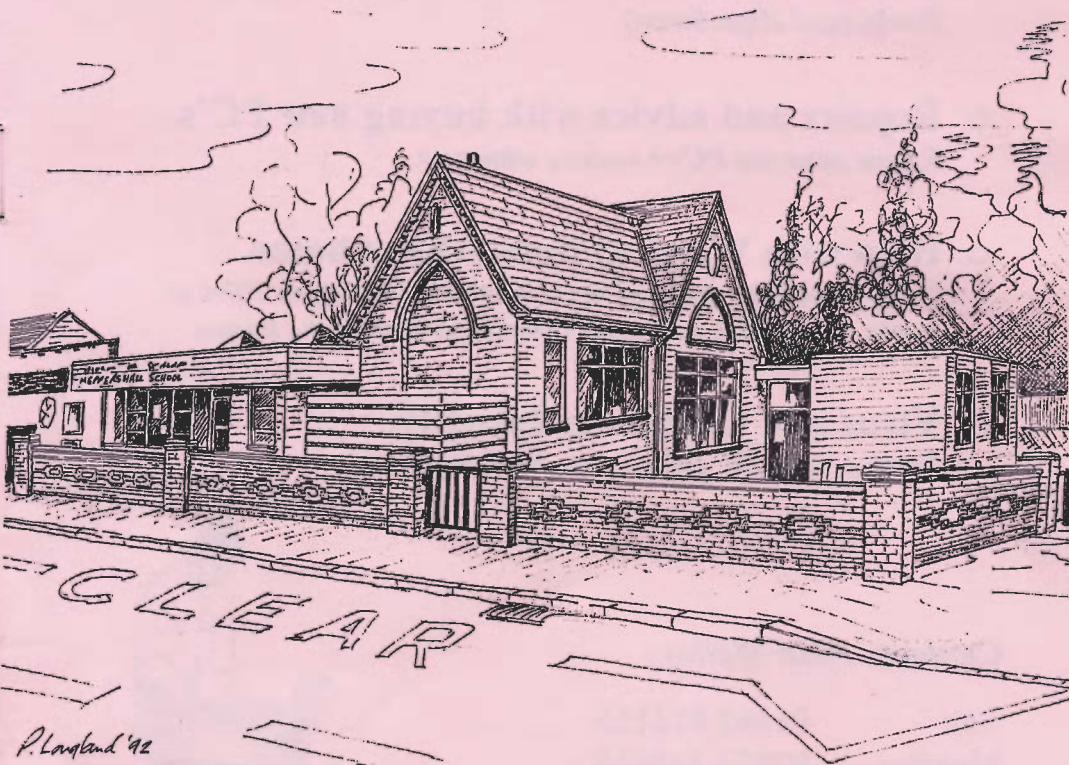




Arms of the de Meppershall Family

# **MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER**



**JUNE 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.

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to another packed issue of the Messenger, with more Travel Guide and computer Tips, and an overflowing Freecycle page. Do make use of Freecycle, either to phone for one of this month's offers, or to offer something yourself; and don't forget that you can ask for things as well as offering them. You might be surprised how often your need is someone else's surplus!

### Wanted – a Treasurer!

Chloe will be leaving the Messenger team in July to take up a new training appointment. We wish her every success in her career, but she leaves a Treasurer-shaped hole which we badly need to fill. The position is not onerous: attending a committee meeting every 2-3 months; keeping tabs on our money with the aid of an existing spreadsheet; paying in cheques and putting first signature on new ones. Accounting experience is **not** needed - only common sense. Please apply to the Editor.

The Messenger would like to congratulate John Parsons on his election to the Chair of the Parish Council, and to echo his thanks to the retiring Chairman, David Foskett. John makes several important points in his first report from the Council: use it or lose it! That applies to local buses and to the local PO and stores. It could also be applied to the work of the Village Plan group: John West reports that there was insufficient support for his Village Forum proposal, so the Council has taken on the job of monitoring the implementation of the Plan. Watch this space for details of the working group which is to be formed.

*Dick Bulley*

## Village Plan / Village Forum

This will be the last Messenger entry, by myself, concerning the Village Plan and Village Forum.

By now each household in Meppershall will have received their copy of the Village Plan. Again my thanks to all who made it possible, The Steering Group, the advisers from Beds Rural Communities Charity (BRCC), the Messenger Distribution Team and anyone else that gave of their time and effort. Thank you

In order to ensure that all the work done to generate the Village Plan was not lost and that the plan became a living document with new things added as circumstances arose, I put forward the idea of the Village Forum. At the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, I informed the council that I had had some, generally positive feedback, but that the amount of feedback did not justify continuing with the proposed forum.

