



Arms of the de Meppershall Family

MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



NOVEMBER 2008

Meppershall Village Website: www.meppershall.org

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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CONTENTS

Editorial		Page 2
Village News		3 - 10
Free Cycle		11
School Report		12 - 13
Features:	Rogers Bees	14
	Travel Guide	15
	Computer Tips	17
Calendar of Forthcoming Events		18
Who's Who and Organisations		19 - 22
Village Announcements		23 - 28
St Mary's Church		29 - 33
District Announcements		34 - 35
Recipe		36
Garden Tips		37
Bus Times		38 - 39
Birthdays		40

EDITORIAL

At the end of October a very diminished band of collators put together last month's bumper issue. My sincere thanks to them for their determination, and my equally sincere entreaty that more people help out on the 27th of October. When there are enough people the job is done in an hour, and the time flies by in the social catching-up. The calendar on page 3 shows all the dates for this year and next. The fun starts at 2 PM each time.

We have made some progress on providing appropriate accommodation for back numbers of the messenger and to the "brick" that we won in 1985 as a "Village Venture". We have provisional agreement from the Village Hall Committee to replace the current trophy cabinet with one slightly larger that will have space to accommodate our current collection of back numbers and those for some years to come. We are currently in discussion with local craftsmen to purpose-make the cabinet, and we are very grateful to County Councillor Robin Younger for a grant of £250 from his discretionary fund towards the cost. We are also hugely grateful to Dorothy Morris, not only for sending a further consignment of back numbers, but also for offering to share in the cost of the new cabinet.

One thing we are short of to go in our new cabinet when we get it, is a copy of the very first issue of the Messenger in April 1985. Does anyone in the village still have one? If they would be prepared to donate it to our collection it would be gratefully received and acknowledged, and we would be happy to arrange to have it copied so that the donor would not be without.

And one final plug: our new printer/copier is idle for most of each month. Our Treasurer would be happy to hear from anyone local who needs some copying or printing done – attractive rates!

Dick Bulley

Messenger collating Dates for your diaries.

Please come along to the snooker room behind the Village Hall

2008

October	27	
November	24	double issue
December	No	

2009

January	26	
February	23	
March	30	
April	27	
May	No	Bank holiday
June	1	
June	29	
July	27	double issue
August	No	
September	28	
October	26	
November	30	double issue
December	No	

BE AWARE!!!

Last week my purse was removed from my zipped up handbag in Hitchin. I reported the theft to my bank immediately and they called the police who took statements from me. The time between my arrival in Hitchin and reporting the theft to the bank and police was just 20 minutes!

I received a telephone call the following morning to say my purse had been found in a refuse bin in Letchworth, intact but minus money. I was also informed that two purses had been snatched in Stevenage the same day. Other than a dig in my back, I felt I was lucky but I would like to thank the friendly staff of the National Westminster Bank in Hitchin, plus the Hitchin Police, not to mention the staff in the two shops I visited in a very short space of time. You know, the majority of people are very nice, kind and considerate, especially when someone is in trouble.

Thank you

Name and Address supplied

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

A reminder that poppies will be on sale at the following locations from **25th October**:

- Post Office and Stores
- Rogers Bakery
- The Sugar Loaf PH
- The carriage House Hotel
- Meppershall Lower School (for the children)

Joyce Harris

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Message from Tanya Clark

The response to my article last month regarding establishing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Meppershall was disappointing, to say the least. But I would like to convey my thanks to the 6 people who did respond with further insight into past Neighbourhood schemes and registering their interest in setting up a scheme in the village.

It has been brought to my attention that some residents believe that there is a current scheme within the village because they display the Home Watch sticker. I have spoken with the Watch Scheme co-ordinator for Bedfordshire Police and there is not an official Home Watch scheme for the village. There is only one part of the village that has an active scheme and that is based in the High Street. If you do not live in this part of the village then you are not in a Home Watch scheme.

