



Coat of arms of the de Meppershall Family

# ***MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER***



***MAY 2008***

# THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The editor welcomes contributions to the Messenger, whether as letters, articles or notices. Contributions should preferably be as attachments to e-mail but hand written contributions may be sent by post, left at the Editor's address below or in the folder kept at the Village Stores. Contributions should run to not more than one A5 page (except by prior arrangement) and should be received by the Editor not later than the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication at the end of that month. Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

## DISCLAIMER

The Editor reserves the right to omit or alter any ad or article and to change the content, format or issue date of the magazine without prior notice. The Editor cannot be held responsible for the factual correctness of, or for any libellous comment or statement made in, any advert, article or other contribution published in this magazine. Every effort will be made to avoid any deliberate attempt to mislead or otherwise cause harm or damage to any person or persons by any advert, article or any other contribution published in this magazine.

## THE TEAM

Editor:	Dick Bulley, 116 Shefford Road	815114
	e-mail: richard@bulleyr.fsnet.co.uk	
Advertising Manager:	Christine Elbourne, 5 St. Mary's Place	817409
Distribution Manager:	Colette House, 90 Fildyke Road	815585
Treasurer:	Chloe Peetz, 74 Fildyke Road.	851656

## CONTENTS

	Page	
Editorial	2	
Village News	3 - 7	
School Report	8	
Features:		
	Rogers Bees	9
	Travel Guide	10
	Bowls	11
	Free Cycle	12
	Computer Tips	13
Calendar of Forthcoming Events	15	
Who's Who and Organisations	16 - 18	
Village Announcements	19 - 22	
Recipe	23	
Garden Tips	24	
St Mary's	25 - 29	
Bus Times	30 - 31	
Birthdays	32	

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the May issue of the Messenger, and "Thank You" to all the people who have expressed appreciation of the innovations introduced last month. One innovation slightly misfired: I apologise to Roger for introducing his bee piece as "advice"; he supplies his own correct description at the head of this month's piece.

I am very pleased to welcome two more new features in this issue, which I hope will be both regular and popular. The Travel Guide is contributed by Stuart Johnston, who lives in the village. Stuart is a seasoned traveller who now runs his own travel information business, and future items in the series will cover different destinations and features of travel interest. The Computer Tips are contributed by John Chapman, an office systems and computer consultant, long-time resident of the village. Any comments or contributions to these or any of the other regular features will be very welcome. Please see under "Contributions" overpage.

John West tells me that his piece on the Village Plan is probably the last in that series. I should like to thank John and his team on behalf of the whole village for the huge amount of work and thought that went into the project, and to urge everyone to support his Village Forum idea for taking it forward. I must also add thanks to John for assembling the bus timetables which appear at the back of the magazine. It came out of the consultations over the Village Plan that very few people knew about the bus services; now you do!

*Dick Bulley*

**Highways & Lighting**

Councillor Bryant was pleased to report the completion of repairs and realignment of a length of footpath in Shefford Road where some flooding was taking place and the footpath was dangerous for pedestrians. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April he was due to meet a highways engineer from Amey (who carry out all works for Beds CC). The purpose of the meeting was to identify areas of footpath and roadway in the Village that require attention.

**Environment & Leisure**

The play equipment installation behind the Hall is now complete and the new storage shed will be erected within 6 weeks. Councillor Sykes is in negotiation with Mid Beds and Bovis about the formal adoption of the children's play area in Coney Gate to ensure that the Parish Council can keep the area maintained and safe. This area, like that behind the Hall, will receive weekly safety inspections by our Village Caretaker.

**Planning & Housing**

There was only one application to review at this meeting which was passed without objection. The Council was pleased to hear that so many residents of the Village were able to attend the Local Development Framework exhibition in Shefford. The next stage of the process will be for Mid Beds District Council to shortlist their preferred projects for an in depth review.

**PCSO**

County Councillor Robin Younger advised the meeting that the future provision of local policing in the Village is still under review because of the increase in the precept requested by the Police.

**Unitary Authority**

As you will know the first meeting of the Shadow Unitary Authority for Central Bedfordshire will have taken place by the time you read this article. All Parish Councils are waiting to see what additional tasks and powers will be delegated to them as part of the amalgamation, how it will be funded and what impact it will have.

