

MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



June 2007

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Volume 23 Issue 3

June 2007

I've been asked by several people to mention the problem of the dreaded dog poo! There is a significant increase in the deposits left on the pavements and grass verges around the village, particularly Fildyke Road and Hoo Road. There is a certain person/persons who are allowing their dogs to foul on the doorsteps of the cottages at the bottom of Hoo Road, and also in the Nature Field. There is also a certain person/persons who clear up after their dogs, bag the mess and then kindly leave the bag on the picnic table in the Nature Field! Words fail me!! Is it really necessary to spell out the dangers/hazards of such an act? Imagine the scene..... it is a lovely sunny afternoon and you decide to take your children out for a walk in the village and stop at the bottom of Hoo Road and visit the Nature Field for a snack and drink. The children run ahead excitedly to the picnic tables. Has the picnic arrived before Mum? For heaven's sake....! It is obviously necessary to say it, again, but could everyone, adults and children alike, who exercise a dog in the village PLEASE do the right thing, be a responsible owner and CLEAR UP THEIR DOGS MESS and dispose of it in the proper way. Bagging it up and not disposing of the bag in the correct way is just as irresponsible as leaving it in the first place! It's bad enough negotiating the potholes and uneven slabs in the pavements when walking through the village, without trying to avoid the dog poo as well!

The deadline for articles for the July 2007 edition of The Messenger is 12th June 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 lindagold1@aol.com. Thank you.

Linda Gold (Editor)

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Dear Editor

We have just spent a very pleasant hour and a half at the Coffee Morning in the Village Hall (Saturday 28th April) offering, as well as a lovely cup of coffee and delicious cake, a good raffle, a well stocked Tombola table and an array of other saleable goods. However, a lack of any fresh faces among the usual supporters (quite a few of us pensioners) was very noticeable.

We would, nonetheless, like to thank Gemma for all her hard work and being such a genial hostess.

Poppy and Dora

I would like to thank everyone for their letters, cards and kindness shown to me during my recent illness. I am now settled in my new home back in Meppershall, and happy to be so.

Joyce Harris

We write in response to the letter from Mick Trundle in the last edition of The Messenger. Obviously we sympathise with Mr. Trundle being the victim of the theft of his property, and by no means do we condone crime. However, the implication in his letter is that he links the theft with "a tiny minority of recent newcomers". We would be interested to know whether he has evidence that the crime was perpetrated by these "newcomers". If so, we are sure he has passed it on to the appropriate authorities. Furthermore, as residents of just short of four years, do we still fall into the "newcomers" bracket and, if so, how long will we be regarded as "newcomers"? Perhaps we should ask the good residents of Taylors Close how long they were "newcomers"!

*Dean Rockall & Kerry Prentice
Gregory Close*

Having had an article printed in the May edition of the Messenger, there is no stopping me now! Thankfully there has been no repetition of the motorbike saga - perhaps the growth of the crops has made that pursuit hazardous?

What brings me to write this time is the article by Mick Trundle. I believe it highlights an issue which everyone in the village needs to make an effort towards. I'm not talking about the vandalism to the electric fence, although I hope the perpetrators have had good the sense to return the item albeit anonymously. What I'm referring to is the subject of "newcomers" to the village. Being one myself it saddens me that the finger of suspicion always points at us as a "Group" whenever there is any trouble or issues in the village. I can understand how a traditional village where everyone knows everyone might view an influx of new residents with caution, especially when it increases the village population by 15-20% at a stroke. After all, you know nothing about us or our backgrounds, but similarly we know nothing about you either.

We've been here to two and a half years now, and have found it hard to know how to integrate into the village (although I do now have an allotment). We don't have young children, so that natural meeting place, the school, hasn't been an option for us. It sometimes feels like we're a community within a community and that assimilation will take a very long time. When we arrived I hoped the village pub would be a natural meeting place where we could get to know about the village and its people but, after one very uncomfortable drink in there, I haven't been back since! We want to become and be accepted as part of the village, as I'm sure all new residents do, but the village also needs to open up to assimilate "newcomers" more quickly as well. I'm sure the new residents bring skills and experience which could benefit the village as a whole if only there were a forum to find out.

