

# MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



**October 2007**

# THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

**Volume 23 Issue 6**  
**October 2007**

## *SITUATIONS VACANT*

**The following positions will be available  
from December 2007**

**Editor**  
**Treasurer**  
**Advertising Manager**

Due to each of us having our own reasons for stepping down, the above positions need to be filled in order to keep The Meppershall Messenger going after December 2007. All three of us have performed our duties for many years now but can no longer carry out the tasks involved. Anyone interested and available to help out, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. We shall all be officially resigning at the next Annual General Meeting held in December 2007. I sincerely hope that out of the entire adult population of the Village, three people can come forward and carry on the work necessary to produce The Messenger each month which, as many of you have said in the past, is a valuable and useful village publication.

The deadline for articles for the November edition of The Messenger is 12<sup>th</sup> October 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](mailto:lindagoldl@aol.com) (that's LINDAGOLDL). Thank you.

*Linda Gold*     **(Editor)**

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*Dear Editor . . . .*

On behalf of The Village Hall Committee I would like to reply to the editorial in August/September's issue of The Messenger.

I do not believe that it is appropriate or helpful to dissect further who said what to whom and when it was said, although I will say that I found the overall tone of the article a little unnecessary. I would like to make clear that the Village Hall Committee fully support The Messenger and realise that it is a valuable community publication.

One of the challenges in running the Village Hall is dealing with competing demands for its use and trying to keep a number of local organisations content. An approach was made to the Committee from the Pre School regarding the availability of the Hall on Monday afternoons. As childcare providers they are required to offer a certain amount of sessions morning and afternoon in any given week.

The offer of the Monday afternoon slot each week was the most viable and a decision had to be made quickly to enable the Pre School to finalise arrangements and obtain Government funding. It was felt that alternative arrangements could be made to assist The Messenger team on the one Monday a month that they used the Hall.

I'm sorry if this is not ideal but I sincerely hope that you will be able to overcome the inconvenience.

As I said earlier, we have to manage competing demands and a properly managed Pre School offers a wonderful opportunity for the children of this village and in the circumstances I will not apologise for being a party to the decision making process, which has enabled them to comply with Governmental requirements and continue with the good work which they have carried out for a number of years.

Andy Geneux  
Chairperson  
Village Hall Committee

## Meppershall Parish Council Report

At the start of the September meeting the Council welcomed our new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) James Killen to the Village; we wish him every success in his new post. The Council would like to thank Andrew Brinkley of Brinkley Aircraft Services who have provided an office in their High Street premises where James will be based.

As usual many items were discussed from the Agenda and below I have highlighted a few.

### Highways & Lighting

It was reported to the meeting that plans to install speed warning signs were in progress but no date has been agreed yet.

### Environment & Leisure

The annual ROSPA safety check has been carried out on all the children's play equipment. In the near future our contractors will be undertaking the normal maintenance tasks to rectify the wear and tear of normal use.

The Council is also trying to resolve outstanding issues with the landscaping and trees on the new estate which is still the responsibility of Bovis plc.

At Old Road Meadow we will be trying to establish a wild flower meadow again. This will entail the killing and cultivation of an area which is currently grass. The procedure has successfully been tried on other sites in this area by the Beds RCC who are our advisors in this project. For dog walkers we have finally arranged for the supply of and collection from Dog Bins at each entrance to the meadow.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with work or supervision of Old Road Meadow please contact me.

Once again this year the Council is pleased to grant permission to the Village Hall Management Committee to hold the annual Guy Fawkes Night on the playing field behind the Hall. When you are putting your rubbish on the bonfire please remove nails, metal, glass and other sharp objects which do not burn to protect all users of the field and the volunteers who clean up after the event. In addition please do not dump paper which blows around the area and finally please ask your children not to play with the bonfire and spread the rubbish around the field.

Thank you.

David Foskett  
Chairman

The next Parish Council meetings are Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 19:45 Methodist Chapel

## S “light” Confusion

The Parish Council needs your help. Confusion reigns! (“No change there then!” I can almost hear you reply.) But seriously, folks. Some months back the Council was asked to provide some lighting for the playing field in the village. We have done quite a bit of research into what might be provided and had - just about - decided upon 3 solar powered lights (environmentally friendly, no requirement for mains power and the concomitant installation costs) mounted on posts around 5 metres high to provide a degree of ambient lighting to enable village kids to, at least, see what they were doing if they were having a kick-about or similar. The lights come with a time switch so that, even in summer, when the batteries get the maximum charge, they would go off by, say, eleven at night. In winter they’d probably run out of juice earlier.