David Foscett, Chairman, Meppershall Parish Council.

The next Parish Council meetings are Wednesday 7th May and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at 19:45 Meppershall Lower School.

## **SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP**

We woke up to a beautiful sunny day for our visit to Tower Bridge and the views over the River Thames were spectacular; we also went to the engine room to see how this magnificent bridge works. Our coach then took us to Covent Garden where some of us were entertained by the 'buskers' and a few decided to experience the newly re-opened London Transport Museum.

Theatre trips included 'The Jersey Boys'; BBC2 Recording of 'Friday Night is Music Night'; 'The Lion King' and Syd Lawrence at Gordon Craig Theatre. Next month we will report on our trips to Melton Mowbray Market, Burleigh House and Stanford.

The month of May will be our Croatia holiday, flying from Stansted Airport, Tickets are still available for Chelsea Flower Show on Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>. Our visit to Cambridge is now fully booked, but we do have a reserve list. Although 'A Taste of Suffolk' is fully booked for the 5<sup>th</sup> June a second coach has been arranged for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. A visit to River Deben for a lunchtime cruise, we will then visit Sutton Hoo, a National Trust property. A trip to Bekonscot Model Village and Worlds End Garden Centre has been arranged for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July and a visit to Woburn Abbey and Safari Park for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Our September holiday from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> has been arranged for Southern Ireland. The coach will take us from Shefford to Holyhead where we can board

The Christmas Spectacular at Thursford – the ever popular show. We have been allocated three matinee performances - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Arrangements are already in hand to visit The Norfolk Hero for supper afterwards.

Our Annual Turkey and Tinsel from 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December will this year be in Bournemouth, staying at the Anglo Swiss Hotel situated on the exclusive and tranquil East Cliff. This holiday has been arranged by Yorks Group Travel where once again we will enjoy the company of Paul our driver who looks after us very well while still entering into the spirit of Christmas. We are now accepting bookings for this trip.

Shefford Leisure Group is open to anyone in the local community 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)

---

Dear Editor,

Can we please thank Robin Younger and Sue Cawtha the enforcement planning officer for Mid-Beds Council for their sterling work in having the new trees installed on the High Street, the path from the High Street and the new trees in The Acres. It has taken them a great deal of time to liaise with Bovis homes and let us hope that they will be properly maintained and not vandalised.

Regards,

David and Carol Webb  
77 High Street

## Village Plan

We have sent the copy to the printers and hopefully your copy has been delivered with this edition of the Messenger. Our thanks to the Messenger delivery team for their help in this task.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the team. Those who have given a great deal of their time and put in a lot of effort, in the preparation of the plan. Peter Chapman, Gilly Chegwyn, David & Jill Foskett, Jill Hickling, Carolyn Holmes, Colette House, Richard Phillips, Julia Roberts, John Thompson and Jill Wright and also for the support from Zoe Ashby of the Beds Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) for her guidance and support.

With the team having completed the task of preparing and issuing the initial Meppershall Village Plan, now is the time to look forward to make the things in the plan actually happen and that the plan becomes a living document. As time passes some things will be achieved or become out of date and other things need to be added to the plan as the village and its needs evolve.

The Parish Council have adopted the plan and will do their part, however, as noted before it is up to all the village to play their part.

One option would be to have a totally new group to monitor and update the plan. Members of this group would have to go to each of the partners involved in the plan to ask what they were doing and what they need to change. This could be very negative as it could be seen as an imposition from outsiders on the good work the particular group is involved with. Rather than try to get together a totally new 'overseeing group' I am suggesting that the major groups in the village send a representative to what I have described as **The Meppershall Village Forum**. Members of those groups can show what they are doing and discuss cross group requirements.



Mid-Beds are promoting this sort of approach with regard to tackling low level crime, or perceived crime. They are looking for villages to set up Community Safety Groups. These forums will consist of representatives from various village organizations and other individuals. Their task is to look at ways of preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, by engaging with people and putting multi-organization projects in place. The Community Safety Group and the Village Forum can be one organization.