The topic of new residents is not going to go away; if anything it's going to increase as John Prescott continues to concrete over the South East. Even as I write, the new estate of Lyspitt Common just off Fildyke Road is going to bring another batch of new residents to Meppershall, and so it will continue. That is why we all need to make an effort to find out about each other, then we can all pull together as a community instead of several communities co-existing within the same boundary. Only then will people feel confident enough to open their gardens, etc. For what it's worth, people are welcome to visit mine, although prepare to be disappointed!

*Jon Ingarfill
19 Coneygate*

RECORDED CRIME INCIDENTS April 2007

Reported Crime by Street:

Shefford Road

Theft of Motor Vehicle

Anti-Social Behaviour Reported:

High Street	6 th	9.20 pm
	11 th	7.46 pm
	12 th	8.09 pm
	15 th	9.10 pm
	18 th	8.55 pm
	21 st	11.55 pm
	21 st	8.03 pm
	22 nd	6.37 pm
	22 nd	7.03 pm
	23 rd	8.32 pm

Police Issue Warning on Burglaries

BEDFORDSHIRE Police are again reminding householders to ensure UPVC doors are properly locked at night following a series of burglaries or attempted burglaries in Mid and South Beds.

Police say over the last few days they have dealt with incidents at locations including Shefford, Meppershall, Upper Gravenhurst, Harlington, Studham Dunstable and Flitwick.

Stolen have been items that are easily to hand such as handbags, lap-top computers, wallets and mobile telephones.

Police stress UPVC doors are safe, but householders must ensure they are double locked at night or when they go out. To do this property owners need to lift up the handle and turn and remove the key, which ensures the top and bottom bolts are in place and the whole unit is properly deadlocked.

The bolts protrude into the frame much further than the central catch and are particularly important on doors adjacent to a glazed side panel.

Anyone with information about burglary can contact Bedfordshire Police in confidence on 01234 841212 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

VILLAGE PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to everyone for taking the time to complete the Questionnaire last month. If your Questionnaire still hasn't been collected, please take it to the Village Stores. The Luck Number winner will be announced in the July Messenger.

Thank you from the Working Group.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Firstly, the Quiz Night last month organised by the Meppershall Players on behalf of the Village Hall was a great success and I think enjoyed by everyone that took part.

As mentioned last month, our AGM is on Tuesday 12th June at 8.15pm. Please put this date in your diary and come along to support your hall. It is your opportunity to find out how all the fundraising that has been taking place over the last year has been used to keep the hall open and to ask any questions about the hall in general. Perhaps you would like to get more involved and join the committee? We meet about six times a year, so it doesn't need to take up a lot of your time. Also, it is useful to have a representative from each of the Regular User Groups, so if your group isn't currently represented, now is the time to join. We do particularly need help with organising the fundraising events, so if you feel this is something you would like to get involved with, please come along and join us.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

The Village Hall Committee

Meppershall Parish Council Report

May is the month which is the commencement of a new Council year and a new four year term for your Councillors. I would like to welcome three new members to the Parish Council, Mike Castle, Phil Collins and Tony Sykes. I would like to thank you on behalf of the Village for volunteering to serve on the Council. I would also like to express my thanks to two retiring Councillors who have worked very hard for the Council during their appointment, Beverley Aberdein and Andy Williams.

As you may know the day to day work of the Council is divided into Working Groups, each of which has an experienced Councillor to lead it. I have been re-elected as Chairman for the next year and below are details of all the groups and their responsibilities:-

Planning & Housing – Spokesman – Peter Crossley

The Group reviews all Planning applications within the 21 day time-frame allowed. Their comments are fed back to the Parish Council and Mid Beds District Council who are responsible for the final decision. This month four applications were discussed with no objections.

Finance – Spokesman – John Parsons

The Finance Group is responsible for overseeing the Finances of the Council and the preparation of the annual budget and recommendations for the Precept. This year it is the same as 2006/7 at £28,000. At this meeting the Council approved the accounts for last year which now go forward for external auditing.