During the meeting the Parish Council had an agenda item on the Village Plan and at that they have proposed that there be a Parish Council Working Group that will oversee the plan implementation, monitoring, update etc. This group will be councillor lead and include non-council members as appropriate, so those who still wish to be involved will be able to do so.

The Parish Council did not finalize the group, councillor or the group's remit, but they have taken the need for continuity on board. I wish the council well as this adds to their workload.

My thanks to all,

John W

## **Meppershall Parish Council Report**

The May meeting of a Parish Council is the meeting at which the Officers of the Council are elected for the following year. The Standing Orders for our Council a limit the length of time that the Chairman may hold office to three consecutive years, maximum. As a result, Dave Foskett has completed his permitted term of office and has returned to the back benches. He has done a superb job as Chairman and was warmly thanked by the members. Most of the other members of the council with particular responsibilities were re-elected to their posts.

### **Highways and Lighting**

Patching repairs to areas of damaged road and investigation and subsequent remedial work to areas prone to flooding have been carried out. The proposals for a footpath down Shefford hill are passing through departments at County for design and costing works. With the assistance of County Councillor Robin Younger the Council will continue to press this request to ensure that it does not get lost in the changeover to the Unitary Authorities, which is now being planned.

### **Environment and Leisure**

The new storage shed for Foster's Field is now being erected and our grasscutting contractor will begin to mow and maintain the increased area. No conclusion has been reached with regard to the play equipment in Coneygate although we are informed that the roads and lighting have now been adopted by the County.

### **Planning and Housing**

Three new applications were received during the month and passed back to Mid Beds without objection although a number of criticisms and comments were registered. Council members commented that information regarding

the outcome of applications to Mid Beds is not being received sufficiently quickly.

## **Local Bus Services and Post Offices**

During his report County Councillor Robin Younger advised that the review of Post Office provision nationally is being carried out forthwith by Post Offices Ltd. He had no news of how Meppershall and our general area might fare but encouraged villagers to respond to the possible threat by ensuring that the Post Office is used as much as possible and to respond to any consultation documents which may appear. The same principle of 'use it or lose it' needs to be applied to local bus services. At present many services are heavily subsidised by the County but a review is underway and a number of lightly used services may be threatened.

## **Parish Plan**

The Parish Plan Report has been delivered to the village and seems to have been well received. It is now up to all organisations who may have the opportunity to 'make things happen' to begin the process. The Council were informed that reactions to the suggestion of a Village Forum to monitor progress have been less than hoped and they will discuss at future meetings where the Plan goes next.

John Parsons,  
Chairman, Meppershall Parish Council

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7.45 pm at  
Meppershall Lower School.

## **SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP**

We finished the month of April with a trip to Melton Mowbray – the day started with sunshine all the way and we were able to enjoy the countryside. After coffee, our group made their way to the very extensive market containing many good bargains, then it was on to the famous Melton Mowbray pork pie shop for a demonstration (including a taster) and the opportunity to purchase pork pies and sausages. By then it was time for a spot of lunch when unfortunately the rain decided to descend on us, but soon it was time to rejoin our coach for our short journey for a tour of the newly constructed brewery. A choice of tea or beer was on offer, before making our way back to Shefford.

The start of our visit to Burleigh House and Stamford was damp, but on arrival the sun decided to shine on us. We were able to make our way to The Orangery for a welcome coffee before we all set off at our own pace to explore the house, which contained some magnificent paintings both on the walls and ceilings. The grounds were extensive and beautifully kept, one can only imagine the beauty of the gardens when the roses are in bloom. This house and grounds were certainly worth a visit. The disabled facilities were certainly well thought out and more than adequate.

We will report on our Croatian holiday, Cambridge and Jimmy's Farm in Suffolk in the July issue of the Meppershall Messenger.

Seats are still available for our lunchtime cruise on the River Deben, and then on to visit Sutton Hoo, (a National Trust property). Bekonscot Model Village/ Worlds End Garden Centre has been arranged for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Glen Miller Music Festival, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August. London Wetland Centre, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August. Anglesey Abbey and gardens, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Our September holiday, 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 fast ferry to Dublin. Our first stop will be an overnight stay in Portlaoise then we travel South West through Roscrea and Limerick and onto Tralee. Bookings for this trip are still available.

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 (Fully booked). 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 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, once again we will join 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)

## Village Hall News

Since our last article, both the Rock Factor evening and Tea dance took place in February and were very well attended, so thanks to all those that came along to either event. Including a donation from the Social club from the bar takings at the Rock Factor, we raised nearly £800 for the village hall which is fantastic.

