



Arms of the de Meppershall Family

# **MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER**



**JULY 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.

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## THE TEAM

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## CONTENTS

|                                | Page    |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Editorial                      | 2       |
| Village News                   | 3 - 9   |
| Free Cycle                     | 10      |
| School Report                  | 11      |
| Features:                      |         |
| Rogers Bees                    | 12      |
| Travel Guide                   | 13      |
| How to get a new job           | 14 - 15 |
| Computer Tips                  | 16      |
| Calendar of Forthcoming Events | 17      |
| Who's Who and Organisations    | 18 - 20 |
| Village Announcements          | 21 - 26 |
| District Announcements         | 27 - 29 |
| Recipe                         | 30      |
| Garden Tips                    | 31      |
| St Mary's Church               | 32 - 33 |
| Bus Times                      | 34 - 35 |
| Birthdays                      | 36      |

## EDITORIAL

Please note that the August issue will be a double issue. It will not look very different from this month's; all it means is that there will not be an issue in September! That will come as a relief especially to the stalwart band who collate, fold, staple and then deliver this increasingly thick magazine. Its size is due entirely to the volume of contributions received, which is wonderful. We do not need it any lighter, but we do need more people to share the load. It only takes about an hour, normally on the last Monday of each month (but not August). The regulars reckon it the social event of the month, so please join them. Just come along to the next session on 28<sup>th</sup> July, or Colette House can provide you with a schedule for the year.

I am truly delighted to report that The Messenger has a new Treasurer. He is John Thompson, and we welcome him aboard and thank him very much for volunteering. We also thank Chloe again and hope that continuing in the job until June did not affect her A Levels.

And while in thanksgiving mode, we must thank Jacqui Plumley for not only manning the Messenger stall at the WI fete but for creating the brilliant monkey/banana puzzle. Thanks to that and the generosity of the person who bid £15 for the bottle of scotch, the Messenger coffers benefited by just over £30. Thanks also to the WI for giving the village such a fun day and its organisations the opportunity to raise some funds.

*Dick Bulley*

The June meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June at Meppershall Lower School.

### **Highways and Lighting**

Councillor Bryant reported that some of the repairs to areas of damaged road which we had expected to have been carried out had been left out of the work schedule of the County's contractor but have now been reinstated and should now soon be carried out. The planning work for a possible permissive footpath to Shefford is continuing.

### **Environment and Leisure**

The new storage shed and three new seats have been installed. Concerns were raised as to the quality of the grass cutting in various areas and roads in the village and these criticisms will be passed to our contractor.

Work to improve access to the Rye Close allotments is continuing. The Old Road Meadow amenity area is becoming well established and an asset to the village and its wildlife and well worth a visit. In accordance with one of the aims of the Parish Plan, planters are to be ordered; volunteers and organisations willing to maintain the planting will be sought.

### **Planning and Housing**

Only one minor new application was received during the month and passed back to Mid Beds without objection. A proposal from the Parish Council to install solar powered lighting to the multi use play area in Foster's Field has been temporarily withdrawn for further consultations.

### **From the District and County Councillors**

During his report County Councillor Robin Younger spoke of concerns with the over-flying of the village by the Police helicopter based at RAF Henlow. He will pursue the matter with the Police Authority.

### **Parish Plan**

The Council are seeking to establish a working group of interested parishioners to work with the Council to implement the Parish Plan. It is our intention to have the Plan appear regularly on the Agenda for discussion.

### **Other Matters**

It was with great regret that the Council learnt of a proposal to withdraw the Public telephone from the village due to low useage (19 calls in a year). Various options were discussed but the Council had to agree that the service may not be justifiable.

**John Parsons, Chairman, Meppershall Parish Council**

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.45 pm at Meppershall Lower School. The Council does not meet in August.

## SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

This year the holiday season saw us leaving Stanstead for Croatia. We arrived in our hotel complex in Rabac in plenty of time to relax and enjoy the afternoon before dinner. The hotel overlooked two pools which were surrounded by a superb rose garden. There was also a full sized indoor pool with leisure facilities. We all enjoyed the sunshine, with a chance to relax on the hotel's extensive veranda while enjoying our free afternoon 'cuppa' and cake. There were many optional excursions available, for example Venice, Postojna Caves and the Plitvice National Park. While many of our group took advantage of the excursions, others decided to relax and 'chill out'! Evening entertainment proved popular; even more so when the 'SLG' won several events!

Chelsea Flower Show was fortunate enough to be a 'rain free' day and an experience for those visiting for the first time.