Highways & Lighting - Spokesman – Roger Bryant

Roger spends a lot of his time chasing the Highways Department to ensure they do not forget us when it comes to potholes, broken or blocked drains, resurfacing, street lights not working etc. We can all help him by reporting directly to the Highways Help Line phone number (01234 228661). Do not forget to ask for a reference number, and if you wish, request feedback. Work on traffic calming is continuing as quickly as possible.

Environment & Leisure – Spokesman – Paul Merryweather

Responsible for all outside spaces, this can be the busiest Group of the Council. They are dedicated to improving our Environment, Play Areas and Open Spaces. At present some of their projects include lighting for the MUGA, Old Road Meadow management and improvements to play areas and equipment.

Health & Safety and Risk Management - Spokesman – Peter Chapman.

This newly formed group is self explanatory and has yet to meet for the first time. Their first task will be to review and action the report from annual safety inspection report which will be undertaken by ROSPA in the next few weeks.

Other Groups

The Council also has representation on a number of local organisations:-

Meppershall Lower School Governor – Roger Bryant

Meppershall Village Management Committee – David Foscett

South East Beds Community Forum – Peter Chapman & John Parsons

Wry Close Allotment Association – Peter Chapman

Other Matters

Discussions on Unitary Authority proposals will continue at the next meeting where the Council will prepare its feedback to the Government consultation process.

Police Community Support Officer – detailed discussions are now in progress and a conclusion should be reached during the next few weeks.

David Foscett
Chairman

The next meetings will be at 7:45 pm on Wednesday 6th June 2007 and Wednesday 18th July 2007, both at the Methodist Chapel. Please remember you are all welcome to attend and speak if you wish.

Meppershall Messenger Advertising Charges 2007		
Annual:	Eighth page	£45
	Quarter page	£60
	Half page	£100
	Full page	£180
Casual:	Quarter page	£10
	Half page	£15
	Full page	£30
For further information contact Steve Ansell, Advertising Manager on 01462 811252		

MEPPERSHALL PRE-SCHOOL



Would like to welcome Benjamin Saunders, Michael Wickersham, Eve Sale and Danny Mead who joined us at Pre-school after Easter. We hope you all enjoy your time with us.

I COMPLETED THE MARATHON !!

Firstly, thank you to everyone who sponsored me to complete the London Marathon for the CMA. It was a really warm day, apparently the hottest London Marathon ever, but I managed to keep running and although the last 2 miles were really difficult, I completed the course in 4 hours 25 minutes, a time I was very pleased with. A number of people have asked me if I'll be doing it again but at the moment, I can't imagine putting myself through it again!

I pledged to raise at least £1,500 but so far have £2,300 in sponsorship, which is brilliant. If you had intended to sponsor me though, but just didn't get round to it, it's not too late as I'm still collecting in the last of the money. The website www.justgiving.com/paulmlucas is still active until June, or you can drop a cheque or cash through my letterbox with your name and address and I will send it off to the CMA.

Thank you again for all your support.

Paul Lucas
(Lucas, Huntley & Co.)

THE V.I. CLUB

There is a little known Society in Meppershall that have few members and even fewer recruits. Members do not have to pass any auditions, or face a jury of their peers. Other societies envy their prestigious standing. They are talked of with some wistfulness. One does not have to ask or write to join, people know you instantly; you have that certain air about you.

We, the members of the V.I. Club, organised the May Fayre and would like to heartily thank all the exhibitors, entertainers and stall holders for their support, cheerfulness and stamina.

We may not have raised enormous amounts of money, but we happily tried.

For those villagers who did not get to the Fayre, there is always next year.

The V.I. Members so far are:

Mary, Linda and John Chillman
Shireen and Peter Longland
Morag and Paolo De Lucca
Brenda Wright
Pat Bass

There are, we know, a few V.I.'s out there we missed; don't worry we will get you next time.

The May Fayre Organisers
(commonly known as Village Idiots)

MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS

Have you got your tickets for an "Evening of Entertainment" on 21st, 22nd and 23rd of June 2007? Tickets are at the amazingly low price of £5 (no concessions) and are on sale at Roger's Bakery. We can promise you a great night out with plenty of variety, something for all the family. Definitely one not to be missed.