To this end I have written to some of the key groups in the village and the few replies I have had so far have been positive, certainly in giving it a try.

The present groups do not cover all the things that are requested in the Village Plan. To ensure that the forum is fully representative of the whole of the village, we are looking for others, not necessarily belonging to any particular group to join. Particular areas are provision of youth facilities & activities, clubs, Neighbourhood Watch and other areas not covered by Parish Council or other groups such as Village Hall and Social Club.

If you would like any more information, please call or mail me and I would be only too happy to share the outline proposals with you.

Finally the team would like to thank all the villagers who gave their time to fill in questionnaires, attend open days, took part in consultations and all the other things that enabled the team to do their work. Without the information provided by the village, there would not be a plan at all. Thank you.

John W

6 Brookside - 813157 - [j.s.e.west@goolemail.com](mailto:j.s.e.west@goolemail.com)



## SCHOOL REPORT - APRIL '08

### Meppershall VA Lower School

When we had our new building work completed at the school, we took the opportunity to upgrade our ICT (information and communication technology) equipment. As a result all of our classrooms now have interactive whiteboards which are linked to other computers in each classroom. All the computers throughout the school are connected by a server system which means that children can access their saved work whichever computer they are working on. Children can safely go on the internet in every classroom to research topics and access relevant websites which will help their learning.

We are always working hard to improve on what we have here at Meppershall and are already planning for the next stage.

Barnfield College is still running successful adult computer classes on Monday and Tuesday mornings in our school hall and we expect new courses to be running again from September 08.

Thanks to all of you who have popped in to donate Tesco and Sainsbury tokens and vouchers which all help towards renewing equipment in your village school.

We still have some places available for children starting school in September 2008 and this year will be able to take children from outside the village in accordance with our Admissions Policy. If your child's birth date falls between 1/9/03 and 31/8/04, please contact the school office on 01462 813293 and Mrs Reynolds, our secretary, will help you.

## Meppershall Bees *by Roger.*

This article is a light-hearted account of my beekeeping. If you need expert advice please contact your local beekeepers association .

LOST- 1500 bees in Meppershall area. If found please contact Roger.

The loss of a beehive can often happen due to various reasons. I think my loss was due to the fact the Queen was old and when the weather turned mild, she could not get enough food. The other bees would have killed her then buzzed off to find a new Queen. They would have all perished in the cold weather.

April was the time that the colonies begin to expand-and they can also starve. Four hives of Meppershall bees have survived the winter. I now have to keep my eye on a number of factors, the most important of which are levels of food stores and the weather. The main factor being the amount of stores of honey which the bees have available for the developing brood nest. If the weather gets warmer, coupled with more daylight, colonies can expand at an amazing rate. I have closely monitored their level of stores every week to ensure they have sufficient. Bees have a remarkable capacity to consume vast quantities of food and then starve and die if they run out.

MAY is one of the main months for swarming. That's if it has not happened already!

Swarming activity is the result of normal healthy colony growth, a natural occurrence.

Congestion of the brood area, as mentioned last month, the bees think vertically not horizontally, to reduce congestion we add supers. Supers are where the bees store their honey above the brood nest .To do this we must put on a Queen excluder which stops the Queen from entering the super and laying eggs. Also moving frames around to relieve congestion and/or inserting empty drawn brood frames in place of frames clogged by honey or pollen. The skill, of course, is to know when it is the right time to take this action. Ideally it should be just as the frost is over and the horse chestnut comes into flower. This is part of what is known as being able to read the colony.

However bees often catch you out with your timing and may start swarming.

Where can you get Meppershall Honey – at Rogers Bakery of course- See you there.

## Tobago - Jewel in the Caribbean Crown

**The island of Tobago** lies quietly towards the foot of the Windward Isles, in the Caribbean Sea, between Trinidad and Grenada. This tiny paradise island is like a beautiful diamond, set in the glorious sunshine of the Caribbean. Tobago is relatively unspoilt but totally English speaking and its towns and villages all have recognisable names. After your 8-10 hour flight from the UK, you'll soon feel very much at home. **The weather** is usually sunny and hot, with only rain in short bursts that soon clear up. Temperatures rarely go above 86f during the day or fall below 68f at night throughout the year.