For those of you that attended the tea dance at the end of May, we hope it was a success.

Financially, the hall managed to break even this year and considering that the flat roof over the kitchen and cellar has been replaced and the insurance for the year paid for in full, we are in a better financial position than we have been for a few years.

The Village Hall AGM date has been set for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July from 8.15pm at the Village hall. It's an opportunity to find out more on the running of the hall and possibly become involved on the committee. If you are interested in keeping the hall open and being part of the committee, please contact Karen Lucas and come along to the AGM.

We look forward to seeing you there.

The Village Hall Committee

## Thanks to the Distribution Team

On behalf of the Parish Council and the Parish Plan Group, I would like to thank Colette and the distribution team for delivering and collecting the questionnaires. Thanks also for delivering copies of the Village Plan to every household in the Village.

David Foscett  
Meppershall Parish Council

Our sincere thanks to Mary and Poppy for delivering the magazine in the past, but who are now retiring. A special 'thank you' to Mary who delivered the very first issue!

Colette House  
Distribution manager

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meppershall Brownies

About two months ago Brownies from over the Anglia region were asked to take part in a testing session for a new resource for their leaders. We were allocated 8 places and the event took place in Cottered on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We joined other Brownies who had come a great deal further than us – from Kelvedon, past Dunstable and Little Paxton. Altogether there were 26 Brownies there. The girls were put into groups and quickly made new friends with people they had just met. The event was run by two staff from Girlguiding UK's HQ in London. They explained they had been working on a new book for Brownie leaders which could be used by them in pack meetings and wanted to try these activities out with leaders and Brownies and these were the only testings that would take place and everyone's opinion counted.

What happened is told by the 8 Brownies who went :

"We all did different things in different groups and this included: quizzes, made desert islands from meringues and chocolate flakes, made balloon rockets, cracked codes, generation game, snake draft excluders, alphabet games, playdough creatures, compass game, lion badges, name game, crystal growing, jam jar music, etc. Outside we learnt new games. One was wolf tag – the first time you were tagged you carried on playing but kept making the noise of a puppy, the second time the noise of a dog and the third time you stood still and howled like a wolf - very noisy but great fun. We also played mousetrap which was new to us.

We finished off with pizza, chocolate mousse, yoghurts, fruit and cake. When we left we were given a Brownie mug and a certificate.

Most of all we all had fun!

Bryony, Maya, Katie, Chloe, Abbie, Niamh, Megan and Georgia"

### **Meppershall VA Lower School Council**

The Council is made up of two children from each class plus an extra two from the oldest class. They are elected by their classmates and the eldest children take the officers' roles of chair person, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. They meet about twice a month at lunchtime to discuss areas that have been identified from items in our suggestion box and through questionnaires. Last year they achieved new soft furniture for the library, a buddy bench for the playground and new cloakroom furniture.

They also consider the economics of the projects and raised some of the required funds through the Kid's Craft stall at the Autumn Fair which resulted in a generous donation from the School Association. Last year, Councillor Younger invited the Year 4 children to the Council Chambers at County Hall to demonstrate how systems work there.

Our next building initiative at the school has been suggested by the School Council. They have identified a need to develop the outdoor learning environment and are currently investigating what the children would like to see. They have already raised money through a sponsored read and have bought a new playtime game with the proceeds.

To help with the planning stage, the Year Fours (Oaks) have thought about what playtimes are for and jointly composed the following piece.

### Our Aims for Playtimes

To have:

A friendly time to relax, play games with your friends, get some fresh air, have a catch up on news, have a break from working hard, run around and get some exercise, use your imagination and pretend, get inspiration for new ideas, look at nature and other things outside, use up excess energy, learn how to get on with others, learn how to make new friends, learn how to co-operate, communicate, compromise and to look after the environment.

Written by Oaks Class

If you have skills to offer that would help our council learn about the processes needed for this project please contact the school office.

Thanks again to all of you who have popped in to donate Tesco, Nestles 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 Bakery Bees *by Roger*

It is mid May and we have many very busy bees. I have already had to add more supers to the hives, to cope with all the spring flowers and oilseed rape.

Opinions are mixed, some seeing the golden fields as a blot on the landscape of this green and pleasant land while others regard them as bright and cheerful.

Human feelings aside, to a bee, a field of oilseed rape on a sunny May morning must be absolute heaven. There are thousands of flowers close together producing an abundance of sugar-rich nectar and valuable pollen. It is important never to underestimate the rate at which a good colony can collect nectar from such a field.

A super can be filled in a matter of days.