A big, huge, enormous thank you to all those who attended the Quiz Night, The Players in association with the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society. Special thank you's to Rogers Bakery and Meppershall Stores for selling the tickets, Gemma Chapman and friends for the delicious ploughman's supper, Paul Carne for compiling the questions and hosting the quiz, Penny Trundle for organising and running the raffle, Roger's Bakery for donating a cake for auction which raised £51 and last but by no means least the winning team who very generously donated their prize of £50 back to the Village Hall fund. In all the evening raised £456.10 for the Village Hall.

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.

To tell

Meppershall Lower School



*In the event of rain, all stalls will be
inside the school.*

On: Saturday 14th July 2007

Time: 2pm till 4.30pm

At: Meppershall Lower School

Raffle, BBQ & Bar, Light refreshments,
Bouncy Castle and lots more stalls.

Organised by Meppershall Lower School Association

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

JUNE 2007

<i>Saturday</i> <i>9th June</i>	<i>Meppershall Lower School</i> <i>Races Night at Village Hall (Adults Only)</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>
<i>Monday</i> <i>11th June</i>	<i>Shefford Bible Society Group</i> <i>Fowlers Farm, Meppershall</i>	<i>7.45pm</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>21st, 22nd, 23rd June</i>	<i>Meppershall Players</i> <i>"Evening of Entertainment" at Village Hall</i>	
<i>Saturday</i> <i>14th July</i>	<i>Meppershall Lower School</i> <i>Summer BBQ</i>	<i>2pm – 4.30pm</i>
<i>Thursday</i> <i>12th July</i>	<i>Meppershall Players</i> <i>AGM at Village Hall</i>	<i>8pm</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 JUNE

**Sunday 3 Trinity Sunday. 11. 15 a.m. Parish Communion
with Sunday School (in Rectory)**

**Sunday 10 Trinity 1. 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
11.15a.m. Family Service and baptism
of Tayla Woodcock
3p.m. United Service at Methodist Chapel**

**Sunday 17 Trinity 2. 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
6p.m. Evensong**

**Sunday 24 Trinity 3.
8.30a.m. Holy Communion
11.15a.m. Family Communion
with Sunday School**

Sunday July 1. Trinity 4

Please note change from usual pattern

8.30a.m. Holy Communion (no 11.15 service)

10a.m. (time to be confirmed)

Coach leaves Meppershall for St Albans Cathedral for Ordination Service (11.15) at which the Rev Ben Griffith will be ordained as a priest. Return by 2.30 approx. To reserve seat please see notice in Church or ring 813334. Cost expected to be £5-6. Many will recall Ben when he served as Churchwarden at St Mary's. He is currently serving as Curate at the Church of the Transfiguration, Kempston.

Also ...Saturday June 23. St Albans Patronal Festival - Archbishop Desmond Tutu will preach at Evensong at 4p.m. If you would like to attend, or participate in other aspects of the day's programme, please see details on the Church noticeboard or ring me on 813334. The intention is that a group from St Mary's and St Michael's can travel on a shared car basis.

Weekday Services:

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

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

Saturdays 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer

SPARKS

13 - 18 YR olds

Want to help? Got time?

HOW ABOUT SPARKS?

At St. Mary's Church, The Rectory & the field, Meppershall

Mon. 23rd July,

Tues. 24th July,

Wed. 23rd July

10am - 2pm

JOBS

Help with a crafty workshop.

Be a minder to the youngest children.

Help with the field games.

Prepare and perform drama

PREP MEETING: 17th July 7pm - 9pm @ The Rectory [MUST COME]

UP FOR IT?

Please let us know.

Sandra Harper 01462 813334 revjohnharper@tiscali.co.uk



CALLING ALL GROWN UPS

Like having fun? Enjoy the company of children aged 5 - 12? Want to help? Accept the Christian faith? Like to do something for our Meppershall Community? Got anything from 1 - 15 hours to give?

SPARKS answers all those questions with a positive

YES!

St. Mary's Church, The Rectory & the field, Meppershall

Mon. 23rd July, Tues. 24th July, Wed. 23rd July

Time: [children] 10am - 2pm

[leaders] 9.30am - 2.30pm

[helpers] any times, any days

****A LEADER stays with a group of 5 - 8 children and directs an initial activity. Each leader will have a teenage helper as a minder to the youngest in the group.***

****A HELPER can offer anything: eg.***

Workshop [Your own or we provide all. Ideas linked to day's Bible story.]