The next steps I will be taking to set up a scheme are to carry on liaising with the Home Watch co-ordinator and to work with the 6 people who are interested in setting up a scheme. In the meantime, I would welcome more people to register their interest and help keep the lovely village of Meppershall a safe place to live.

I will continue to provide updates to the Messenger.

Tanya

Mobile: 07890307063

E-mail: tanya@tanya3.orangehome.co.uk

Address: 1 Brookside

MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS

The Meppershall Players Pantomime this year will be "Snow White" directed by Beryl Wright. Casting is complete and rehearsals are well underway and being enjoyed by everybody.

Dates for this year's performances are:

30th November curtains up 3:00 pm (£5.00)
 5th December curtains up 7:45 pm (£6.00)
 6th December curtains up 7:45 pm (£6.00)
 7th December curtains up 3:00 pm (£5.00)
 11th December curtains up 7:45 pm (£6.00)
 12th December curtains up 7:45 pm (£6.00)
 13th December curtains up 7:45 pm (£8.00)

The Charity Evening on Thursday 11th December is in aid of Merry-Go-Round opportunity Group (special needs group based in Shefford).

Please support us and this worthy charity whilst enjoying a family Christmas tradition.

The Players meet every 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of each month and every 2nd Thursday at 7:30 pm at the village hall. Our current annual membership fee is juniors £2.00, seniors £5.00, family membership (minimum 1 adult) £8.00. We welcome anyone from age 9 to 90 plus years to participate in any of the following activities: acting, set building, painting, costumes, directing, sound & lighting, back stage and front of house. If any of the aforementioned appeals to you, we look forward to meeting you or call:

Chairman John Stinson 07957 104366
 Graham Scrase 01462-813966
 Colette House 01462-815585

Aly Borthwick

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

At the end of September a small group of us visited Mill Green Museum and the Welwyn Roman Baths. After wandering through the museum, we made our way to the Mill which on that day was working and were given a very instructive talk on the history of the Mill. After which we enjoyed a cream tea, (the scones having been made using their own flour), which was served to us by their volunteers. On our way home we stopped at the Welwyn Roman Baths to be met by another volunteer who also made this tour most interesting.

October 5th saw the first of our trips for this month with a visit to the London Museums; this event is always held in conjunction with Stevenage Group Travel. We continued the month with a visit to St Albans and Dehavilland Aircraft Heritage Centre. We spent the morning in what proved to be one of few nice days of the summer, browsing the shops and an extensive market in St.Albans. After lunch we made our way to the Dehavilland Aircraft Company. This is another venue run entirely by volunteers. Our guide for the afternoon made the history of the development of the Mosquito very interesting. We were then allowed to board the various aircraft on display, before making our way back to Shefford.

The trip to the Lord Mayor's Show on November 8th will be in conjunction with Stevenage Group Travel. Two coaches will make their way to their positions in London in time for the show.

The 19th, 22nd & 23rd November will see our annual visits to the Christmas Spectacular at Thursford, followed by an evening meal at The Norfolk Hero on our way home. (only 4 tickets remain for the 19th).

At the end of the month we visit Bury St.Edmunds for their 5th Annual Christmas Fayre. (A few seats still available).

Sunday 7th December - Magical Christmas Chocolate Cruise – coach to Cadbury World and in the afternoon a special canal boat taking you to an enchanted tunnel where you will meet Father Christmas and each child receives a present – something for adults too!!.

Sunday 14th December – Christmas Showtime at Wickstead Park, price includes show, lunch and tea.

1st – 5th December - Turkey & Tinsel holiday, which will be in Bournemouth this year at the beginning of December

2009 Holidays include a cruise to the Dutch Bulbfields beginning of May and an 8-day holiday to Paignton & Torbay in June

2009 Day Trips – 4th January – Peter Pan (Matinee) at Milton Keynes

4th February – Cinderella on Ice (evening performance) Milton Keynes

Saturday 28th March – Annual Get-Together

Saturday 18th April - Newmarket – The National Stud

Thursday 23rd April - Brick Lane Music Hall – starring 'The Batchelors'.