To those of us of a certain age, a 'nuc' used to be something scary that opposing nations might start to throw at each other if they lost their nerve or if the finger on the red button got too twitchy. My first nuc was altogether different. True, it was a little bit scary in the beginning but it was a source of enormous pleasure because like many other novice beekeepers my first bees came as a nuc.

What is a nuc?

A nucleus is just a small colony of bees on five frames or less. It is, in essence, a full colony in miniature, which can be used for a variety of purposes.

I obtained my first bees, as a nuc, in early June 3 years ago. It was purchased locally. The first thing to do was to put it gently in the position it would occupy as a permanent colony. I opened it so that the bees could fly around to familiarise themselves with their surroundings and left it alone until the next day. Then I transferred it to a full sized hive. The Meppershall Bees are now 4 hives and hopefully will increase by 2 hives this year starting in June with 2 more nucs from my own Queens.

Honey available at Rogers Bakery-see you there.

## **Travel Guide – Self catering in France**

Did you know that France is one of the largest countries in Central Europe and is bordered by the sea on three coasts? The choice of self-catering holidays in France is huge and you can find a French villa in a historic town of Brittany, Normandy or Bordeaux, beautiful Chateaux in the Loire valley and ski chalets in the breathtaking French Alps and Pyrenees.

Throughout France you will find glorious countryside regions like Dordogne, the Loire Valley and Provence. Travelling in France, you can find both upmarket resorts and 'away from it all hideaways'. There are stylish villas, and pretty French Gites with a pool and also farmhouse cottages to rent. The pace of life and outdoor living is simple and you'll soon acclimatise. Although French cuisine has a great reputation, regional variations do exist, but you'll rarely go wrong with a 'Plate de jour', or dish-of-the-day.

Vibrant cities such as Paris and Marseilles offer an exciting buzz and provide a great choice of top hotels and private apartments, all in a cosmopolitan atmosphere which is ideal for a short stay or city break. If you are touring, remember that France produces many of the world's best known wines from its famous vineyards in Burgundy, Bordeaux, and the Rhone valley.

In terms of summer holiday accommodation, France offers numerous opportunities for holidaymakers to rent properties to suit their pocket. Located near seaside resorts or scattered around the coasts, some will easily tempt you to visit France for your next vacation. If you take a drive along the Cote d'Azur, you'll see it's the celebrity playground for the rich and famous. You'll love St Tropez, Nice and especially Cannes, a beautiful resort with stylish hotels, lavish restaurants, and fabulous yachts, laying silently moored in the Marina.

During winter, you'll find an abundance of great holiday resorts to choose from. If you are keen on skiing or just love the snow, there are beautiful resorts in the Haute-Savoie Rhone-Alps that will satisfy the most demanding skier. France also boasts opportunities in Val d'Isere and the Pyrenees, providing quality ski-lift facilities and great accommodation throughout. The mountain regions are superbly organised and ensure that the quality of all chalet-accommodation is maintained, whilst providing spectacular snow-covered scenery for you to enjoy the perfect family ski holiday.

For more information about France, self-catering holidays, please visit: [www.holidayrentalcentre.com](http://www.holidayrentalcentre.com) or contact the writer: Stuart Johnston at Holiday Rental Centre, 01462 812288.

### **Easier and Clearer Web Browsing**

Here are a few hints and tips to enhance your browsing experience in Internet Explorer Version 7. This information applies to both Windows XP and Vista. If you have not updated to IEv7 yet, search for "Internet Explorer version 7 download", you should do this for security particularly.

Viewing your browser page can be difficult as many designers seem to be more interested in fancy site design rather than ease of use. Go to the second strip (down) along the top and if it does not have the word "File" to the left, right click your mouse pointer on the strip and click on "Menu Bar". Click on "View" and make sure "Status Bar" is ticked, if not, click on it. This will bring up the bar along the bottom which should have "100%" to the right hand side. Click on the little arrow and you can now alter the size of the page to suit your requirements.

Go back to "View" again but this time, go down to "Text Size" and choose a text size for your page that suits you. It will remain on this setting until you change it. This setting will only increase your text size for those websites which are designed in HTML (or its derivatives) and will have little or no effect on those written in Flash, so don't be surprised if it does not work on some sites. Use the percentage command as per the last paragraph with these sites. Our site at [www.ceekay.co.uk](http://www.ceekay.co.uk) is designed to show the results of browser settings.

Now that you can see your page suitably, be aware of security when you are asked for personal or payment details. There are two main ways to assess whether you are safe to input this information. Look for the closed padlock sign which sits beside the "Page Refresh" icon (two little green arrows) beside the address bar at the top of the page. Try going to [www.logmein.com](http://www.logmein.com) to view this in action. Here you will also notice that the site address begins <https://> the "s" denoting a secure (encrypted) site. If these two items are not present then do not enter any information and come off that website immediately.