Clearing up

Prepare and perform drama

Wide field games

Technician [deal with OHP, music, light?, video camera, DVD etc]

Prayer

Drinks & tuck shop

Publicity [posters, contacting schools, radio, newspapers, TV]

PREPARATION for Workshops: Thurs. 7th June 7-9pm @The Rectory

PREPARATION for leaders: Tues. 17th July 7pm - 9pm @The Rectory

Are you up for it?

Please let us know.

Sandra Harper 01462 813334 revjohnharper@tiscali.co.uk

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

Our recent visit to Toronto and Niagara Falls included a visit to the famous CN Tower, currently the tallest free standing building in the World. Although the weather was cold in Toronto by the time we reached Niagara Falls the sun was shining showing the Falls to their utmost advantage. Without exception we all enjoyed the many sights and felt the trip was worthwhile. We visited Audley End, a beautiful English Heritage property in Saffron Walden where we enjoyed a tour of the house which contained so much history, it was a pity we could not spend more time surveying the splendour. With the sun shining we had a great time in their magnificent grounds and gardens, the result being many came home laden with plants and vegetables.

Future trips include: London Museums on Sunday 3rd June, Sutton Hoo, Norfolk - Sunday 24th June. Broxbourne Boat Trip Thursday 28th June (fully booked, reserve list only). Kew Palace and Gardens, Thursday 12th July, Buckingham Palace and Covent Garden, Sunday 12th August (fully booked, reserve list only), Glenn Miller Festival at Twinnwoods, Bedford Sunday 26th August. Mississippi Paddle Board, Horning and Wroxham Bams, Thursday 6th September. Tutankhamun Exhibition and river cruise on Tuesday 18th December (fully booked, reserve list only). A few rooms still available for our Isle of Wight trip, staying at the Parkbury Hotel, Sandown, leaving on 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, price includes day trips out to Carlisle, Whitehaven and Grasmere. We are planning an 8-day holiday to Croatia - dates 12th until 19th May, 2008. Plans are taking shape nicely!

Theatre trips are always very popular, both in London and locally. Currently tickets are available for the following matinee performances. Fiddler on the roof, Wednesday 6th June. Fame - Wednesday 13th July, Joseph & Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Wednesday 8th August, Grease - Wednesday 22nd August also Tuesday 4th September. We always 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 on our trips and we are always pleased to hear of interesting places to visit.

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

MUESLI FRUIT & NUT BARS

100g/4oz butter
100g/4oz light muscovado sugar
4 tbsp golden syrup
100g pack pecan nuts
350g/12oz unsweetened muesli
1 medium ripe banana, mashed

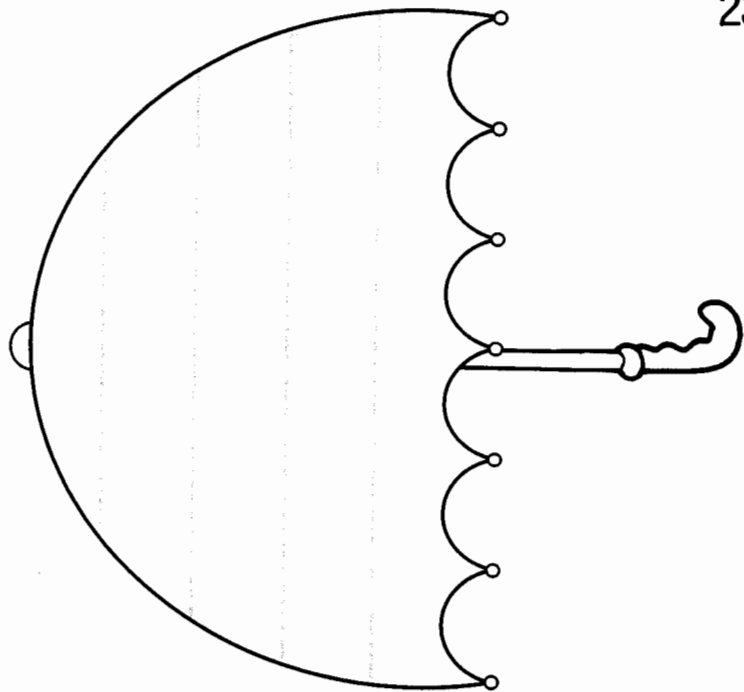
Heat oven to 180c/fan 160C/gas 4. Butter and line the base of an 18 x 28cm tin with baking parchment. Melt the butter, sugar and syrup in a medium pan on a low heat, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Cool slightly.