Hotels, luxury villas and self-catering holiday accommodation can be found, around the south coast along with Crown Point-International Airport. The seaside resorts of Grafton beach, Stonehaven and Store Bay are ideal for sunbathing and safe swimming, with perfect conditions for snorkelling. Great Courland Bay boasts a one-mile stretch of white sandy beach, a regular nesting site for Giant Leatherback Turtles. Turtle watching can be arranged during a vacation.

**Driving in Tobago**, you'll easily find your way around. The roads are generally quiet, apart from Scarborough on market day, and local maps are simple to follow. Road signs may be scarce in remote areas, but you'll soon find someone to ask for directions. The centre of the island is mostly protected rainforest where there is an abundance of wild-life and birds, yet there are no poisonous snakes or other deadly creatures to surprise you.

The coastal waters around Tobago are teeming with fish, so you will find tasty seafood and shellfish on the menus in restaurants and hotels.

The best Scuba dive-sites in Tobago are at Speyside and Goat Island. World renowned for 5 huge pristine coral reefs the area is excellent for drift-diving and boasts many spectacular underwater sights.

A must visit is **Pigeon Point** near Store Bay, the pristine white sandy beach and crystal clear water provide a fabulous opportunity to swim, take a boat ride, or just snorkel over the shallow corals of Bucco Reef. It's alive with beautiful coloured fish, corals and plants. It's a stunning location and no visit to Tobago would be complete without photographing one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

For useful information about self-catering and villa holidays, please visit [www.holidayrentalcentre.com](http://www.holidayrentalcentre.com) or contact the writer. Author: S Johnston

## **Any one for bowls?**

Henlow Bowls Club is actively seeking members, ladies or gentlemen.

Have you thought of playing? It is said that "bowls is for old men". This could be construed to have been true 40 years ago but ladies have come into the game in significant numbers.

It could be said that bowls appeals to the older member of society. This is true to a certain extent but most of the champions and national players are similar in age to snooker players.

Another myth bandied about is that you have to be physically active to play the game. Nothing could be further from the truth. Yes, you have to be able to bowl a wood (ball). Yes, you have to move up and down the green, but in the world of bowls there are handicapped players, partially sighted players, those with bad backs, hips, knees, tennis elbow and frozen shoulders (the list goes on) and yet they all play and enjoy the game.

So why not have a try ? The only thing you need is smooth shoes (no heel) to protect the grass. The green is situated at the far end of Groveside (that is past Henlow Church and first road on the right).

For further details or information call 01462 851208  
or 01767 681954



Thank you very much to all who have responded to this initiative. So far we have the following:

Items available	Phone	Items Wanted	Phone
brand new full size white bath (1700cmx700cm) complete with taps	01462 850592		

Please call the phone number given for the item you wish to collect or wish to receive in order to make necessary arrangements.

Please leave details of further items and your phone number in the Messenger folder at the Village Store, or at 116 Shefford Road or 17 Hoo Road, or e-mail to the Editor.

## Internet On Your Television

Do you have a WiFi enabled laptop computer? It is a relatively simple operation to connect it to a VGA enabled (HD) flat screen TV. Read your TV manual to see if it has a VGA input connector.

You will need a VGA lead to connect the laptop graphics output connector to the input on the back of the TV. You will also need an audio lead with a small stereo headphone jack plug on one end (for the laptop audio output) and two "phono" connectors on the other end for either the TV stereo input or to go into your HiFi. These leads can be bought at places like PC World, Currys or on the internet and are not very expensive.

Once connected to your TV, using the TV remote control, find the button which controls your graphics input – this will show a menu on the screen with things like AV1 & AV2 etc. Make a note of where it is set now (in order to get back to your TV later) and then look for an entry which says "RGB" or "PC" or some such and choose it. This will display your laptop screen on your TV screen. You can turn off your laptop screen if you wish by finding the (usually blue coloured) key "fn" (function) and the screen icon key (again in blue) and toggle them between "laptop screen", "both screens" & "remote screen" (your telly).

To alter the volume use either the laptop or the TV/HiFi. Of course, you can also use the laptop CD/DVD player to play your music and films on the big screen.