## THE MEPPERSHALL BABYSITTING CIRCLE

Believe it or not there has been a babysitting circle in the village since before 1992. I took over in June '99 from Tracey who I believe had run it for at least seven years to that date. There were 35 members back then and it was very active. Who remembers those treasured nights out when the children were small but realising when it was gone midnight you were on double tokens and making a mad dash home to save owing lots of favours!

It was a great way to enjoy a night out with friends knowing the kids were in the safe hands of another mum plus cheaper too as the only thing to pay out was your precious tokens!!

More recently the only requests I have had are for payable sitters- which is fine -I still have a list of responsible young teenagers who are more than happy to sit at a rate negotiated by them.

My children now no longer require sitters (it has been a long time coming!!) Sad how all of a sudden they appear all grown up and independent!

So I am more than happy to pass on the responsibilities of the Circle to another! Any younger Mums who would like to get the Mums circle going again? Or would a central list of willing sitters be more preferable.

Please let me know if there is anyone interested in taking this forward

Many thanks

Sharon Edwards Tel: 814326



Items available	Phone	Items Wanted	Phone
Genuine Crittal exterior door. 18 panes + 3 solid inc cat flap.	01462 812144		
Coloured wooden roses; Assorted candles; Joss sticks & burning oils	07818 867605		
Apollo Pulse Mountain Bike-Ladies Frame-pink	07974 243273		
Approx 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> cu. mtr hard core. Bags and barrow available.	01462 815663		
2 quality Parker Knoll chairs; 2 unopened John Lewis clip frames with glass	01462 814085	Water Butts for School Gardening club	01462 850821
Ikea wall unit: W.52cm D.40cm; H178cm + 3-seater settee	01462 850802		

Please call the phone number given for the item you wish to collect or wish to donate 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.

# Calendar of Forthcoming Events

## 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>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>		
Players AGM	7.45 PM	Village Hall
<u><b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>		
Pantomime read through*	7.30 PM	Village Hall
<u><b>Sat/Sun 28/29<sup>th</sup> June</b></u>		
St Mary's Gift weekend		St Mary's Church

## July 2008

<u><b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b></u>		
Village Hall AGM	8.15 PM	Village hall
<u><b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b></u>		
Pantomime auditions*	7.30 PM	Village Hall
<u><b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b></u>		
Meppershall Parish Council	7.30 PM	School Hall
<u><b>Tue, Wed, Thur 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup> July</b></u>		
Sparks Daniel & Co	10 AM – 2 PM	St Mary's Church

\* Under 16s must be accompanied by a parent

# **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. There will be Games, Tombola, Crafts, Produce, Raffles, Cakes etc. So Make a note in your diary and keep a look out for the Posters.  
And of course refreshments will be available

**Come and support your Local Groups.**

See you There!!!!!!!!!!

## MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS

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, (under 16yrs must be accompanied by a parent) 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.

This years Pantomime is to be "SNOW WHITE" directed by Beryl Wright. The read through for the Pantomime is Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm at the Village Hall (under 16yrs must be accompanied by a parent)

Auditions will take place the following week on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7.30pm (under 16yrs must be accompanied by a parent) The performance dates for this years Pantomime are 30th 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.

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 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 Graham Scrase 813966 or Colette House 815585. We look forward to meeting you.

MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS

Junior Workshop in April 2008

Class photo with proudly displayed certificates!

(Photo - Dawn Addams)



Back row - L to R:

Daniel Danielle Adam Sarah Christian Holly Ella Raychel  
Addams Savory Prentice Mountcastle Borthwick Pointing Voice Payne

Tutor: Debra Maddex

Front row: Scott Elliot Joshua Jessica Emily Chelsea Joanne  
L to R Bray Chapman Savory Carter Ford Addams Ford



# **MEPPERSHALL BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

COME ALONG AND JOIN US AT

MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE HALL

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS 1.45-3.15PM

WE HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF TOYS AND ACTIVITIES  
TO AMUSE AND ENTERTAIN YOUR UNDER 5'S

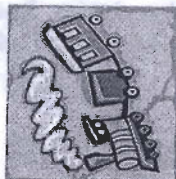
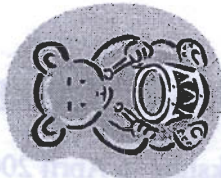
BABY AREA

CRAFT TABLE

£1.50 PER SESSION (INC. CHILDREN'S REFRESHMENTS)

NEW FAMILIES ALWAYS WELCOME

FURTHER INFO. TEL (01462) 819143 JESSICA  
(01462) 816785 NICOLA





Village Hall, Meppershall, Bedfordshire SG17 5LX

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### Wanted!