Coincidentally, the village questionnaire was returned; showing that more than 90% of villagers were opposed to “floodlighting” of the playing field. Now, the big question is: are we opposed to floodlighting (and I certainly would have reservations) or are we opposed to providing some ambient lighting? Before spending village funds (of the order of £9K) the Council would like to be sure that it is doing something which the community wants. Please let us know. You can, of course, contact any Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk with your views. For ease of correlation, however, I should be grateful if you would contact me, Phil Collins, on [phil.collins9@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.collins9@btinternet.com) or 01462 812274. I should prefer the internet option as it provides a ready made record of opinions. For those who do not or cannot favour the internet option I must give a slight warning. As an opera fan - given Pavarotti’s recent demise - if I am deeply into one of my opera DVDs you will probably get my answer phone. However, I shall, of course, record your views. Thanks.

## ~ Announcements ~

~~~~~

May I take this opportunity to thank all my friends and neighbours for all their help and kindness they gave me over the last six weeks following my recent knee operation. I would have never recovered so quickly without them all. The flowers and cards were lovely. Thank you.

**Joyce Smith**

~~~~~

Sheila, Peter Rossi and family would like to thank friends in Meppershall for the cards and expressions of sympathy received on the loss of their beloved daughter Christine. Such kindness has been a great help at this sad time.