The tour of Cambridge began at the Polehill Garden Centre, in Coton where we met our guide who then took us to the American Cemetery which is a very poignant place with beautifully kept gardens – likewise the memorial building. Our guide provided us with most interesting information as we set off for our tour by coach of the outskirts of Cambridge. Lunchtime saw us going our separate ways, with the option of rejoining our guide for a walking tour of the centre.

Our sunny and warm visit to Constable Country, commenced at East Bergholt, birthplace of John Constable where we met our guide and enjoyed morning refreshments. Our guide then directed us on a journey through dreamy country lanes accompanied with a wonderful commentary, before arriving at Jimmy's Farm for lunch in a large wooden barn. The barn is extremely old and in urgent need of repair, but as usual the price of repair is astronomical! We were then allowed to roam the farm to see the animals before setting off for the Dedham Vale where we visited Flatford Mill where John Constable

painted his most famous picture 'The Haywain', with time to enjoy our final 'cuppa' before heading home.

Seats are still available for our visits to River Deben for a lunchtime cruise, followed by a visit Sutton Hoo, a National Trust property. Other trips include 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 and Christmas Showtime at Wickstead Park – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December with lunch and afternoon tea.

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 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. A matinee performances - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – few seats still available.

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 East Cliff. This holiday has been arranged by Yorks Group Travel, and we are now accepting bookings for this trip.

Shefford Leisure Group is open to any one 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, or to sign up for our monthly newsletter, please contact Enid on 01462 851397 or e-mail [Enidpamment@aol.com](mailto:Enidpamment@aol.com)

I have only lived in the Village since last November but I have been overwhelmed by the friendliness of everyone. It is a new experience to have the door of the Shop opened for me!

I worked as a Medical Social Worker when there were such things, mostly with children and in the Maternity Hospital. Then for 17 years I was a Probation Officer in London working part-time while the children were growing up. After my husband died London was too expensive so I took early retirement and moved to Bucks near Aylesbury. After a year I was bored and an approach to the Probation Service found me working for the Civil Courts as a Family Court Welfare Officer preparing reports on the welfare of children in disputed Divorce cases. It was fascinating and I learned much about the devious behaviour of people. I did a stint preparing reports for Herts before retiring with plans to put my feet up, but God had other ideas and I found myself training as a Lay Reader.

Along the way I was a Chaplaincy Volunteer for the local Mental Hospital working once a week on the Dementia Unit.

I served as a trustee for CMS for 12 years and this gave me a love of foreign travel visiting Mission Partners in Pakistan, Uganda and Kenya. I've also visited China, Egypt, Canada and New Zealand as well as much of Europe. Hobbies? I've joined the Village Drama Group and the Shefford Leisure Group and I am working on making my small garden more colourful. I enjoy reading and the odd walk along the footpaths.

So why have I ended up in Meppershall? Well blame Mary Vince and Rachel Holmes who live in the High St and asked me to come. It is good having family close and seeing more of my grandchild especially as my son Peter lives in the New Forest and can't visit often.

I'm getting to know some of you but should like to know many more. If I can help in any way please ask and do make yourselves known.

Letter from Claire Penney

## ROBBERY OF TAXI DRIVER IN MEPPERSHALL

Last week I took a cab from Outside Hitchin station to Meppershall. The cab driver, who spoke little English, seemed reticent to take me at first and apologetically asked for my fare before we set off. I didn't argue, gave him £20 and settled in the back of his cab. A couple of minutes into our journey, he started to tell me that he was now afraid of taking passengers to Meppershall as he had been ROBBED by four white youths in the early hours of Sunday morning (1st June 1.15am).

### ROBBED? IN MEPPERSHALL?

I just couldn't believe what I was hearing as he carried on telling me his sorry story. He had picked up 4 youths from Hitchin town centre who asked to be dropped off at the bus stop just outside the village hall. The fare was time and a half as it was past midnight. The youths didn't like this and started to verbally abuse him, push him around and make racist comments towards him. They then ran off, but only after stealing his headrest from his seat and taking some money from him. (The headrest cost him £90 to replace - he lost about £50 cash. A night's work!)

I asked him if he had reported it to the police. He hadn't. He was too afraid. (He was physically shaking when he was reliving his story to me.)

I have since reported it to Herts. Police for him.

I am a Police Officer, serving in London. I unfortunately see racism, robberies, 'cab bilking' and people making off without paying their fares on a regular basis. NEVER would I have guessed that what this lovely, polite, humble, hard working man was telling me had happened in OUR village!

This victim would recognise these people again, they have been spotted on CCTV and it is only a matter of time before Police arrest them. Also, if you witnessed to this incident, PC Busby is very keen to speak with you.

#### Editor's Comment

These two letters reached me on the same day this month but it is hard to believe that they relate to the same village.