Meppershall pre-school would like your unwanted, good quality teddy bears and soft toys for fundraising.

Please drop off any donations to pre-school at the village hall or Catherine at 34 Brookmead.

Thank you!



## Grants for Community Activities

*Is your local community group looking for funding to help with a project or activity? If so, you may be eligible to apply for a grant from The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust).*

Based in Bedford, the Bedford Charity is one of the 200 largest UK charities with three charitable objectives:

- the promotion of education
- the relief of those who are sick or in need, hardship or distress
- the provision of recreational facilities with a social welfare purpose within the town of Bedford and surrounding area

Last year the Charity granted 90 awards and distributed over £630,000 to local organisations, groups and individuals, including:

- £10,000 to St John's Foundation Special School for its specialist school status bid
- £2,700 to the Dean and Shelton Social Association for improvements to the Dalton Community Hall
- £2,000 to Grangers Netball Club (for children aged 8-16 from North Bedfordshire villages) for their new sports kit
- £2,000 to Sharnbrook Toddler Group for new play equipment

Previous year's grants have included:

- £400,000 to the Child Development Centre in Kempston
- Ormiston Trust - £74,994 - 'Time for families' at Bedford Prison (offering support to the families of people in prison)
- Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service, £40,000 to purchase a vehicle and provide staff to operate a rural mobile advisory service in Bedfordshire

### So who can apply for a grant?

Providing the project takes place in the Borough of Bedford or will benefit residents of the Borough (including North Bedfordshire villages), is not for profit and fits under one of the Charity's three objectives then you or your organisation can apply.

For more information on the Charity's grants, guidance notes and application forms please visit [www.bedfordcharity.org.uk](http://www.bedfordcharity.org.uk) or call Lucy Bardner on 01234 369500.

The Harpur Trust stems from a gift of property in Bedford and London made by Sir William Harpur and his wife Dame Alice in 1566 to the town of Bedford. In addition to grant making, the Charity administers the four main Harpur Trust schools; Bedford School, Bedford High School, Bedford Modern School and Dame Alice Harpur School. Pilgrims Pre-Preparatory school is also part of the Harpur Trust family.

For further information contact the Museum:  
01462 420144. [www.hitchinbritishschools.org.uk](http://www.hitchinbritishschools.org.uk)

## WHAT'S ON IN SUMMER 2008

**Saturday 24th May:** The Friends 'Fair in the Square'

All the stalls you'd expect. Hitchin Market Place from 9am.

**Monday 28th July 10-12** Maypole Dancing Workshop

Beginners welcome. For children aged 7+. £2.50 (refreshments included)

Numbers are limited, so please book in advance.

**1st-31st August Fire in the Works II - the Art of Margaret Miles\***

**Weds 20th and Thurs 28th August - Crafty Capers for Children**

Please book in advance for this children's holiday workshop.

10am to 12.30. £3 per session (refreshments included).

**6th September - 30th November Contemporary Textiles\***

An exhibition of embroidery by the North Herts and Beds branch of the Embroiderers' Guild

**Sunday with the Family (from 2:30pm) \***

**Sunday 25th May:** Outdoor games and playground activities

**Sunday 29th June:** Teddy Bears' Picnic - cake, games and stories

**Sunday 27th July:** Poetry for the family from page to performance

**Sunday 31st August:** Take a lesson with one of our 'Victorian' teachers

**Lunchtime tea and a talk (12:30 - 1:30)**

**£3:50 incl a cuppa. Sandwiches available or bring your own**

**Tuesday 13th May:** The Headmaster's House - a talk and a tour

**Tuesday 10th June:** The Masters of the Boys' School (part 2)

**Tuesday 8th July:** The Headmaster's House - a talk and a tour

**Tuesday 12th August** Fire in the Works II - a tour of the exhibition with the artist

**Tuesday 9th September** Handy Hints for the Edwardian Housewife

Except where stated:

**Bookings, tickets and information from the museum office 01462 420144.**

**\* Normal admission times & charges apply**

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The Hitchin British Schools Trust is a Registered Charity No. 1010345  
The Friends of the British Schools Museum is a Registered Charity No. 1016659

## RECIPE CORNER

### Chilli Chicken with Watercress Salsa

Serves 4

4 chicken portions	1 tsp chilli oil
3 tbsp olive oil	½ lemon
1 large red chilli chopped	Salt & black pepper
1 sprig of mint	85g (3oz) pkt watercress
1 red pepper	½ cucumber
1 beef tomato	1 stick celery
2 tbsp best olive oil	

Marinate the chicken in chilli oil, lemon zest and juice, half the red chilli and some seasoning. Finely dice and mix the remaining chilli, pepper, cucumber, tomato, and celery. Add the chopped watercress and mint and stir in the olive oil.