Christine died in the Katharine House Hospice, Adderbury in Oxfordshire on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2007 after a long and painful illness bravely endured – still beautiful and radiating love for her family and friends.

~~~~~

Thank you to all who have bought preserves, scones, etc. during the past few months from the stall outside my home. Another £10 which I hope to make during the little bit of summer we have left, will enable me to donate another £100 to the Garden House Hospice at Letchworth. Once again, thank you.

**Maureen Cole**

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To all Children, Parents, Staff, Governors and  
Friends of Meppershall School

I was quite overwhelmed by the kind things that were said at the Year 4 Leavers' Service which took place at the church in July, but with cards, giant cards and an enormous bouquet of flowers coming from different directions, I didn't express everything I wanted to say to you all.

I have enjoyed teaching many, many children during my 18 years at Meppershall Lower School and have been very fortunate to work with such dedicated and caring colleagues. The children are in very good hands as I'm sure you, and they, realise. I shall take away many happy memories from my time at the school but look forward to a more relaxing lifestyle, starting with a day of pampering at Champneys Henlow, thanks to your generosity.

Thank you very much for all your good wishes, gifts, flowers and presents.

**Jan Thomas**

~ ~ ~ ~

Mrs. Frances Wright and Mrs. Bev Allen have both decided to retire from delivering the Messenger, after many years of doing so. Thank you both very much indeed for your help.

## **MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE HALL**

PLANS ARE ALREADY IN PROGRESS FOR BONFIRE  
NIGHT ON SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER.

UNFORTUNATELY THIS COULD BE THE LAST ONE  
IF WE GET A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR WHERE THE  
LARGE AMOUNT OF NON BURNABLE MATERIAL  
BEING PUT ON THE BONFIRE.

PLEASE PUT ONLY BURNABLE MATERIAL IN OR  
NEAR TO AS POSSIBLE TO THE PAINTED CIRCLE ON  
THE FIELD WHICH DENOTES THE FIRE.

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE ON THE FIELD BEYOND THE  
BONFIRE SITE.

### **THE GATES WILL BE OPEN ON**

SAT.13<sup>TH</sup> AND SUN.14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
SAT.20<sup>TH</sup> AND SUN.21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER  
SAT. 27<sup>TH</sup> AND SUN. 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
SAT 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER

FROM 8 AM TILL DUSK

IF ANYONE CAN HELP BUILD THE BONFIRE AND  
GET THE FIELD READY FOR THE EVENING PLEASE  
CALL GEMMA ON 07870697407



## MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS

Pantomime 2007 rehearsals for Dick Whittington are now well under way. I do apologise for tickets not being at Roger's Bakery on 15<sup>th</sup> September (as stated in last month's Messenger) but, due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to meet the deadline we set ourselves. The performance dates for this year's Pantomime are Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2007. Tickets will be on sale (fingers crossed) at Roger's Bakery from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

The Players meet every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 8pm 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 and 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 VILLAGE HALL

#### TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October  
10am - 2pm

If anyone would like a table, please call  
Gemma on 07870 697407

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Several people have asked me if we will be organising this again this year and we certainly intend to.

Just in case anyone missed what this is all about because they were having too much fun in the August sun (??), just a quick reminder of what this is all about.

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.

Steve and Carolyn 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. or bring to me at home.

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), but not chocolate, puzzle books.

The items that cannot be included are liquids, clothing if not listed above, sharp objects, books with words, glass containers and other fragile items, books in English as the boxes will be sent to many countries, war related toys as many of the children have only too much experience of the real thing.

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.

Use the new craze for knitting to make a scarf or hat. Why not get a granny involved and maybe teach you or your child how to knit at the same time. I have picked up my knitting needles again.

I save pens that are given free with questionnaires that fall through the door - recycling my unwanted mail so some good comes out of it.

Any questions just phone me on 01462 817409.

The boxes are sent to children in such need that it is very often the only gift they receive. Please help us to send as many as possible. You don't need to fill a box just donate any suitable items. A donation of £2 if possible per box helps towards the transport costs. If you want any more information please telephone me or speak to Suzanne at school.

Christine Elbourne  
Brown Owl  
5 St Marys Place

## **HELP NEEDED!**

As the noble army of Church cleaners age (gracefully) with the Church, we really would love it if someone or better two people could add to the team. This would make it only five times a year for each pair to perform their duties. The job takes about two hours, sometimes less, and it really is rather good to be able to feel as if you are doing something which is appreciated by so many people who come into the Church, whether to shelter or just have a minute or two of quiet or even for a Service.

Please consider the idea and if you can help ring me on 814053. Thank you.

*Shireen Longland*

**P.S.** We had three cyclists on the Church Bike Ride this year; Trevor Wilkinson, John Nye and Pete Longland.

## **PARISH WALK**

The next Parish Walk will be on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October leaving the Village Hall car park at 2pm. The walk will last for around an hour and we will decide on the route when we know what the weather forecast is. Why not join us for some fresh air and exercise before the nights draw in and the Autumn sets in?

For further information, please call Jill Foskett on 851770.

United Kingdom, Ireland and The Netherlands  
Regional Champions 2007  
International Regional Representatives in Honolulu  
For 2008 Sweet Adeline's World Competition

## ***THE PHOENIX CHORUS***

Performing in St. Mary's Church on  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm  
Tickets include a buffet supper with wine all for the  
princely sum of £10

Tickets on sale by calling Trevor Thorley on  
01462 813357, the Rectory 01462 813334  
and from the Bakery and Post Office

Experience this excellent evening of entertainment  
while meeting and socialising with  
old and new friends