I am sure that Pam Halliwell's impression chimes with what most of us like to think about our village, but is hers the general experience? Many new families have come to Meppershall in the last few years: would they all say that they have felt welcome? The Messenger would like to hear from other recent arrivals so that we can form a balanced picture.

Dick Bulley,

## THANKS

*I would like to thank everyone who recently donated to the house-to-house collection on behalf of the British Heart Foundation. As a result of your generous donations a cheque for £60.53 has been forwarded to the foundation.*

*Thank you all so much for supporting this cause. You can rest assured that all your donations will make a huge difference to a great many lives.*

*Dawn Crowson (Collector)*

## THANK YOU

We would just like to thank the person(s) who alerted the police to a suspicious incident occurring on our property a couple of weeks ago.

We are very grateful to whoever made the telephone call and appreciate living in a village where people really do "look out" for one another.

Terry & Colin Page  
90, High Street



## JULY

| Items available   | Phone        | Items Wanted                         | Phone        |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| One only, clear PVC corrugated roof sheet; 10' X 3.6". Large corrugations | 01462 812144 |                                      |              |
| Coloured wooden roses; Assorted candles; Joss sticks & burning oils       | 07818 867605 | Wooden double wardrobe<br>Water Butt | 07818 867605 |
|   |              |                                      |              |

Last month's ads were very successful. Please keep them coming to keep the page alive.

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.

-oooooooo-

On the subject of recycling, look out for the new shoe bank outside the village hall. It will be operated by the same people who have the sack outside the PO, but will be bigger.

## Chez Meppershall VA Lower School

The children will be going on educational visits this term. Our youngest will be visiting Whipsnade Zoo to tie in with their Science curriculum and the older children will be going to Mountfitchet to enrich their learning in history.

Our Year Fours, for the first time this year, have been given the chance to go on a residential visit to France. We are piloting this wonderful opportunity by joining children and staff from another local church school, who have been many times before.

The children in Key Stage 2 have been learning French this year so the participants are keen to try it out in the markets and cafes of Paris. We will also be visiting a French school where we hope to make lasting and strong links through e-mail, giving the children 'key-pad pals'. In this way both nationalities can learn more about a culture other than their own.

The younger children have a regular French 'story time' and all the children can be members of our lunchtime French Club run by Madame Schramm.

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*

Buzz buzz buzz Hey ! I've got a black football in my tree.!

June was very busy and a lot to report. The two nucs are doing well. Lots of oilseed rape honey and two swarms collected ,one from Hoo Road and one from Fildyke Road.

With my modified cardboard box, for swarm capture, I set off to Hoo Road where I met Dave in his garden with his swarm, a small one, in the hedge.

I placed my box on the ground under the swarm and worked with the precision of a surgeon snipping away at the lesser branches whilst firmly holding the branch containing the mother lode with my other hand. I did not want to jolt the swarm prematurely. I placed the swarm in the box and that was that.

The second swarm was in Fildyke Road and was a little different. We needed a long ladder. Andrew phoned at 12.30 Thursday morning. We went along about 2.30 o'clock where they had clustered about 10feet high in a blackberry hedge. Climbing the ladder with my box and clippers I again snipped away at the bush holding the box under the swarm . As I snipped, the bees took flight, hundreds of bees everywhere. After they settled in the box I went to hive them.

#### Hiving the swarm.

I had two spare hives waiting for this purpose. The hives have ten frames of deep foundation and were ready to receive the swarm. I took the box and gently shook and poured the bees close to the entrance. Some of the bees immediately started fanning (with their wings) an orientation scent at the entrance and the rest scrambled right into the hive. What a remarkable sight to see- thousands of bees marching into their new home. I have named the swarms D & A for future reference and will keep you posted on their progress. Here's an old poem of unknown origin that is well known to beekeepers.

A swarm in May is worth a load of hay.

A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon.

A swarm in July is not worth a fly!

A small photo gallery and of course, Honey at Rogers Bakery- see you there.

## Travel Guide: Portugal

Fly or drive to sunny Portugal, where you will soon find plenty of holiday accommodation to choose from. In fact, most of the private holiday villas in Portugal are available for rent all year and are generally of a very high standard. But, before you pack, don't forget to book your Car Rental as driving is easy and many roads are quieter than in the UK.

Lots of holiday villas are situated in Portugal's Algarve region, where they are neatly decorated with whitewashed render and topped with orange coloured pan-tiled roofs. The Algarve coast is very popular with northern European visitors looking for the warmth of the sun in a quieter location than its bordering neighbour, Spain. The Mediterranean climate here ensures that Portugal is blessed with almost 230 days of sunshine each year, plus very little rain.