Grill the chicken, turning regularly until cooked and crispy (about 25 minutes). Spoon the salsa onto the plates, place the chicken on top and serve with a watercress salad.

- Keep weeding and deadheading to maintain beds, borders and container displays.
- Water new and young plants as necessary.
- Look out for pests and suckers on roses.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs.
- Propagate climbers by layering.
- Cut back and tidy up spring flowering perennials.
- Take cuttings from pinks.
- Sow seeds of perennials.
- Cut down the faded foliage of bulbs, and lift and divide overgrown clumps.
- Plant out summer bedding in borders and containers, including hanging baskets.
- Sow plants for winter and spring colour, such as polyanthus and pansies.
- Introduce new fish to ponds.
- Remove blanket weed and duckweed to prevent them clogging up water features.
- Mow the lawn and trim edges regularly.
- Give tired lawns a boost with a liquid feed.
- Water new lawns made in the spring.
- Harvest vegetables as they mature.
- Plant winter brassicas, and protect them from pests.
- Keep fruit and vegetables well watered in dry spells.
- Shade and ventilate plants in the greenhouse.

## LAST CHANCE

- Plant new plants before the summer heats up.
- Sow hardy annuals outside to flower this year.
- Plant out tender vegetables such as tomatoes and runner beans to get good crops this year.

## GET AHEAD

- Sow chicory to force in winter for salads.
- Peg down strawberry runners to make new plants.
- Sow seeds for pot plants to flower in winter.

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

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)

Lay Reader: Pam Halliwell 01462 817069

Churchwardens: Brian Bellamy 01462 815944

(Pastoral Assistant); Brenda Wright 01462 816446

***SERVICES FOR JUNE***

- June 1      11.15 a.m. Parish Communion,  
                 & Sunday School in Rectory**
- June 8      8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
                 11.15a.m. Family Service**
- June 15      8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
                 6p.m. Evensong**
- June 22      8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
                 11.15 a.m. Family Communion  
                 & Sunday School**
- June 29      9.45 a.m. United Benefice  
Family Communion at St Michael's Shefford,  
with breakfast from 9 a.m. – all welcome  
please ask for lifts – 813334  
6p.m. ST MARY'S GIFT WEEKEND  
' SONGS OF PRAISE' (see over  
page)**

**Weekday Services:**

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

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

**Saturdays 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer.**

Coming up this month

**Shefford Gala** – Sunday June 8 . Parade of floats, sideshows and arena entertainment.

Look out for Shefford churches own contributions. Robert Bloomfield School.

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

Including displays, refreshments, and 'teddy abseiling' from the tower. Do come and meet others from your Parish Church and enjoy our local Christian heritage and its present day life and purpose. **' Songs of Praise' at 6p.m.**

Requests for favourite songs/hymns invited by June 22 – 813334.

... to a new member of St Mary's ministry team. Pam Halliwell has been a Meppershall resident and member of St Mary's for the past six months and has recently received the Bishop's permission to officiate as a Lay Reader in this parish. She comes with wide experience of this ministry from her previous service in Oxford Diocese and also with the insights from her former role as a social worker.

A Reader in the Church of England is someone who has pursued their calling to serve God as a lay minister through the life of the local Church. They have been selected and licensed for this role by their Bishop and his staff, and they work (unpaid) in various ways to sustain and build on the Church's pastoral care, her teaching and mission and the provision of worship. Their role is sometimes confused with the reading of lessons in services, (although historically this was the main intention and Pam's role will certainly include this task along with several others at St Mary's). A Reader is trained and authorised to preach; to lead (non- Communion) worship including funerals; to administer the chalice at Communion; to take the reserved sacrament to those unable to attend Church; to visit and to provide pastoral care, and to take other suitable roles in conjunction with the parish priest.

It is a delight to find that God has blessed St Mary's with another person with particular gifts and experience that will combine to take forward the Christian vision and mission in Meppershall. She looks forward to meeting more residents of the parish, and can be contacted on 817069. Her rest day is Friday.

