involved by many people to get an event like this off the ground, and your support by coming along for an hour or so is greatly appreciated. Having been involved in organising events like this myself in the past, there is nothing more disheartening than seeing all your hard efforts going to waste by lack of attendance. Please make the effort to come along, even for a short time and give your support to very worthy local organisations.

The deadline for articles for the June 2007 edition of The Messenger is 12th May 2007. Please either leave them at the Post Office or drop them through my letterbox at 7 Brookmead. If you prefer, you can send articles to me at my e-mail address lindagoldl@aol.com. Thank you.

Linda Gold **(Editor)**

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Dear Editor

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank all our friends in Meppershall for the cards and messages of support which we received on the sudden death of Trevor. I am sure he would have been touched with all the messages we received. Thanks everyone.

Glenis

I am pleased to report that the kind donations to Cancer Research in memory of Joanne Smart totalled £1,895.38 inclusive of gift aid. A big thank you to all of you who contributed.

A number of local ladies are running in the Cancer Research Race for Life in July in memory of Jo. If anybody would like to sponsor a runner or would like to run themselves, please contact me for further details.

Stephen Smart – 814224

If the lowlife who recently helped themselves to an electric fence energiser from a field to the rear of the Village Hall care to call at No. 7, they can have the 12 volt ex-truck battery that goes with it. Furthermore, if they connect the unit to the battery and (with wet hands) seize the other two terminals, they will be able to ascertain that the piece of kit they have pinched is in working order.

Which brings me to another point. In the last edition of *The Messenger*, Mesdames Reece and Parker bemoan the fact that unlike previous years many villagers are unwilling to open their gardens to the community and seek answers as to why this should be. Given the nefarious activities of a tiny minority of recent newcomers to the village, could it be that people are wary of having their premises inspected from the rear? The criminal term "Casing the Joint" comes to mind.

Mick Trundle

Having been an avid reader of The Messenger since we moved to the village two and a half years ago, this is my first visit to the Messenger online. Sadly, it is not curiosity that brings me here, but a sense of despair and a need to let off steam! Once again, the sound of those infernal mini-motorbikes echoes across the village. As I write this I can see the two bikes and their riders plus two other companions from our bedroom window. It is the afternoon of Mother's Day and they are riding all over the growing crops behind Coneygate. Surely there are enough tracks and paths in and around the village if they have to partake in such pointless activity, without ruining the crops. This shows a total lack of respect and a complete disregard for the countryside. If this is you, or you know who they are, please show some respect!

Name Supplied

***A SPONSORED STRETCH AND RELAX CLASS
IN AID OF
MEPPERSHALL LOWER SCHOOL
BUILDING FUND***

***Thursday 14th June
7pm – 8.30pm at Meppershall Lower School Hall***

***This will be a FUN Yoga class with easy stretches for all and done mainly sitting on chairs. So even those with no previous experience as a "couch potato" can join in!
Get your Sponsorship Form from the School or
Thelma McNairn (01462 851243)***

Village Hall News

Over the last couple of months, we have continued to have a number of successful fundraising events, and as a result of these and earlier fundraising, were able to make additional payments to the Electric Company and Electrical works company to help pay off our outstanding debts more quickly. The Easter Tea dance was again a great success and the Table top sale went well too. The Easter craft day and Easter egg hunt was enjoyed by all those that came, although the turn-out was not as high as last year. Perhaps the glorious weather was the reason?

The Meppershall May fayre on Saturday 12th May is taking place on the recreation ground behind the Village hall between 11.00am and 4.00pm. Our fundraising co-ordinator, Gemma is very busy organising events on behalf of the Village hall, and if anyone could help out on the day, please call her on 07870 697407.

Our AGM is on Tuesday 12th June at 8.15pm. Please put this date in your diary and come along to support your hall and find out more on the financial situation and what has happened over the last year. Perhaps you would like to get more involved and join the committee?

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and the other events happening soon.

The Village Hall committee

Village Plan

If everything has gone to plan, along with this Messenger you should also receive a copy of the questionnaire that will form a major part of the data that will result in the Meppershall Village Plan.

Over the last ten months the Meppershall Plan Steering Group have met with various organizations, consulted with our neighbouring councils, and with the aid of people from the Rural Communities Charity organized Open Days and Green Walks. All of this has been recorded and will be used later.

Now we need your help. The questionnaire will give us a wide view of what the village wants, not what we think the village wants. We appreciate that it is a fairly large document, but the more questionnaires we get back, the more weight we can put on the findings when we come to the "plan" part of the exercise.