Chop half the nuts. Tip the muesli, banana and chopped nuts into the pan and stir until well mixed. Put into the tin and press down firmly with the back of a spoon.

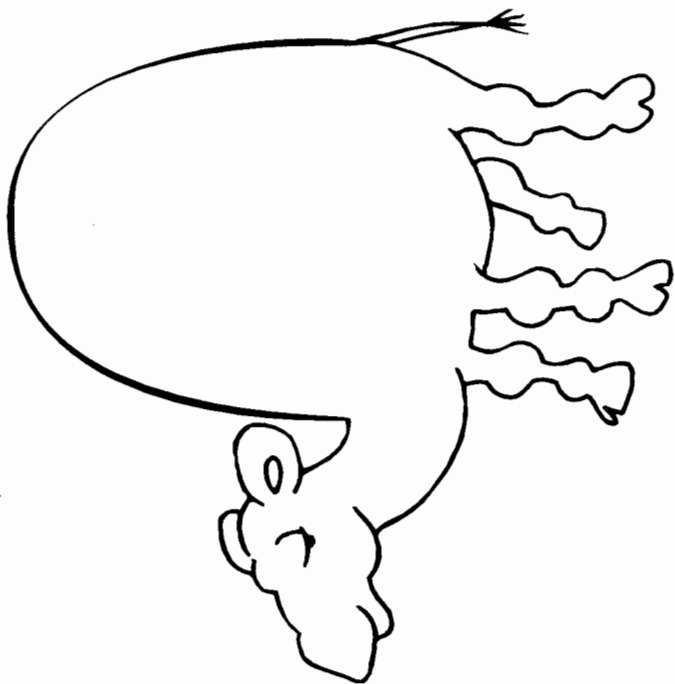
Press whole nuts lightly into mixture. Bake for 20-25 mins until dark golden and edges are just crisp. Leave in tin until cold, then loosen edges with a knife. Cut into 12 slices. (Will keep in an airtight container for up to 5 days).



How many words can you
make from the words
'STRIPY UMBRELLA'?



How many words can you make from
the words 'CLUMSY CAMEL'?



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

Chloe Marshall who will be 7 on the 1st
 Vinnie Simpkins who will be 2 on the 1st
 Talis Hunt who will be 1 on the 2nd
 Charlotte Parrott who will be 13 on the 2nd
 Yasmine Vara who will be 8 on the 3rd
 Abbie Bradshaw who will be 4 on the 3rd
 Niamh Fairweather who will be 5 on the 3rd
 Francesca Gavin who will be 10 on the 4th
 Christian Borthwick who will be 13 on the 4th
 Abigail Lougher who will be 5 on the 4th
 Aliyah Vara who will be 6 on the 5th
 Hannah Stock who will be 10 on the 5th
 Tilly Norris who will be 12 on the 7th
 Sarah Louise Mountcastle who will be 13 on the 10th
 Lewis Savuto who will be 5 on the 10th
 Joshua Clark who will be 14 on the 13th
 Alison Watson who will be 3 on the 14th
 Jamie Gainsford who will be 14 on the 16th
 Hanna Laming who will be 13 on the 21st
 Adelle Gainsford who will be 10 on the 22nd
 Lucie Morrison who will be 13 on the 22nd
 Liberty Simpkins who will be 6 on the 22nd
 Samantha Cannon who will be 14 on the 24th
 Tayla Woodcock who will be 1 on the 25th
 Naomi Crowson who will be 9 on the 27th
 Maya Derrick who will be 8 on the 28th
 Amanda Bryce who will be 15 on the 28th
 Finn Rose who will be 2 on the 30th

...and a belated happy birthday to Summer Bridger who was 1 on the 1st May

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