You can now watch any internet content including BBC iPlayer, BBC children's videos and games and, if you go to [www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk), choose "more" and "video" and you can search for thousands of videos of all descriptions for endless enjoyment. What's more, IT IS ALL IN THE COST OF YOUR BROADBAND CONNECTION. You can save most content to your hard drive too.

To use your laptop elsewhere, just turn it off and unplug it!

For more convenient control, use a USB remote keyboard/mouse combination. I use a Keysonic (ACK-540RF) keyboard which is almost square and has a scroll feature on the mouse touch-pad. The shape makes it very convenient to use in your armchair.

ENJOY!

## THE GARDEN HOUSE HOSPICE, LECHWORTH

Letter from Maureen Cole.

I apologise sincerely for the lateness of saying an enormous "thank you" to all who attended the "Afternoon Tea and Mulled Wine" evening at Mrs Julie Taylor's house back in December 2007.

The purpose was to raise much-needed funds for the Garden House Hospice, whose doors could not be opened without the continuous fund raising and the generosity of you wonderful people who support my efforts, either by attending such events or by purchasing cakes and preserves from the little stall outside my home. (Roll on better weather so that I can start again!)

I was able to take the sum of £200 to the garden House at the end of January this year, which was, as always, gratefully received.

From a personal viewpoint it was also uplifting to see many of our elderly villagers enjoying the occasion in a cosy atmosphere, chatting to friends they had not seen in a long while and I do hope that our offer of transport there and back helped to make this possible.

If there are any of you out there who would like to put pen to paper and give me some feedback, perhaps next time we could make it easier for more people to attend.

May I also take this opportunity to say how very enjoyable the concert organised by the Friends of St Mary's was. The Vauxhall Male Voice Choir gave us a wonderful selection of music to suit all tastes and the refreshments provided were of the highest standard and were absolutely delicious.

Thank you,

*Maureen Cole.*



## Calendar of Forthcoming Events

### *May 2008*

<u><b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b></u>		
Meppershall Parish Council	7.30 PM	School Hall
<u><b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b></u>		
School Assn. Quiz Night	Doors open 7.00	Village Hall
	Quiz 7.45 PM	
<u><b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b></u>		
United Service for	6.00 PM	St Michael's Shefford
Christian Aid Week		
<u><b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b></u>		
W I Line Dancing Demo	8.00 PM	Village Hall
<u><b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b></u>		
Meppershall Strollers	2.00PM	Outside Village hall

### *June 2008*

<u><b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>		
Meppershall Parish Council	7.30 PM	School Hall
<u><b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>		
WI Village Fete	2.00 – 5.00 PM	Village Hall
<u><b>Sat/Sun 28/29<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>		
St Mary's Gift weekend		St Mary's Church

## MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS

The Players are holding a workshop for the adult members only on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

This years "Gerry" award (Players version of the Oscar) was won by Danielle Savory, Players Chairman Mr John Stinson commended Danielle for her dedication to the Players and called upon Mr Paul Carne (Last years recipient ) to present the award (Well Done Danielle)

The dates for Pantomime 2008 are 30<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December. "What is this years Panto?" I hear you all say. Well as I sit typing this at the moment I don't know(Oh no I don't) but I will do by next months issue(Oh yes I will) so I'll tell you then.

The Players A.G.M is to be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 7.45pm for 8pm start. This meeting is open to anyone interested in the Meppershall Players Age 9 to 90+ years, we're a sociable bunch and enjoy meeting new people, so why not make a note in your diary to spend an evening with us.

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 7pm-8.45pm Juniors (for a limited time only) Adults only 8.45pm onwards 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.

Line Dancing  
Demonstration

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
8.00pm

In the Village Hall

Come and have a Try.

Admission £3....(pay on  
the door)

Sponsored by Meppershall W.I.