There may be some questions that you have no opinion on, then please leave them blank, or questions that you feel are personal to you, this we understand, but please note that we have no idea who is filling in the document, however we understand if you leave out those questions. Same applies to questions you think are not applicable to yourself (but still might be applicable to someone else in the household).

To put an "Other answer" box for each person at each question would have made the whole document several pages longer. If you have a different answer then please use one of the boxes on the last page, or simply write your answer near the question (please make sure we know which person is answering). If you still need more room for your replies, then please just write your information on the back of the document.

All data is anonymous.

If you have any problems understanding what is being asked, need assistance, need a larger print copy, then please call one of the team, their numbers are on the last page of the questionnaire

Once we have the questionnaires back we will be entering them into a computer and from that we will get the answers of how many answered a question one way or another. This is the beginning of some very important phases of the process.

A draw number has been put on the bottom of the front sheet and on a tear off strip. All returned copies of the questionnaire will be entered in a draw for a bottle of champagne, so tear off strip when you return your copy. (The numbers are not recorded anywhere and we have no idea which copies are delivered to where). We will publish the winning number in the July/August Messenger for the person to claim their prize.

Our thanks to those who took part in the piloting of the questionnaire, we may not have used all your input, but we did review all inputs received, again thank you.

We have decided to use the same method of delivery and collection as used by some door to door companies. When you have completed your questionnaire, if you put it outside your door, between the 14th & 21st May, then one of the collection team will pick it up. Alternately you can drop it off at one of the team members or give them a call to arrange its collection from you.

The more returns we get, the clearer picture of the feelings, wants and needs of Meppershall villagers can be drawn, so please, please can you take a little time and complete the questionnaire.

Thank You - John

A HUGE THANKYOU from
MEPPERSHALL VA LOWER SCHOOL

Thank you for your response to school's ongoing 'Buy a Brick for £100' appeal. Donors' names (with their permission) will be recorded in a special book which will be on display at the school. Through schemes like this and other efforts, we have managed to raise £7,380 towards the £20,000 target for building and resourcing our new development, so a huge thank you to you, your workmates and others within the community who have contributed. Keep up the good work!!

The Bedfordshire Library team is editing our book stock before transferring it to our new accessible library. Some of the best loved books are not in prime condition and will need to be replaced. We would like to offer you a further opportunity to contribute through buying book plates at £2.50, £5.00 and £10.00 each. We will write on the name of whoever has donated in this way and will stick them into our new books as we buy them.

Cheques for both schemes can be made payable to Meppershall Lower School Fund and sent to Meppershall VA Lower School, 107 High Street, Meppershall. Beds. SG17 5LZ

Meppershall Parish Council Report

Planning & Housing

This month there was only one application, this was recommended for approval. Mid Beds also advised that the weekly planning list would not be issued in future but it can always be viewed on their web site: -

www.midbeds.gov.uk/services/planning

Highways & Lighting

The results of the recent traffic survey were presented to the meeting, which showed the following average weekly statistics for traffic exceeding the 30 MPH Speed Limit: -

Shefford Road Northbound (towards Shefford)	76.00 %
--	----------------

209 vehicles per week exceeded 40 mph

18 vehicles per week exceeded 50 mph

Shefford Road Southbound (towards Shillington)	59.00 %
---	----------------

52 vehicles per week exceeded 40 mph

2 vehicles per week exceeded 50 mph

High Street Northbound (towards Shefford)	27.00 %
--	----------------

7 vehicles per week exceeded 40 mph

1 vehicle per week exceeded 50 mph

High Street Southbound (towards Shillington)	32.50 %
---	----------------

9 vehicles per week exceeded 40 mph

0 vehicle was exceeding 50 mph

The traffic calming measures will be discussed with the Highways Dept as soon as possible and we will keep you informed of progress. Our local Beat Manager PC Steve Busby informs us that armed with this data the Police know when and where to target their speed checks.

These figures cannot all be blamed on traffic passing through Meppershall. The Council asked that the residents of Meppershall be aware of their speed and keep within the speed limit. Thankfully we have not had a serious accident in Meppershall but the evidence points to the possibility of a speed related incident in the near future.

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

The Council agreed to contact neighbouring Parish Councils with a view to sharing a PCSO as it was felt that the village would benefit from a dedicated officer but not on a full time basis.