Shefford Leisure Group is open to everyone in the local community who feels they would like to join us on our ventures. We are always happy to meet new friends. Raffles are held and the proceeds are for Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. For further information regarding dates, prices and availability or to receive our monthly newsletter, please

Meppershall Parish Council Report

The October meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 1st October at Meppershall Lower School.

Highways and Lighting

The Council were pleased to note that the work to improve the pavement outside the Post Office has begun.

Discussions are continuing with Aragon Housing in order to explore ways to improve parking in Fildyke Road, perhaps by the provision of off road parking bays.

Environment and Leisure

The Planters have arrived and will shortly be placed with the organisations that have generously offered to maintain the planting. Volunteers willing to help with the planting of the spring bulbs will be very welcome.

The specification for grass cutting around the village has been prepared and tenders will be sought in November.

Following a review of some of the older play equipment on Foster's Field it is regretted that the tyre swing is beyond sensible and economic repair. It will be removed and the Council will consider replacement equipment. If any users have a view on what you would like in its place please let a Councillor or the Clerk know.

Planning and Housing

No new applications were considered although a number of approvals were notified. As the planning Authority, Mid Beds are launching the Public Consultation for the New

Design Guide For Mid Bedfordshire. As usual anyone wishing to comment on the way planning and housing may go in our area may respond via the website or in writing to Mid Beds at Chicksands.

From the District and County Councillors

The Chairman welcomed our District and County Councillors who reported during the meeting that the plans for the reorganisation of the councils into the Unitary Authority were progressing but inevitably policy decisions were being delayed.

Parish Plan

The Council has begun to make visible progress on aspects of the Plan which fall within its remit or influence, but is still seeking other organisations and interested parishioners to work with the Council to implement other aspects.

Other Matters

Arrangements the Bonfire Night event this year have been put in place and with good fortune and consideration should ensure an enjoyable night out.

John Parsons, Chairman, Meppershall Parish Council

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Wednesday **5th** November and Wednesday 3rd December at 7.45 pm at Meppershall Lower School.



NOVEMBER

Items available	Phone		Items Wanted	Phone
A "Tony Little" cross trainer	01462 815665			
Beech effect video/CD rotating floor standing holder.	01462 815665			
Computer desk	01462 813333			
Dart board in mock wooden case	01462 811964			

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.

SCHOOL REPORT

Meppershall VA Lower School 'An Outstanding Church of England School'

As a Church school, we have an additional Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools close to the time of any Ofsted inspection. As you know, we had a wonderful Ofsted report in June 08, a copy of which can be read on the Ofsted Website. We are all equally delighted at this September 08, S.I.A.S. inspection judgement which summarised by saying:

' Meppershall is an outstanding Church of England school with an excellent working partnership with the church. The extent to which Christian values permeate the experience of the day by day experiences of both adults and children, creates a Christian ethos in which children, of all ages develop academically, spiritually, socially and morally in a safe and happy environment.'

A full copy of this report can be found on the 'National Society' website or is available from the school office. The whole school community of children, teachers, support staff, parents, volunteers and governors are to be congratulated on this wonderful achievement.

Our Governing Body

We have eleven governors, plus the head teacher, Moira Coomes, on our Governing Body. All eleven are hard working, committed volunteers who are dedicated to the success of the

school. Several of the current governors are also parents or former parents at the school. These include Gillian Marshall-Davies, Lisa Frost, Oliver Steeley and Alex Sinfield who are parents of children currently in years 1, 2 and 3 and Vince Holmes who is parent of a former pupil. Roger Bryant is our Parish Council member and he has a grandson in Year 1. Gill Smith is the teacher governor and our local authority governor is Jacqui Plumley who lives in the village and has a background in education.

Rev John Harper, the Rector and Rev Patsy Critchley, the Curate, from St Mary's Church, Meppershall, are also on our Governing Body.

Our Chair of Governors, for the last few years, has been Margaret Evesham. Margaret has stepped down as Chair this September although she stays on the Governing Body, giving us the continued benefit of her expertise and wealth of experience. Vince Holmes has taken over as Chair and we know that we will continue going from strength to strength, benefiting from his support and expertise. Richard Bulley is our Clerk to the Governors and his other role as editor of the informative 'Meppershall Messenger' helps us to maintain and develop our links with the village.