***A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE***

|                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                     |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>20<sup>th</sup> October</b>                                                                                                  | <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i><br><i>Table Top Sale</i>            | <i>10am</i>   |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>27<sup>th</sup> October</b>                                                                                                  | <i>Meppershall Social Club</i><br><i>Live Music from SYNCAFEW</i>   | <i>8pm</i>    |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>                                                                                                  | <i>Meppershall Village Hall</i><br><i>Bonfire Night</i>             |               |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>17<sup>th</sup> November</b>                                                                                                 | <i>Friends of St. Mary's</i><br><i>Concert with PHOENIX CHORUS</i>  | <i>7.30pm</i> |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> November</b><br><b>1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> December</b> | <i>Meppershall Players</i><br><i>Pantomime 2007 at Village Hall</i> |               |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><b>26<sup>th</sup> January 2008</b>                                                                                             | <i>Friends of St. Mary's</i><br><i>Quiz Night at Village Hall</i>   | <i>7.30pm</i> |

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I have lived 60 years, over 35 of those in this village and have regularly walked about the area in the day and evenings. Over the last few years particularly, I have observed an acute decline in the rural life.

What has happened to the butterflies that once swarmed around the butterfly bushes and their caterpillars in the nettles? When did you last brush a wasp away from your beer or swat a fly on your kitchen window, brush irritating thunder flies from your skin on a hot July day or scrape crusts of greenfly off the front of your car?

Until a couple of years ago we had upwards of 30 sparrows roosting in the front and back of our Virginia Creeper waking us sharp at 7.30 with their insistent cheeping, now, a few desultory specimens peck listlessly at the grain thrown on our patio. Bread lies on the grass uneaten for days at a time, peanuts in the dispenser go mouldy. Have you been woken by the dawn chorus recently, probably not, as it is barely audible on some mornings. Where are the field birds, linnets, goldfinches, yellow hammers, green finches, warblers, when did you last hear a thrush in song, a screaming flock of swallows flying low over your garden in the evening? When did you last hear of anyone being stung by a bee or see moths and insects buzzing in profusion around a lamp post at night or were you buzzed by a bat, heard an owl cry out in the night air or a fox barking at the moon?

The roadside verges are cut before seeding, so there are few wild flowers, the hedges are shorn so low that birds have nowhere to nest in spring. The fields, filled with sterile cereal crops and the yellow peril raping the landscape all sprayed to rid them of the bottom of the food chain, is it any wonder? And when did you last see a field full of cows or sheep in this vicinity? There used to be a lot.

These things are now frighteningly rare, take just a few moments to look and listen each day and you will become aware of what is so rapidly being lost.

Could it be the profusion of radio signals from television and telephone masts, output from the spy centre, chemicals on our fields, pollution from low flying aircraft as we are now in the flight path of Luton (sorry) London Luton Airport, lack of flowers grown in our gardens – what is it that is increasingly taking away our rural idyll and sterilizing our surroundings? It surely cannot be "global warming" or would we not be inundated with insects?

Is it only me who notices, I am sure that is not true. Is it only me who is fearful of the consequences? Dear Lord I hope not, for our progeny's sake and theirs and theirs and theirs.....

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN,  
SERVICES FOR OCTOBER  
MEPPERSHALL PARISH CHURCH**

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

Curate: Rev Patsy Critchley; 01234 381510

(Patsy's usual ministry days are Weds, Fri & Sun)

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

Brenda Wright 816446

- Fri 5            Meppershall School Harvest Service, 2.30p.m.**
- Sun 7            Harvest 'Thanks Giving' Festival**  
**11.15a.m. Parish Communion and Sunday School**  
**'Thanks Giving' Supper – Mon 8 at Village Hall –**  
**see below**
- Sun 14            Trinity 19. 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion**  
**11.15a.m. Family Service**
- Sun 21            Trinity 20. 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion**  
**6p.m. Evensong**
- Sun 28            Trinity 21. (Bible Sunday ) 11.15 a.m.**  
**Family Communion Service with Junior Choir,**  
**and 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.**



## **Harvest 'Thanks Giving'**

**Sunday 7 & Monday 8 October**

All are warmly invited to the 'Thanks Giving' Service at 11.15a.m. on Sun 7. Gifts of produce may be taken to Church earlier to include in the decoration, or included in the offertory at the service.

- The Ploughman's Harvest Supper will be held on Monday Oct 9, 6.30 for 7p.m. at the Village Hall.
- Market Stall - opportunity to purchase produce to support the Bishop's 2007 Harvest Appeal (El Salvador)
- Presentation of facets of St Mary's life - present and future - & opportunities to sustain and expand its work.
- All welcome - No tickets - No charge (donation on night if wished) **but please let us know if you plan to attend.**

Please use tear off reply slip below by  
TUES OCT 2 (or ring 01462 813334)

.....

I/we intend to attend the Harvest 'Thanksgiving' Supper on Monday 9 October, 6.30 for 7p.m.

Name (s)  
Address.

Please leave at either The Bakery, Post Office, St Mary's Church, The Rectory, Church Rd, 86 Fildyke Rd or 75 High St by TUESDAY OCT 2.

## The Rev'd Patsy Critchley

By the time you read this the parish of St Mary's Meppershall will have gained the good services of a Curate. Patsy will have been made a Deacon at St Albans Cathedral on September 23, and will have preached and been welcomed to this Benefice (Shefford & Meppershall) at the United Service at St Mary's on Sunday 30. (All welcome - if you read this in time - 11.15a.m.) I am sometimes asked to explain the terminology that is used to describe the various roles that clergy play in the Church of England. So as Patsy has just joined the ministry team here, it seems a good time to offer a little explanation!

- **Curate.** Properly speaking all clergy who have Parish based ministries, including Vicars & Rectors, are Curates. This ancient word comes from those who are given the 'cure' or 'care' of souls of the parish by the Bishop. So strictly speaking the title of most parish clergy who are not in charge of a parish is 'Assistant Curate', but in normal conversation these days the term Curate is all that's needed.