# **Village Fete 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**Meppershall W.I  
Are holding a Fete in the  
Village Hall.**

**2.00pm – 5.00pm**

**Its going to be a fun Day....Lots  
of the groups in the Village will  
be taking part...with Games,  
Tombola, Cards, Produce, Cakes  
etc. So Make a note in your diary  
and keep a look out for the  
Posters.**

**And of course refreshments will  
be available!**

## Meppershall Strollers

Please join us for some fresh air and exercise with the Meppershall Strollers on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May. We will meet outside the Village Hall at 2.00pm and will walk some of the village footpaths. The walk will last about an hour and will be suitable to anyone who has a pair of sturdy trainers and can climb over the odd stile.

Please either just turn up on the day or if you would like further information phone Jill on 01462 851770.

--oo0oo--

### Thank You

*I would like to say a big "Thank you" to all the kind, thoughtful and caring friends and acquaintances I have in Meppershall. Your support with cards, flowers and good wishes has been fantastic and I have really appreciated them.*

*Thank you so much,*

*Jill Hickling*

**MARYLAND COOKIES**Ingredients

8oz plain flour  
1 ½ teaspoons of baking powder  
¾ teaspoon Bicarbonate of soda  
3 oz chocolate drops  
4 oz margarine  
4 oz sugar  
5 ½ oz Golden Syrup  
Pinch of salt.

Method

- 1) Sieve the dry ingredients.
- 2) Rub in the margarine, add the sugar and the chocolate drops.
- 3) Mix to a dough with the syrup.
- 4) Divide the dough into 4 equal pieces
- 5) Form each piece into a roll 1 inch in diameter.
- 6) Cut each roll into 12 equal pieces and roll into balls.
- 7) Place on a greased baking tray, allowing for the biscuits to spread, then flatten slightly with a palette knife.
- 8) Bake for 15 – 20 minutes at regulo 5 or 375 F.

## MAY IN YOUR GARDEN

(With acknowledgements to the RHS)

- Take action to protect your plants if night frosts are forecast
- Water plants that need it regularly
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
- Take softwood cuttings of shrubs
- Lightly trim box and other formal hedging
- Prune *Clematis Montana* after flowering
- Take cuttings from herbaceous perennials
- Cut back and divide spring-flowering perennials
- Plant out dahlias at the end of the month
- Protect young plants from slugs
- Clear out spring bedding and begin hardening off summer bedding plants
- Thin out annuals and vegetables sown outdoors earlier
- Feed fish regularly and give a special aquatic fertiliser to water plants
- Feed and weed lawns to encourage good growth, as well as mowing regularly.
- Sow and plant out tender vegetables at the end of the month
- Protect crops from carrot fly
- Continue succession sowing of vegetables
- Remove all frost protection from fruit trees and start pruning trained plums and cherries
- Move tender plants in pots outside for summer
- Ventilate greenhouses and conservatories and think about permanent shading for summer.

### LAST CHANCE

- Sow or turf new lawns before it gets too dry
- Finish planting evergreen shrubs

### GET AHEAD

- Sow biennials for next year's spring bedding plants
- Inspect plants regularly for signs of pests and diseases.



**ST MARY THE VIRGIN  
MEPPERSHALL PARISH CHURCH  
(CHURCH OF ENGLAND)  
CHURCH RD, OFF CAMPTON RD**

25

Rector: (Meppershall & Shefford) Rev John Harper,  
The Rectory, Church Rd, Meppershall.  
[revjohnharper@talktalk.net](mailto:revjohnharper@talktalk.net) 01462 813334  
Curate: Rev Patsy Critchley; 01234 381510  
(Patsy's usual ministry days are Weds, Fri & Sun)  
Churchwardens: Brian Bellamy – 815944 (Pastoral  
Assistant);  
Brenda Wright 816446

***SERVICES FOR MAY***

- May 4      11.15a.m. Parish Communion,  
              & Sunday School in Rectory**
- May 11     Whit Sunday (Pentecost)  
              8.30a.m. Holy Communion.  
              11.15a.m. Family Service**
- May 18     Trinity Sunday 8.30a.m.  
              Holy Communion  
              6p.m. Evensong**
- May 25     8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
              11.15 a.m. Family Communion  
              & Sunday School  
              followed by lunch for St Mary's families**

**Weekday Services:**

- Wednesdays :    10a.m. Holy Communion (B.C.P.)**  
**Fridays :          7.30p.m. Compline (Evening Prayer)**  
**Saturdays:        9.30a.m. Morning Prayer.**

St Mary's continued.