Most tourists who visit Portugal will head for the coast. With clean sandy beaches, quaint fishing villages and manicured golf courses, it's easy to see why the Algarve is often the No1 attraction. Lisbon is the cosmopolitan capital, situated on the River Tagus, with Oporto being the centre for exporting locally produced Port wine. Nearby is the pretty coastal resort of Cascais.

Portugal's coastal holiday apartments can be booked close to glorious beaches that are ideal for family beach-holidays and offering alternative attractions for the children nearby. The resorts of Tavira, Figueira, Silves, and Vale de Parra are also popular holiday areas that cater well for groups and families of all ages. Albufeira and Vilamoura, arguably two of the Algarve coast's most well known resorts, are both an easy drive from Faro Airport, and benefit from superb beaches and plenty of fun facilities for all.

**Golf in Portugal:** There are many magnificent golf courses that will really test the serious player. The mild climate permits play all year round and, boasting around 70 courses it's why Portugal has quite naturally become a golfer's paradise. Portugal is also spoilt with many gorgeous villas having their own private swimming pool, ideal to return to after a game on the fairways.

For further information about self-catering and villa or apartment holidays in Portugal, visit [www.holidayrentalcentre.com](http://www.holidayrentalcentre.com) or contact the writer: Stuart Johnston

## How to Get a New Job and Love It!

I wonder what your dream kitchen looks like? Is it in a huge room with marble worktops, carved wooden doors on the cabinets and an Aga? For some that will be the case and there will be some people who already have their dream kitchen.

One thing is certain; how successful your dream kitchen is will depend on how you want to use it. For example, if you hate cooking but love ice-cream and cold drinks, you may decide you want to spend more on your fridge and freezer than on your cooker. If you love the great outdoors and sunshine, your dream 'kitchen' might be a disposable BBQ on a great beach!

The same is true if you are looking for a dream job; not everyone has the same dream and people want different things from their job. If you are looking for the perfect job for yourself, try asking yourself these questions:

- What is most important to me – the job I do, how much money I earn, how the job fits in with the rest of my life?
- Do I need to re-train for my dream job?
- What is the demand for people to do the job I want to do?
- Why am I not doing that job now?

The answers to these questions will give you an insight into your motivation for the work you would like to do. Some people have a special skill that they would love to

use in a job; some people just want to earn lots of money and the job itself is largely irrelevant and some people need to work to pay for the things they enjoy outside of their working hours.

If you are really stuck and just don't know what sort of job you would like to do, you could start by gathering a few people round who know you well and ask them what they think you would be good at. The results may surprise you. If you don't like any of their suggestions, you will at least have spent some enjoyable time together and you will have a list of ideas to rule out!

Another suggestion is to get a large sheet of paper and draw or list all the ideas you have had so far. Maybe you thought of something ages ago that you have forgotten about but the idea is still there deep in the recesses of your mind.

The important thing is to start the process – nothing will change unless you make the changes happen - you cannot steer a boat that isn't moving!

Submitted by Jill Foskett – Way-2-Go, Career and Life Coach

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### Easier and Clearer Web Browsing

#### Part 2 of 2

To use the "Address Bar" at the top of your browser you can treat it just like a word processor. All actions such as copy, paste, shade, delete, backspace can be used to transfer addresses from emails and other documents or just type them in from scratch. Using this capability stores the addresses for future use. Just click on the "down arrow" at the right hand end of the address bar and all the previous addresses you typed in will be there, just click on them and go to that website. ***It is a good habit never to click on a web address in an email but copy and paste it into the address bar. This can avoid putting certain types of unwanted "Malware / Spyware / Adware" etc. into your computer.***

In order to get back easily to a particular site, use the "Favourites" command on that "Menu Bar" at the top. Click on it and click on "Add to Favourites". You can now accept the name given or you can type your own description. The "Create in" box lets you choose to put the link you will create into one of the folders in "Favourites" (or you can just click on "Add" and append it to the Favourites list). Using the little "down arrow" choose your folder and then click "Add". To make a new folder (useful if you are collecting information about a particular topic) click on "New Folder", give it a name, click on "Create in" and, using the drop-down menu, choose "Favourites" or drop it into any of the other folders shown. All your links can be deleted by clicking on "Favourites" right clicking on the link and click delete.

One last little tip, if you want to change your Home Page, go to that "Menu Bar" again and click on "Tools" – "Internet Options" – and the current Home Page is shown (shaded). Just type in here the full internet address of the page you want to see first when you start your browser and then click "Apply" and "OK" at the bottom.