- **Deacon.** Patsy, like all Anglican clergy, begins her ordained ministry by being made a Deacon by the Bishop of the Diocese in which she serves. The word comes from the New Testament where the apostles chose certain believers to do Gods' work in a serving capacity. The word meant literally to serve. The Early Church recognised three main forms of ministry - bishop, priest and deacon. Usually those made deacon today become ordained as a priest after a time in which experience has been gained in parish work, but the role of priesthood is in addition to that of being a deacon. In other words all Anglican priests are also Deacons, and the same applies to Bishops, so that the servant aspect of all ordained Christian ministry remains fundamental.



U Being a Deacon is a distinctive ministry with an emphasis on pastoral work, conducting worship and teaching, and a Deacon has a particular role within the Communion service, (though she/he does not celebrate Communion).

- **N.S.M.** Like many Anglican clergy these days, Patsy is a **Non Stipendiary Minister**. That is she does not receive a stipend or salary for the work she does, unlike most Rectors/Vicars. Nor does she receive Church accommodation. Constantly her work is not a charge on the Parish Share, the sum which each parish contributes annually towards paid ministry. Patsy will continue to live in her own home at Haynes with husband Bill, and will travel in to Shefford and Meppershall. Patsy will normally work on three days a week – Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, and can be contacted on 01234 381510.

As with me Patsy will share her time between the two parishes of the Benefice. I know she is looking forward to meeting the people of Meppershall and Shefford, and using her skills and experience to good effect within the life of the two Churches as well as the wider community. Please welcome Patsy to her new role as best you can – she will normally be working in the Benefice on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. I can just about remember the experience of wearing a clerical collar for the first time in public, and the friendship and reassurance I received in those first weeks were a great source of encouragement.

Good wishes, John Harper, Rector

### **‘Songs from the Cross’**

Saturday October 6, 7p.m. at St Michael’s Shefford

The Gospel story told in words, music, sound and image.

Tickets are free, but need to be booked in advance as space is limited. Contact Jenny Dann – 01462 817337 or via website :

[www.sm3a.org.uk](http://www.sm3a.org.uk)

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# **St. Francis of Assisi R.C. Church**

## **Christmas Bazaar**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**Shefford Methodist Church Hall at 10.30am**

### **Prizes include:**

**Four Joseph Tickets**

**£100 cash**

**Hot Stone Massage**

**Upside Down Christmas Tree**

**Waitrose "All things Nice" Hamper**

**And many more seasonal presents**

### **Bazaar Stalls include:**

**Christmas Gifts and Bottle Tombola**

**Cuddly Pick**

**Christmas Crafts and Toys**

**Hot snacks, lunches and refreshments are served**

**Grand Draw takes place at 2pm**

***All 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 or telephone**

**Parish Priest:**

**Parish Secretary:**

**Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436**

**Rose Boulton 811547**

## **SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP**

Although the Summer of 2007 will go down in the records as one of our wettest summers, without exception all of our outings have been blessed with beautiful weather, we call it the 'luck of the Irish'! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Covent Garden followed by an audio tour of Buckingham Palace, the highlight being the display of the Queen's wedding dress together with the many beautiful gifts and jewels that had been to them. Later in the month we took a much smaller party to Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury. This is a National Trust property and well worth a visit. The Manor itself was built along the lines of a French Chateau and the contents and paintings in the rooms really are impressive. Without exception, all the staff are most kind and helpful and facilities for disabled visitors, available both in the grounds as well as the manor. Another beautiful day found us enjoying the nostalgic day at the Glenn Miller Festival of Swing, Jazz & Jive at Twinwood Airfield, Bedford. Several of us congregated to Flitwick Village Hall for the 'Fun Evening' arranged by Ampthill & District Lions Club. Another small group of us visited Wroxham Barns in Norfolk and afterwards enjoyed a lovely boat trip at Horning on the Mississippi Paddle boat. Several people made their own way for the open day at Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. The children's hospice covers the whole of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire as well as Milton Keynes giving home support and medical care to families as well as at the hospice.

Our future trips include London Museums, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October Cosmopolitan London visiting the Swaminarayan Mandir, the first traditional Hindu Mandir in Europe, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October, Lord Mayor's Show in London, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November and Christmas at the Palace one of Mickie Driver's Palace of Varieties, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. We still have twin/double rooms available for our tinsel & turkey visit to Cumbria. Bookings are being taken for our holiday to Croatia next May.

Theatre trips are always popular, both in London as well as Milton Keynes, Gordon Craig and Dunstable.

Shefford Leisure Group is open to anyone who feels they would like to join us on our ventures. We are always pleased to meet new friends.

For further information regarding dates, prices and availability, please contact Enid on 01462 851397 or e-mail [Enidpamment@aol.com](mailto:Enidpamment@aol.com)

## A very happy birthday to those of you celebrating birthdays in October

Katie Johnson who will be 7 on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Samuel Derrick who will be 5 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Caitlin Saunders who will be 6 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Alistair Clay who will be 14 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Matthew Geneux who will be 7 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Chloe Brightwell who will be 8 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Hannah West who will be 8 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
 James Aberdein who will be 11 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
 James Nesbitt who will be 10 on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Isabel Savuto who will be 2 on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Georgia Nesbitt who will be 5 on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Daisy Clark who will be 11 on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Luke Gold who will be 15 on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Laura Scott who will be 14 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Dylan Woodcock who will be 5 on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Beth Edwards who will be 12 on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Alexander Davies who will be 5 on the 28<sup>th</sup>

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