You can still apply for places in Meppershall's **Outstanding Church of England School**. If your child's birth date falls between 1/9/04 and 31/8/05 and if you have not already done so, please contact the school office on 01462 813293 as soon as possible. Mrs Reynolds, our secretary, will arrange a time for you to visit before you submit your application form. There are also a few places available in some other year groups. We may be able to take children from outside the village in accordance with our Admissions Policy.

Meppershall Bakery Bees *by Roger*

As predicted in October, the honey harvest was not good. Only 15lbs of honey from each hive, 45lbs in total, not very good. One reason for this was, when I placed the clearer board on top to clear the bees out on the Sunday, it usually takes about 24 – 48 hours to clear, it then rained on the Monday so was then left until Tuesday. By which time the bees could not get out to forage so they took the honey from the supers and deposited it in the brood box for winter stores. We learn by our mistakes. Better luck next year. I have been feeding the remaining hives with sugar syrup and checking for the varoa mite: so far so good. All hives should get through the winter. They will need about 25 kilos of stores for winter food. Meppershall hives are now 6. Sadly swarm D was too small so I have united it with a queenless colony. To do this we take the queenless colony and place a sheet of newspaper over the brood box and place the Queen rite colony on top. Within 24 hours the bees will eat through the newspaper and become friends. This they have done.

I am feeding the bees with sugar syrup at 2lbs sugar to 1 pint of water. (Not as stated in Octobers issue. Typing error – Sorry!)

November is a good time to take stock of things and tidy up the apiary which at the moment looks like a tip with empty hives, lifts and supers all over the place. Some of the hives need a good coat of paint and a touch of t.l.c. so they are ready for next spring, which is just around the corner. This year I have some spare wax from cappings from the honey extracting and some dirty frames, so I might have a go at candle making.

Candle making is one of the most popular, educational and therapeutic of hobbies, beautiful shapes can be formed in a variety of ways. Bees wax is a 'green wax' from a renewable source and totally environmentally friendly. It burns evenly with a lovely aroma, it is pleasant to touch and easy to work. It is the King of the waxes and as such is highly sought after by cosmetic and polish producers as well as candle makers.

Honey on sale at Rogers Bakery (no candles yet) see you there!

Travel Guide: Turkey

Turkey is a huge mountainous country, with tourism being a major part of the country's economy. Most of the holiday resorts are situated along the outer fringes facing the Aegean Sea. If you are looking for holiday villas or apartments in Turkey close to the beach, then Altinkum is a great place to start. The main beach area is very shallow and clean, ideal for young children and non-swimmers. There is a good choice of hotels and apartments to stay.

The Turkish people are well known for their excellent hospitality and their love of fine cuisine. You'll find English is widely used and spoken apart from in remote areas. Further down the coast is the Bodrum peninsular. The sponge fishing port of Yalikavak along with neighbouring resorts of Gumbet and Gundogan is where you will find stylish Turkey villas to rent (or buy quite cheaply) that are tucked away in quiet areas. Easily accessible by Taxi or Dolmus, the quaint old city of Bodrum is now a thriving centre for business and tourists alike. You can explore the lively markets and street bazzars to bag a bargain, or take a walk along the water-front beside the expensive Gulets and yachts lining the beautiful harbour. There's also plenty of nightlife and clubbing for those seeking lively entertainment.

Known as the 'Turquoise Coast' and sheltered by the Aegean and Mediterranean seas, idyllic locations like Olu Deniz lay undiscovered for years.

The Dolmus is the most practical form of mini-bus that is used to get around Turkish towns and villages, but you will rarely travel alone and often be accompanied by small animals and their owners.

The seaside resorts of Marmaris and Kalkan also provide a wide choice of hotels and holiday villas. If you're flexible or seeking alternative holiday accommodation, the southern coast resort of Antalya is extremely popular with golfers who are attracted to it's luxurious golf courses and mild climate throughout the year.