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## Calendar of Forthcoming Events

### **July 2008**

|  |                |                                 |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------|
| <b><u>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July</u></b>                                |                |                                 |
| Service for healing and wholeness  | 7.30PM         | St Francis Catholic Ch Shefford |
| Village Hall AGM   | 8.15 PM        | Village hall                    |
| <b><u>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</u></b>                              |                |                                 |
| Pantomime auditions*   | 7.30 PM        | Village Hall                    |
| <b><u>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July</u></b>                               |                |                                 |
| Study Day Moggerhanger   | 10.30 – 3.00PM | Moggerhanger Park               |
| <b><u>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July</u></b>                                |                |                                 |
| Baby & Toddler Group   | 1.45 – 3.15PM  | Village Hall                    |
| Summer Fancy Dress Party   |                |                                 |
| <b><u>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July</u></b>                              |                |                                 |
| Summer BBQ   | 2 – 4.30 PM    | School Field                    |
| <b><u>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July</u></b>                                |                |                                 |
| “Sea Sunday” Service   | 6.00PM         | St Michael’s Shefford           |
| <b><u>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July</u></b>                             |                |                                 |
| Meppershall Parish Council   | 7.30 PM        | School Hall                     |
| <b><u>Tue, Wed, Thur</u></b>   |                |                                 |
| <b><u>22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup> July</u></b> |                |                                 |
| Sparks Daniel & Co   | 10 AM – 2 PM   | St Mary’s Church                |

\* Under 16s must be accompanied by a parent

### **August 2008**

|   |        |                      |
|---|--------|----------------------|
| <b><u>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August</u></b> |        |                      |
| Meppershall Strollers                       | 2.00PM | Outside Village Hall |
|   |        |                      |
|   |        |                      |
|   |        |                      |
|   |        |                      |



Village Hall, Meppershall, Bedfordshire SG17 5LX

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**This month we say GOODBYE to**

**Lucy Wallace  
Maisie Slade  
Megan Myers  
Rachel Andrews  
Samuel Germann  
Elodie Hunt  
Benjamin Saunders  
Archie Underwood  
Michael Wickersham  
Eve Sale  
Alison Watson  
Scott Metcalfe  
Archie Zimmerman  
Toby Standbridge.**

**We wish them all luck in their new  
school's and hope they have enjoyed  
their time at Meppershall Pre-School.**

## W.I. FETE

### A "Thank you"

The ladies of Meppershall W.I. would like to thank everyone who had anything to do with making the mini fete, held on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> June in the Village Hall, such an enjoyable and successful afternoon. Many thanks to the villagers who came along, and spent so freely – your generosity helped to boost the funds of our village organisations. We hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did!

Thanks also, of course, to all those groups who joined us; for the new and original fund raising ideas as well as the more traditional ones that people expect to see at this type of event. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks to Mick Trundle for cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony and for announcing the prize winners, on behalf of the Evergreens, Pre-school and Baby and Toddler groups at the end of the afternoon, in his usual inimitable style!

Finally, our thanks to the Parish Council for their encouragement and support which was greatly appreciated.

And now...a short advert for the W.I. ....

We are a lively bunch of women who meet once a month. Yes – we do sing "Jerusalem" and yes – some of us do make jam! But as our ages range from mid-thirties to ninety you can imagine how varied our interests are. For example, we've recently had a talk by a representative from the Driving Standards Agency, watched a Thai cookery demonstration (then ate the food) and enjoyed a Line Dancing session which was great fun both to watch and take part in. If any of you women out there are curious, do come along and check us out; we meet in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month. At our next meeting we will be doing a "pub walk"- so – if you fancy a stroll on a summer's evening, with the reward of a glass of something afterwards, join us on Wed 9<sup>th</sup> July at 7-30pm – we'd love to welcome you!

## How Far does the *WANDERBUS* travel in a year?

Thanks to all those who entered the Friends of St. Mary's Local Quiz at the WI Village Fete on 7<sup>th</sup> June. The winners were Trevor and Jacqui Wilkinson the only ones who got nine questions correct. So the tie-breaker question "*How many kilometres did the Wanderbus travel last year*" was not needed – the answer is 20,682. There was a very wide range of answers and although a few people got quite close, it occurs to me that lots of people might not know what the Wanderbus does. So do you know that the Wanderbus.....