**Diary dates – please pencil in .....**

Sat/Sun June 28/29 St Mary's Gift Weekend

Including displays, refreshments, and 'teddy abseiling' from the tower.

Sat/Sun Aug 16/17 Fuchsia Festival at St Mary's, presented by the Herts and Beds Fuchsia Society. Plants for sale – refreshments

Also : Sunday May 11, 6p.m.

United service to celebrate the start of Christian Aid Week at  
St Michael's Shefford

Organised by Shefford Churches working together.

It hardly seems possible that I have been the Curate at St Mary's and St Michael's for more than 6 months now. I should like to thank the people of Meppershall for making me so welcome. Working among you is a truly enriching experience.

It is a great pleasure to go into the school and take assemblies; the children are so very well behaved. I am delighted that it has been possible for me to become one of the school governors. I look forward to getting to know the village children better as time goes on. The school Christmas production and the Easter service are things which I shall be talking about for a long time.

One of the 'high spots' of my time so far has been the visit of some of the pre-school children to the church just before Easter. Their ability to concentrate, listen politely and find an endless number of crosses in the church took me completely by surprise.

St Mary's is not the warmest church I have ever been in, as far as the building is concerned, but I am rapidly learning how to hide several layers of clothing beneath a cassock; and the beautiful flower displays clearly enjoy a chillier climate and seem to last for ages.

I don't think I shall ever forget walking into the church for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, and being confronted by a church that truly reflected the glory of God and the beauty of His creation, and which portrayed the care, respect and love which the community has for its church.

As time goes on I hope to meet more and more of you as I go around the village. It would also be wonderful to see more of you in the church, where you will always be warmly welcomed.

Patsy Critchley

# 13 - 18 YR olds

## HOW ABOUT SPARKS 2008?

### ~ Daniel + Co ~

St. Mary's, Meppershall  
 Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> July,      Wed. 23<sup>rd</sup> July,      Thurs. 24<sup>th</sup> July  
 10am - 2pm

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help with a crafty workshop.  
 Be a leader's assistant  
 Be a minder to the youngest children.  
 Help with the field games.

## UP FOR IT ??

Pam Halliwell 01462 817069 [Pamela@halliwell7.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:Pamela@halliwell7.wanadoo.co.uk)  
 Rector John 01462 813334 [revjohnharper@talktalk.net](mailto:revjohnharper@talktalk.net)  
 Please let us know.

From Shireen Longland

Please can anyone tell me why, when there is so much in the media about the demise of wildflowers in this country, does the council have the roadside verges cut at least twice a year? Obviously it makes good sense to cut a sweep around road junctions, making it easier to see what is coming, but surely not the rest of the roadsides, one place where weed-killer is never used. This would incidentally save fuel as well.

*Shireen*

## 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!**

**SPARKS 2008 ~ Daniel & Co**

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

**Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Wed. 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Thurs. 24<sup>th</sup> July**

**Time: [children] 10am - 2pm**

**[leaders] 9.30am - 2.30pm**

**[helpers] any times, any days**

***\*A LEADER stays with a group of 7 - 10 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 [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]*

*Drinks & tuck shop*

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

**Are you up for it?**

**Please let us know.**

**Pam Halliwell 01462 817069 [Pamela@halliwell7.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:Pamela@halliwell7.wanadoo.co.uk)**

**Rector John 01462 813334 [revjohnharper@talktalk.net](mailto:revjohnharper@talktalk.net)**

**Route 89 to Hitchin – Meppershall - Henlow Camp**

Trains arrives from London						18:16
Hitchin, Way Wilbury						17:05 18:20
Hitchin, Grove Road,						
Hitchin Station				15:54B	15:57	17:12 18:27
Hitchin, Bancroft,			12:35	16:00	16:00	17:15 18:30
Sugar Loaf			13:08	16:33	16:33	17:43 On request
Henlow Camp,			13:16	16:41	16:41	17:56