It is also good to welcome members of the newly elected Church Council as from the recent Annual Meeting: - Brenda Wright, Brian Bellamy, (Churchwardens) Janice Middleton, Hon Sec; David Bartlett, Hon Treas; Morag De Luca, Wendy Reece, (Deanery Synod reps); Anne Parsons, Pam Halliwell, John Chillman and Peter Longland. The Rev Patsy Critchley also serves as Curate

With good wishes,

John Harper. Rector

**'SPARKS – DANIEL & Co'** – a sizzling Christian holiday club based on the story of Daniel and his friends. For all children aged 5-12 at St Mary's Church and Rectory – Tues 22, Weds 23, Thurs 24 July, 10 – 2. Registration forms will be available from Church, Post Office, Bakery and Rectory. For info ring 817069 or 813334

**FUCHSIA FESTIVAL** Sat/Sun Aug 16/17 at St Mary's, presented by the Herts and Beds Fuchsia Society. Plants for sale – refreshments. More details coming soon

### **SPARKS**

There will be a meeting for all Sparks Workshop leaders on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 15, Buxton Close at 8pm. We still have room for more volunteers, so if you can help or have ideas, please ring Pam Helliwell on 817069.

There will be a meeting for all Sparks Group Leaders on Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 15, Buxton Close at 8 pm. We still have one or two vacancies, either for the full 3 days or for one or two days. Detailed teaching aids will be available. If you would like to help or know someone who would, please ring Pam Helliwell on 817069.

Thanks.

# 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	1740	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	07:37	09:52	13:27			
Sugar Loaf	06:45	07:45	07:45	10:00	13:35			
Hitchin, Bancroft		08:20	08:25					
Hitchin Station	07:19	08:23	08:35B					
Hitchin, Bancroft	07:22			10:35	14:10			
Hitchin, Grove Road Rd								
Hitchin, Wilbury Way		08:30	08:42					
Train departs to London	07:32							

Sch = School Days. NSch = non-school days. B = via Girls School

## Route 89 to Hitchin – Meppershall – Henlow Camp

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

## Route 201 to Bedford – Sheffield – Meppershall – Shillington – Henlow Camp

	1040	1240	1440	1740
Bedford bus station bay 10	1045	1245	1445	1745
Bedford Amphill Rd, South Wing Hospital	1058	1258	1458	1758
Haynes Church End	1108	1308	1508	1808
Sheffield High Street	1115	1315	1515	1815
Campton church	1120	1320	1520	1820
Upper Gravenhurst church	1125	1325	1525	1825
Shillington Church Street	1130	1330	1530	1830
Meppershall Sugar Loaf	1132	1332	1532	1832
Upper Standon War Memorial	1133	1333	1533	1833
Lower Standon Lower School	1135	1335	1535*	1835
Henlow Camp Bird in Hand				

## Route 201 to Henlow Camp – Shillington – Meppershall–Sheffield – Bedford

	0725	0935	1135	1335	1535
Henlow Camp Bird in Hand	0727	0937	1137	1337	1537
Lower Standon Lower School	0728	0938	1138	1338	1538
Upper Standon War Memorial	0730	0940	1140	1340	1540
Meppershall Sugar Loaf	0735	0945	1145	1345	1545
Shillington Church Street	0740	0950	1150	1350	1550
Upper Gravenhurst church	0745	0955	1155	1355	1555
Campton church	0752	1002	1202	1402	1602
Sheffield High Street	0802	1012	1212	1412	1612
Haynes Church End	0820	1025	1225	1425	1625
Bedford Amphill Rd, South Wing Hospital	0830	1030	1230	1430	1630
Bedford bus station					

SSH (Saturday &amp; School Hols)

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

Chloe Marshall who will be 8 on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Vinnie Simpkins who will be 3 on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Talis Hunt who will be 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Charlotte Parrott who will be 14 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Yasmine Vara who will be 9 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Abbie Bradshaw who will be 5 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Niamh Fairweather who will be 6 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Francesca Gavin who will be 11 on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Christian Borthwick who will be 14 on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Abigail Lougher who will be 6 on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Aliyah Vara who will be 7 on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Hannah Stock who will be 11 on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Bryony Peters who will be 15 on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Tilly Norris who will be 13 on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Sarah Louise Mountcastle who will be 14 on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Lewis Savuto who will be 6 on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Joshua Clark who will be 15 on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Alison Watson who will be 4 on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Maya Cox who will be 8 on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Jamie Gainsford who will be 15 on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Hanna Laming who will be 14 on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Louis Fairy who will be 7 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Adelle Gainsford who will be 11 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Lucie Morrison who will be 14 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Liberty Simpkins who will be 7 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Samantha Cannon who will be 15 on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Tayla Woodcock who will be 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Naomi Crowson who will be 10 on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Maya Derrick who will be 9 on the 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Finn Rose who will be 3 on the 30<sup>th</sup>

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