David Foskett
Chairman

The next Parish Council meetings are Wednesday 9th May and Wednesday 6th June at 19:45 Methodist Chapel

MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS

The May Fayre Saturday 12th May 2007 (in the playing field behind the Village Hall) will you be there? The Players will. We will have a stand at the Fayre, and rumour as it, that some of us will be performing for you sometime in the afternoon. So come along for a fun day, and don't forget to stop by our stall to say hello, as we are a friendly bunch and like to meet people. It's also the perfect opportunity to find out what we do.

Rehearsals are well under way for an "Evening of Entertainment" on 21st, 22nd and 23rd of June 2007. If you're looking for a fun night out with plenty of variety then this is definitely one not to be missed. Tickets are priced at £5 (no concessions) and will be on sale at Roger's Bakery from Friday 4th May 2007.

Players A.G.M. this will be held on Thursday 12th July 2007 commencing at 8pm. everyone is welcome, members past, present and new. Come and see what we're like (we're quite normal really) Come and elect your committee, have your say on what we the Players should or shouldn't be doing.

Pantomime 2007, the read through for Dick Whittington will be held on Wednesday 27th June 2007 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, auditions will be held the following week on Wednesday 4th July 2007 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Graham Jackson our Director for this year's production will tell you on the night of the read through what will be required of you at the auditions the following week. The performance dates for this years Pantomime are Sunday 25th & Friday 30th November, Saturday 1st, Sunday 2nd, Thursday 6th, Friday 7th & Saturday 8th December 2007.

The players meet every 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month and every 2nd Thursday at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Our current membership fee is Juniors £2, Seniors £5 (per year) and we welcome anyone from the age of 9 to 90+ years, to participate in any of the following activities; acting, set building, painting, costumes, directing sound and lighting, backstage, front of house. If any of the aforementioned appeals to you why not stroll over to the Village Hall or ring me, Karen Mitchell Players Secretary on 816336. We look forward to meeting you.

**Meppershall
REPORTED CRIME INCIDENTS
March 2007**

Reported Crime by Street

Location	Offence	Mar
Fildyke Road	Criminal Damage	2
	Theft	1
High Street	House Burglary	1
Orchard Close	Theft from Motor Vehicle	1
Rectory Road	House Burglary	1
Total		6

Anti-Social Behaviour Reported

Location	Description	Date	Time
The Acres	Anti-social behaviour	17-Mar	3.01pm
Coneygate	Vehicle Nuisance	18-Mar	2.07pm
High Street	Anti-social behaviour	26-Mar	9.08pm
	Vehicle Nuisance	27-Mar	9.51am
	Anti-social behaviour	28-Mar	8.42pm
Total			5

THE FRIENDS OF St. MARY'S

Feedback suggests that our latest concert on March 10, featuring The Woburn Sands Band in 'Melodies from the Shows' was another huge success. Thank you to all who supported us by coming along. Also to Roger's Bakery and Meppershall Stores and Post Office for helping with ticket sales and to all the people who prepared the lovely display of food which everyone appreciated. Last but not least, our thanks to Mark Brinkley for opening up his farm yard for additional car parking. All proceeds will benefit the welfare of St. Mary's Church.

The Friends of St. Mary's strive to find excellent entertainment as well as providing value for money for you and we think we have got another winner in the form of The Phoenix Chorus who will be coming to Meppershall in November. Look out for more detail nearer the time and we will look forward once again to welcoming you.

Have a great summer!

Trevor Thorley
Chairman

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

MAY 2007

<i>Saturday</i> <i>12th May</i>	<i>Meppershall May Fayre</i> <i>Field behind Village Hall</i>	<i>11am – 4pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>19th May</i>	<i>Meppershall Village Hall</i> <i>Comedy Hypnotist at Village Hall</i>	<i>8pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>9th June</i>	<i>Meppershall Lower School</i> <i>Races Night at Village Hall (Adults Only)</i>	
<i>Tuesday</i> <i>12th June</i>	<i>Meppershall Village Hall AGM</i> <i>Village Hall</i>	<i>8.15pm</i>
<i>Thursday</i> <i>14th June</i>	<i>Meppershall Lower School</i> <i>Sponsored Stretch and Relax Class</i>	<i>7pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>14th July</i>	<i>Meppershall Lower School</i> <i>Summer BBQ</i>	<i>2pm – 4pm</i>

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	

***ST MARY THE VIRGIN,
MEPPERSHALL PARISH CHURCH***

Rector: Rev John Harper, The Rectory, Church Rd, Meppershall. 01462 813334

Churchwardens: Brian Bellamy – 815944 (also Pastoral Assistant);

Brenda Wright 816446

Children's Worker : Sandra Harper 813334

SERVICES FOR MAY

**Sunday 6 Easter 5. 11. 15 a.m. Parish Communion
with Sunday School (in Rectory)**

**Sunday 13 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
11.15a.m. Family Service and baptism
of Grace Bavister
3p.m. United Service at Methodist Chapel**

Thurs 17 Ascension Day : Holy Communion 7p.m.