**Route 201 to Bedford - Shefford - Meppershall - Shillington - Henlow Camp**

Bedford bus station bay 10	1040	1240	1440	1740
Bedford Amphill Rd, South Wing Hospital	1045	1245	1445	1745
Haynes Church End	1068	1268	1468	1768
Shefford High Street	1108	1308	1508	1808
Campton church	1115	1315	1515	1815
Upper Gravenhurst church	1120	1320	1520	1820
Shillington Church Street	1125	1325	1525	1825
Meppershall Sugar Loaf	1130	1330	1530	1830
Upper Standon War Memorial	1132	1332	1532	1832
Lower Standon Lower School	1133	1333	1533	1833
Henlow Camp Bird in Hand	1135	1335	1535	1835

Route 201 to Henlow Camp – Shillington – Meppershall–Shefford – Bedford

	Year set to launch	Company	Manufacturer	Model	Price (£)	Notes
Henlow Camp Bird in Hand				0725	1135	1535
Lower Standon Lower School				0727	0937	1537
Upper Standon War Memorial				0728	0938	1538
Meppershall Sugar Loaf				0730	0940	1540
Shillington Church Street				0735	0945	1545
Upper Gravenhurst church				0740	0950	1550
Campton church				0745	0955	1555
Shefford High Street				0752	1002	1602
Haynes Church End				0802	1012	1612
Bedford Amphill Rd, South Wing Hospital				0820	1025	1625
Bedford bus station				0830	1030	1630



## Bus Timetables – (Weekdays only given here)

In developing the Meppershall Village Plan it was clear that there was a lack of knowledge about the buses serving Meppershall. The following information has been taken from the web and has been abbreviated to show the main stops, including Meppershall. Full information can be obtained from the bus companies or their websites.

### Route 79 to Sheffield – Meppershall – Barton – Luton

Sheffield, High Street,						1533		1740p	1840
Meppershall, Sugar Loaf						1538		1745	1845
Meppershall, Rectory Road	0728	0928	1118	1328		1540		1747	1847
Meppershall, opp Sugar Loaf	0730	0930	1120	1330					
Sheffield, High Street,	0735	0935	1125	1335					
Barton, Windsor Parade	0801	1003	1153	1403		1554		1759	1859
Luton, Silver St								1825	1925
Luton, Galaxy Centre	0838	1031	1221	1431		1622			

### Route 79 to Luton – Barton – Meppershall – Sheffield

Luton, Galaxy Centre,		0850	1040	1230	1440	1630	1750
Barton, Windsor Parade	0712	0912	1102	1252	1502	1656	1812
Sheffield, High Street,				1320	1530	1740p	1840
Meppershall Loaf, Sugar					1538	1745	1845
Meppershall, Rectory Road	0728	0928	1118	1328	1540	1747	1847
Meppershall opp, Sugar Loaf	0730	0930	1120			1330	
Sheffield, High Street,	0735	0935	1125		1335		

### Route 89 to Henlow Camp – Meppershall – Hitchin

		NSch	Sch	
Henlow Camp		07:37	07:37	09:52
Sugar Loaf	06:45	07:45	07:45	10:00
Hitchin, Bancroft		08:20	08:25	
Hitchin Station	07:19	08:23	08:35B	
Hitchin, Bancroft	07:22			10:35
Hitchin, Grove Road Rd				14:10
Hitchin, Wilbury Way		08:30	08:42	
Train departs to London	07:32			



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

Summer Bridger who will be 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Charlotte Wolton who will be 15 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Joseph Daniel who will be 10 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Annabelle Fox who will be 11 on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Laura Stock who will be 7 on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Timothy Newman who will be 6 on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Samuel Boggon who will be 8 on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Stuart Lovelock who will be 15 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Sasa Kovacs who will be 8 on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Frank Donachie who will be 9 on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Bull who will be 9 on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
Adam Palmer who will be 7 on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Kirsty Newman who will be 3 on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Sophie Palmer who will be 7 on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
Isabella Lambley who will be 5 on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
James Parrott who will be 8 on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
Rees Davies who will be 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Bryony Lowden who will be 8 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Chloe Thorne who will be 6 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Kieran Clark who will be 14 on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Hanne Boggon who will be 14 on the 31<sup>st</sup>

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