- Is a not for profit organisation, run and managed by volunteers.
- Operates weekly or monthly scheduled bus services picking up from the villages around Shefford
- Travels to **Shefford, Southhill, Bedford, Baldock, Letchworth, Hitchin, Stevenage and Milton Keynes.**
- Picks up in Meppershall (Bold type destinations above) and where practical drops off passengers as near to their doors as possible.
- IS AVAILABLE TO ALL and has modest fares – but, of course, Beds CC pass holders travel FREE

For full details please contact the co-ordinator on 01767 318444 there is also a **Timetable** on the **Villages Notices Board** outside the Village Hall

Destinations like Milton Keynes are very popular so we are trying to set up a new route to Welwyn Garden City - more news coming soon

Duncan Thomas  
Treasurer, Whitbread Wanderbus

*p.s. Got a few hours to spare once a month? Why not become a volunteer driver – contact the co-ordinator for details*

### Meppershall Strollers

We had a lovely walk past Chapel Farm and out to Stondon on 18<sup>th</sup> May. This walk was a little longer than most have been at 4.5 miles but the weather was kind and even 5 year old Sam managed it.

The next walk will be during the Summer School holidays on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August. If you would like to join us, we will meet outside the Village Hall at 2.00pm and we would love to see you.

-oooooooooooo-

### SPARKS

There will be a meeting for helpers at 15, Buxton Close at 8pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

**This is an essential meeting!**

---

### **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH HIGH STREET, SHEFFORD**

Sunday Masses

|                          |                                   |            |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| First Mass of Sunday     |                                   |            |
| Saturday Evening         | 6pm                               | RAF Henlow |
|                          | 9am                               | Shefford   |
|                          | 5.15pm                            | Shefford   |
| Weekday Services         | See notice at Church or telephone |            |
| Parish Priest:           | Parish Secretary:                 |            |
| Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436 | Rose Boulton 811547               |            |

# Shefford Saints Football Club (Juniors) (FA Charter Standard)



June 2008

## Your Local Team Needs **YOU**

Shefford Saints FC are looking for children to join our Youth Academy in preparation for 7a-side mini soccer matches, starting this September.

We currently offer a variety of coaching for **boys and girls** of all abilities in a safe, controlled environment. All our sessions are coached by top FA qualified coaches who have been CRB checked and hold both First Aid and Child Protection Certificates.

We don't expect them to know the rules, techniques and movements associated with football straight away but strongly believe that developing co-ordination, agility and balance in children can greatly accelerate their development now as well as later on in life.

If your child is **6 (year 1) between 1/9/2007 and 31/8/2008** then we would like to hear from you.

The emphasis of the training session is on having fun and developing basic movement, co-ordination and social skills with a football emphasis.

We will be starting training in August where your children can try it for themselves.

In the first instance please call Paul Savuto on 0783 4499595 who would be happy to discuss any aspect of the club further.

Kind regards

Paul Savuto, and Mark Clark  
Shefford Saints Under 7 Youth Academy Coaches

**Bedfordshire Gardens Trust**  
Caring for Bedfordshire's Designed Landscapes, Parks and Gardens

**Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup> 2008**  
**10:30-15:00**

**Study Day at Moggerhanger Park**

Talks, covering both the house and the grounds, will be given by Peter Inskip and John Drake. There will be private tours of the house itself and of the extensive grounds. Coffee on arrival and lunch are included in the cost.

To take part in what should be an interesting day, please send a cheque for £25, made payable to Bedfordshire Gardens Trust, and a stamped addressed envelope, to:

Kevin Levitt, The Secretary, Bedfordshire Gardens Trust, 8 Hooked Lane, Wilstead, Beds, MK45 3DL

Moggerhanger Park is a Grade I Georgian Country House and is recognised as one of the most complete surviving examples of the work of the architect Sir John Soane. Originally the country home of Godfrey Thornton, Governor of the Bank of England and cousin of William Wilberforce, Moggerhanger Park is of considerable architectural interest, as well as having a rich social heritage.

The Thornton family were members of the 'Clapham Sect', a group of Christians who did much to improve society in 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century Britain. Their most notable and celebrated campaign was for the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

The Moggerhanger estate was landscaped by Humphrey Repton and many of the original features may still be seen, including an ice house, spacious walled gardens and Garden Wood.

## **Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust**

### **Sponsored Bike 'n Hike'**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008 10am – 6pm**

St Mary's C of E – Meppershall

Last year we did well and raised £500 in sponsorship, of which half went direct to St Mary's and half to the Trust. But only 3 cyclists took part. This is your opportunity to lose a few pounds and raise money for your nominated church, hopefully St Mary's. Anyone can take part from 2 to 102 yrs who can walk, cycle, skateboard or roller skate between as many churches as possible and you can even drive to the starting point! You can also help by welcoming riders and walkers to our lovely church and get sponsored for sitting down! There's no excuses for not being involved!