**Sunday 20 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
6p.m. Evensong**

**Sunday 27 Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
8.30a.m. Holy Communion
11.15a.m. Family Communion
with Sunday School**

Weekday Services:

Wednesdays : 10a.m. Holy Communion (B.C.P.)

Fridays : 7.30p.m. Compline (Evening Prayer)

Saturdays 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer

Holiday at Lee Abbey.

A group from Meppershall and Shefford are booked to stay at the Christian Holiday centre on the glorious North Devon coast (near to Lynton) for a short break from Mon June 18 – Fri 22, and would welcome others to join them. Own beach, cream tea cottage, and coastal estate. Transport is provided if needed. Please ask for details and/or to see brochure or video.

John & Sandra Harper .

'I don't believe in boxes'

How much of life is 'boxed in'? Can we escape from boxed type thinking? 5 weekly sessions that aim to take you outside the box!

Wednesdays from 8-9.45p.m. in the Meeting Room at St Michael's Shefford, introduced by St Michael's Lay Reader - Jenny Dann.

May 2 – Unboxed relationships

May 9 Unboxed Community

May 16 Unboxed Environment

May 23 Unboxed worship

May 30 A celebration of a box – free life!

Details 817337

St Mary's Housegroups – an update

Two groups from the village have been meeting each month since last summer, and would be delighted to welcome others who may like to discover first hand what's involved. Our usual pattern is to enjoy each other's company as we eat a simple supper together; explore an aspect of faith from a biblical viewpoint, and then to finish with prayer. If you would like to come along for a taster evening, (Weds or Thurs evens), please let us know at any time. Talkers and listeners equally welcome.

John Harper (813334) / Brian Bellamy 815944

Do you like singing? Come and experience praise & worship.
Have you a favourite hymn / praise song?

C O M E T O

SONGS of PRAISE 3

St. Mary's, Meppershall

led by St. Mary's Village Choir & The Benefice Junior Choir
followed by food in the Rectory Garden

Sun. 8th July 6pm

This is such a popular event, make sure that you don't miss it this year!

- To request your favourite hymn / praise song please fill in the form below and deliver to: Rector John/Sandra [school or church] or The Rectory, Church Rd.
- If you'd like to be in the choir, or would like to play an instrument please let us know. 01462 813334

There will be a DONATIONS pot at the service.

Any profits will be shared between St. Mary's and our own children's ministry.

Please return to Rector John or Sandra [school or church] or The Rectory, Church Rd.

SONGS of PRAISE

My choice of hymn / song is:
.....

How many for food afterwards?

If you'd like to introduce your favourite hymn / praise song then please complete below:

Name:

Tel:

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

Wednesday 21st March the group enjoyed another visit to Mickie Driver's show, held in North London. A superb lunch was followed by Memories of the Minstrels. The following day we visit the Gordon Craig Theatre to see the Syd Lawrence Orchestra conducted by Chris Dean to celebrate the 40th Anniversary tour. At our annual 'Get Together' we presented a representative from Keech Cottage Children's Hospice with a cheque for £1,400.00 this being the proceeds from the raffles held on coach outings throughout the year. All raffle prizes are generously donated by our many members. Our visits to Canada, Audley End and Rock 'n' Roll evening will be reported in the next edition of The Meppershall Messenger.

Woburn Abbey & Safari Park on Sunday 20th May also The Gordon Boswell Romany Museum, Spalding, Wednesday 23rd May, Friday Night is Music Night at the Mermaid Theatre in London, Friday 25th May. London Museums on Sunday 3rd June and Broxbourne Boat Trip Thursday 28th June (Broxbourne is now fully booked, reserve list only). Kew Palace and Gardens, Thursday 12th July, Buckingham Palace and Covent Garden, Sunday 12th August, Glenn Miller Festival at Twinwoods, Bedford on Sunday 26th August. Mississippi Paddle Board, Horning and Wroxham Barns, Thursday 6th September. Tutankhamun Exhibition and river cruise on Tuesday 18th December (Tutankhamun is now fully booked, reserve list only). There are still twin rooms available for our Isle of Wight trip, staying at the Parkbury Hotel, Sandown, leaving Monday October 1st for five days. Our annual Turkey & Tinsel, Monday 26th to Friday 30th November will take place at the popular Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange-over-Sands. In 2008 we have planned an 8-day holiday to Croatia – dates 12th until 19th May!

