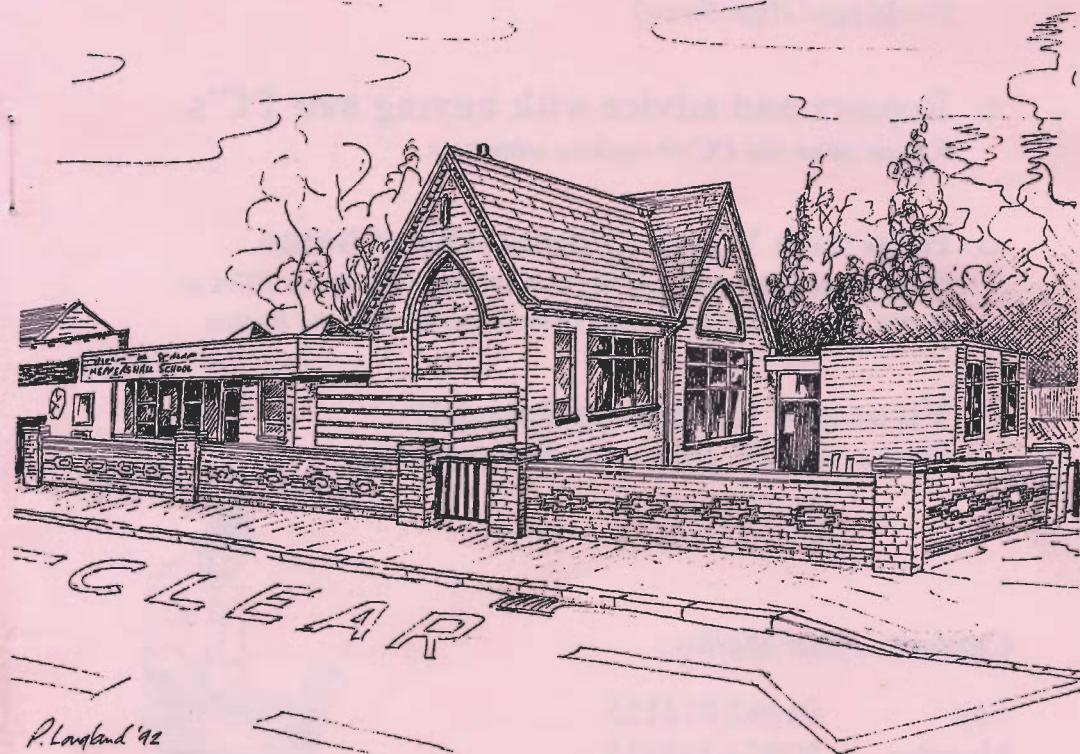




Arms of the de Meppershall Family

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 12th 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 7th 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 4th June and Wednesday 16th 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 14th July

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

Our September holiday, Sunday 7th – Friday 12th 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 19th – Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd November (Fully booked). Arrangements are already in hand to visit The Norfolk Hero for supper afterwards.

Our Annual Turkey and Tinsel from 1st – 5th 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

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 1st 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 Foskett
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

1st 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 12th. 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 nuks from my own Queens.

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 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 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 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


 free cycle meppershall

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 rd 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>Wednesday 4th June</u>		
Meppershall Parish Council	7.30 PM	School Hall
<u>Saturday 7th June</u>		
WT Village Fete	2.00 – 5.00 PM	Village Hall
<u>Thursday 12th June</u>		
Players AGM	7.45 PM	Village Hall
<u>Wednesday 25th June</u>		
Pantomime read through*	7.30 PM	Village Hall
<u>Sat/Sun 28/29th June</u>		
St Mary's Gift weekend		St Mary's Church

July 2008

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

* Under 16s must be accompanied by a parent

Village Fete 7th 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 12th 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 25th 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 2nd July at 7.30pm (under 16yrs must be accompanied by a parent) The performance dates for this years Pantomime are 30th November, 5th, 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th December.

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

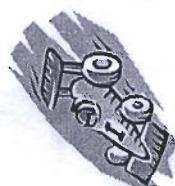
NEW FAMILIES ALWAYS WELCOME

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



Class photo with kindly displayed certificates
(photo - Anna Vassallo)

Junior Whoopee Club 2008





Village Hall, Meppershall, Bedfordshire SG17 5LX

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 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

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**

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.

JUNE IN YOUR GARDEN

(With acknowledgements to the RHS)

- 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 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 16th 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 24th 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 Shefford – Meppershall – Barton - Luton

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

Route 79 to Luton – Barton – Meppershall - Shefford

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

Route 89 to Henlow Camp – Meppershall - Hitchin

Henlow Camp	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.						
Girls						
School						

Route 89 to Hitchin - Meppershall - Henlow Camp

Train arrives from London						
Hitchin, Wilbury Way						
Hitchin, Grove Road,						
Hitchin Station						
Hitchin, Bancroft,						
Sugar Loaf						
Henlow Camp,						

Sch**NSch****18.16****18.20****17.05****18.27****18.30****17.48****On request****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	1058	1258	1458	1758		
Shefford High Street						
Campton church						
Upper Gravenhurst church						
Shillington Church Street						
Meppershall Sugar Loaf						
Upper Standon War Memorial						
Lower Standon Lower School						
Henlow Camp Bird in Hand						

1740**1745****1758****1808****1815****1820****1825****1830****1832****1833****1835****1835****Route 201 to Henlow Camp - Shillington - Meppershall - Shefford - Bedford**

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

1335**1535****1537****1538****1540****1545****1550****1555****1602****1612****1625****1630**

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

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

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