I know it is a couple of months away yet but please consider taking part and getting sponsors. Hopefully by now I should have all the necessary sponsor forms and church lists so please contact me at 3 St Mary's Place or on my mobile 07960 513 498 or when you see me in the village. If you want to find out more, you can check out the Trust's website at [www.bedshertshct.org.uk/bike.htm](http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk/bike.htm)

**LADIES, FOR ALL YOUR MEN FOLK WHO  
ASKED FOR PLAIN SCONES AT THE  
MEPPERSHALL FETE?**

**ALL- PURPOSE SCONES**

225g (8oz) self raising flour  
2.5ml (1/2 tsp) salt  
50g (2oz) butter  
150ml (1/4 pint) fresh milk  
Extra milk for brushing

**METHOD.**

- 1).Sift flour and salt into a bowl.
- 2).Rub butter into flour until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
- 3).Add milk all at once. Mix to a soft, but not sticky, dough with a knife.
- 4). Turn on to a lightly floured work surface. Knead quickly until smooth.
- 5). Roll out to about 1cm (1/2 inch) thick.
- 6). Cut into 7 or 8 rounds with a 6.5cm (2 ½ inch) biscuit Cutter
- 7).Transfer to a greased baking sheet. Brush tops with milk
- 8). Bake at 230Oc (450o F) Mark 8 for 7-10 minutes or until well risen and golden.
- 9).Cool on a wire cooling rack.
- 10).Serve with butter or whipped cream and jam

NB.If using plain flour instead of self raising .use 12.5ml (2 1/2 tsp) baking powder to 225g (8oz

## JULY IN YOUR GARDEN

(With acknowledgements to the RHS)

- Make sure birds have water in dry weather
- Keep new and young plants well watered during the summer, but use water wisely
- Watch out for pests and diseases
- Regularly feed and water all plants in containers
- Continue deadheading flowers as they fade
- Prune shrubs that flowered in early summer
- Take semi-ripe cuttings from shrubs
- Trim conifer hedges and take cuttings
- Summer-prune wisteria
- Divide bearded irises
- Layer and take cuttings of carnations and pinks
- Disbud dahlias to get larger blooms
- Plant autumn-flowering bulbs
- Transplant seedlings of biennials sown earlier
- Water vegetables regularly
- Lift new potatoes, onions and garlic
- Pinch out runner beans when they reach the top of their canes
- Pinch out outdoor tomatoes when four trusses have formed and remove side-shoots
- Pick raspberries and currants
- Harvest herbs for drying
- Keep greenhouses well ventilated and damp-down regularly.

### LAST CHANCE

- Fill any gaps in beds and borders with bedding
- Sow the last vegetables for harvesting in autumn
- Plant out all winter brassicas.

### GET AHEAD

- Make plans to have plants cared for if you are taking holidays in August
- Order spring-flowering bulbs
- Prepare ground for making new lawns in autumn
- Sow salads under cover for autumn and winter
- Prepare new strawberry beds.

**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.

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 JULY***

**July 6      11.15 a.m. Parish Communion,  
& Sunday School in Rectory**

**June 13    8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
              11.15a.m. Family Service and baptism  
              of Beatrice Rodgers**

**July 20      8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
              6p.m. Evensong**

**July 27      8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
              11.15 a.m. 'Sparks' Daniel & Co  
              celebration service (please note change  
              from normal pattern this Sunday)**

**Weekday Services:**

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

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

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

You may just have time to visit.....

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

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 plans for the future. '**Songs of Praise**' at **7.15 p.m.** with the Shefford Town Band, playing locally chosen favourite hymns.  
**Please note revised time.**

## Coming up this month

For all children aged 5-12.....

**'SPARKS – DANIEL & Co'** – a sizzling Christian holiday club based on the story of Daniel and his friends at St Mary's Church and Rectory garden – Tues 22, Weds 23, Thurs 24 July, 10 – 2. Registration forms now 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 Church

Meppershall. Presented by the Herts and Beds Fuchsia Society. Plants for sale – refreshments. Festival service Sunday 6p.m.

**In Shefford** : Tues July 1, 7.30p.m. – Shefford Churches invite you to a Service for **Healing and Wholeness** at St Francis Catholic Church, with opportunity for people to receive individual prayer for any need of their own or of others.

Details- John H 813334

Sunday 13, 6p.m. Open air service to mark '**Sea Sunday**' focussing on the ministry of the Mission to Seafarers and our reliance on all those who work at sea. On the grass in front of St Michael's, High St (or inside if wet).