Theatre trips are very popular, both in London and locally, with the London Theatres we work alongside our colleagues in Stevenage and if there is a particular show you would like to see, please contact me and we will see what can be arranged. We do try to arrange a Shefford pick-up point, occasionally it may not be practical and therefore it may mean collecting the coach from Stevenage. This situation we are working on and hope to improve as time goes on.

We look forward to meeting friends old and new whilst visiting places of interest having removed the hassle of organising these trips.

Any further information regarding dates, prices and availability, please contact Enid on 01462 851397 or e-mail Enidpamment@aol.com

Do the sums and find the answers by reading across and down in the wordsearch grid.

$24 \div 8$
 6×2

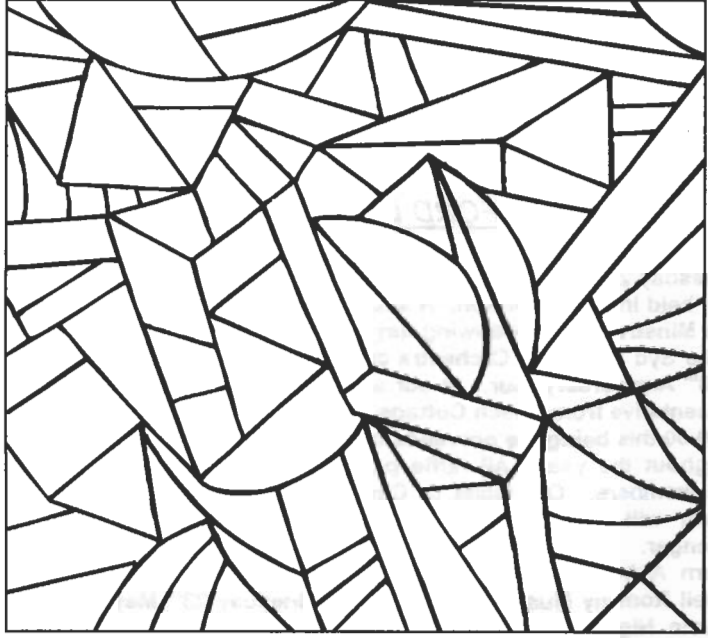
$15 \div 3$
 10×3

$6 + 8$
 $22 - 3$



N	I	E	T	E	T	H	I	R	T	Y
O	T	E	W	E	R	T	Y	E	N	
U	E	E	L	V	E	T	H	R	E	E
G	N	V	N	G	H	T	E			
A	I	R	E	L	V	E	T			
I	F	E	E	N	U	R				
F	O									

How many triangles can you count?



Moonshine

*A rich version of a traditional
bread and butter pudding*

2oz butter, softened

6 thin slices white bread (crusts removed)

2oz sultanas 2oz caster sugar

3 eggs, beaten

$\frac{3}{4}$ pint milk $\frac{1}{4}$ pint single cream

Grated rind of half a lemon

Freshly ground nutmeg

Set oven to 350 F or Mark 4. Use a little of the butter to grease a shallow ovenproof dish and use the rest to butter the bread generously. Cut the bread into strips and arrange in the dish in layers, buttered side up, sprinkled with sultanas and sugar, finishing with a layer of buttered bread. Beat the eggs in a bowl. Heat the milk and cream in a pan to just below boiling point and stir into the eggs; add the lemon rind. Pour over the bread, sprinkle with nutmeg and leave to stand for 20 minutes for the bread to get well soaked. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes until the custard is set and the top is crisp and golden.



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

Sophie Hayes who will be 15 on the 1st
 Charlotte Wolton who will be 14 on the 3rd
 Joseph Daniel who will be 9 on the 3rd
 Annabelle Fox who will be 10 on the 4th
 Laura Stock who will be 6 on the 4th
 Samuel Boggon who will be 7 on the 7th
 Stuart Lovelock who will be 14 on the 8th
 Sasa Kovacs who will be 7 on the 8th
 Frank Donachie who will be 8 on the 10th
 Michael Bull who will be 8 on the 11th
 Adam Palmer who will be 6 on the 12th
 Sophie Palmer who will be 6 on the 17th
 Isabella Lambley who will be 4 on the 17th
 James Parrott who will be 7 on the 18th
 Chloe Thorne who will be 5 on the 23rd
 Kieran Clark who will be 13 on the 27th
 Hanne Boggon who will be 13 on the 31st

If you are under 16 and would like your name added to the birthday page, please call Louise Hutson on 814148