## 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

|                                    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <u>Shefford, High Street,</u>      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <u>Meppershall, Sugar Loaf</u>     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <u>Meppershall, Rectory Road</u>   | 0728 | 0928 | 1118 | 1328 | 1538 | 1745 | 1840 |
| <u>Meppershall, opp Sugar Loaf</u> | 0730 | 0930 | 1120 | 1330 | 1540 | 1747 | 1847 |
| <u>Shefford, High Street,</u>      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <u>Barton, Windsor Parade</u>      | 0735 | 0935 | 1125 | 1335 |      |      |      |
| <u>Barton, Silver St.</u>          | 0801 | 1003 | 1153 | 1403 | 1554 | 1759 | 1859 |
| <u>Luton, Galaxy Centre</u>        | 0838 | 1031 | 1221 | 1431 | 1622 |      | 1925 |

### Route 79 to Luton – Barton – Meppershall - Shefford

|                                    |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| <u>Luton, Galaxy Centre,</u>       | 0850 | 1040 | 1230 | 1440 | 1630 | 1750 |  |
| <u>Barton, Windsor Parade</u>      | 0912 | 1102 | 1252 | 1502 | 1656 | 1812 |  |
| <u>Shefford, High Street,</u>      |      |      | 1320 | 1530 |      |      |  |
| <u>Meppershall Loaf, Sugar</u>     |      |      |      | 1538 |      |      |  |
| <u>Meppershall, Rectory Road</u>   | 0728 | 0928 | 1118 | 1328 | 1745 | 1845 |  |
| <u>Meppershall opp, Sugar Loaf</u> | 0730 | 0930 | 1120 | 1540 | 1747 | 1847 |  |
| <u>Shefford, High Street,</u>      | 0735 | 0935 | 1125 |      | 1330 |      |  |

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

|                                |       |       |        |       |       |  |  |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--|--|
| <u>Henlow Camp</u>             | 07:37 | 07:37 | 09:52  | 13:27 |       |  |  |
| <u>Sugar Loaf</u>              | 06:45 | 07:45 | 07:45  | 10:00 | 13:35 |  |  |
| <u>Hitchin, Bancroft</u>       |       | 08:20 | 08:25  |       |       |  |  |
| <u>Hitchin, Station</u>        | 07:19 | 08:23 | 08:35B |       |       |  |  |
| <u>Hitchin, Bancroft</u>       | 07:22 |       |        | 10:35 | 14:10 |  |  |
| <u>Hitchin, Grove Road Rd</u>  |       |       |        |       |       |  |  |
| <u>Hitchin, Wilbury Way</u>    |       |       |        |       |       |  |  |
| <u>Train departs to London</u> |       |       |        |       |       |  |  |
|                                |       |       | 08:30  | 08:42 |       |  |  |
|                                |       |       | 07:32  |       |       |  |  |

Sch = School Days. NSch = non-school days.

B = via

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,              |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

|  |      |      |       |      |  |  |
|--|------|------|-------|------|--|--|
| Bedford bus station bay 10               | 1040 | 1240 | 1440  | 1740 |  |  |
| Bedford Ampthill Rd, South Wing Hospital | 1045 | 1245 | 1445  | 1745 |  |  |
| Haynes Church End                        | 1058 | 1258 | 1458  | 1758 |  |  |
| 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 - Bedford**

|  |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| Henlow Camp Bird in Hand                 | 0725 | 0935 | 1135 | 1335 | 1535 |  |
| 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                | 0736 | 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 Ampthill Rd, South Wing Hospital | 0820 | 1025 | 1225 | 1425 | 1625 |  |
| Bedford bus station                      | 0830 | 1030 | 1230 | 1430 | 1630 |  |

SSH (Saturday &amp; School Hols)

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

Anabella Gould who will be 11 on the 1<sup>st</sup>

Charlotte Rose who will 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Oliver Zimmerman who will be 9 on the 6<sup>th</sup>

Chelsea Adams who will be 11 on the 6<sup>th</sup>

Rachel Payne who will be 15 on the 9<sup>th</sup>

Coral Parrish who will be 15 on the 12<sup>th</sup>

Charlotte Watson who will be 7 on the 12<sup>th</sup>

Chloe Watson who will be 7 on the 12<sup>th</sup>

Joshua Wright who will be 8 on the 13<sup>th</sup>

James Metcalfe who will be 6 on the 14<sup>th</sup>

Jessica West who be 13 on the 14<sup>th</sup>

Erica Ward who will be 9 on the 17<sup>th</sup>

Scott Metcalfe who will be 4 on the 17<sup>th</sup>

George Nash who will be 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup>

Cameron Maxwell who will be 6 on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Kerys Henderson who will be 6 on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Heather Bull who will be 7 on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Ella Gregg who will be 10 on the 30<sup>th</sup>