Once you have booked your hotel or villa accommodation in Turkey, consider a visit to the ancient ruins of Ephesus or the warm 'healing' waters of Pammukale. These can easily be arranged at your nearest Tourist Information Centre, both trips you'll never forget.

For further information about self-catering and villa or apartment holidays in Turkey contact the writer: Stuart Johnston or visit, www.holidayrentalcentre.com

Meppershall Village Hall

**Did you know you can play
snooker at the Village Hall?**

Well, you can.....

**At just 50p a token and a refundable deposit for a cue
(or bring your own) you can come along and have a
game.**

Hours: 8pm to 11pm

Monday to Sunday

**Available for over 16's or
under 16's if accompanied by a responsible adult**

**Interested? Then come along to the Social Club during
the above hours and have a chat with the bar staff**

**St Francis of Assisi R.C. Church Christmas bazaar on Saturday 24 November
at the Shefford, Methodist church hall from 10.30 am Prizes include:**

**£250 cash, Meal for two at the Black Horse, Ireland, Beds , voucher from
Henlow Grange, a Waitrose Christmas Hamper many more seasonal prizes.**

Santa will be visiting to see the little ones

Festive Bazaar Stalls; Red & Green, Christmas Tombola, Xmas Crafts, Toys etc

Hot snacks, lunches and refreshments are served from 10 am

Draw to take place at 2.00pm

Part 1 of 2**Put digital photos onto CD / DVD and share**

So now you have all those precious digital images on your camera, you have plugged it into your computer and used the default automatic windows software to place them in My Pictures folder in My Documents. What now?

To let other people enjoy them there are several ways to do it. You can put copies on a CD/DVD disc, you can turn them into a slide show on your computer desktop and you can email them.

There is a very easy way to copy them to disc using *Windows Explorer*. Provided that your Computer has a re-writable CD or DVD and a blank re-writable disc loaded in, *Right Click on Start / Left Click on "Explore"* / and this will open *Windows Explorer*. Click on *My Documents (near the top) / My Pictures* and choose the photos you wish to copy by shading them. How to do this? If the photos all follow on from each other in sequence then click on the first one, hold down your *Shift Key* and click on the last one. If you want to choose odd ones here or there, click on the first one, hold down the *ctrl key* whilst clicking on each one you wish to copy. Your choices will now be shaded. *Right Click* anywhere in the shaded area and *Left Click on Copy*. Now go back to the left side of the screen and come down until you find your CD / DVD player and *Left Click* on it. Go to the now empty right hand side and *Right Click* choose *Paste* and all you photos will appear "ghosted" ready to be "written" to your disc.

Now go to the top left of your screen and choose *File / Write these files to CD or DVD*, give the disc a short name or date (no more than about 20 characters) and click on *Next*. The files will now quickly be written to your disk and just follow the easy instructions when this is accomplished.

You should now be able to share these photos with anyone who has a computer or domestic CD / DVD player bought in the last five years. Also, you may wish to use this method to backup your photos and keep them safe away from your home in case of fire or theft. To write on your disc buy a CD/DVD felt tip pen or be fancy and buy a labelling kit from PC World.

To change or place a picture on your Desktop, *Right Click* on any photograph file, choose *Set as Desktop Background* and it will magically appear there. Emailing and slideshows in the next article.

~~~~~  
Computer Tips are kindly provided by John Chapman

**Calendar of Forthcoming Events**

## ***November 2008***

|                                                     |               |                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| <b><u>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November</u></b>      |               |                                 |
| Bonfire and Fireworks followed by disco             | 7.00PM        | Village hall                    |
| <b><u>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>     |               |                                 |
| Parish Council Meeting                              | 7.45 PM       | Meppershall School              |
| <b><u>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>     |               |                                 |
| School Assn. Autumn Fayre                           | 2PM – 4PM     | Meppershall School              |
| <b><u>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>      |               |                                 |
| Curriculum Evening for parents, governors and staff | 7.30 PM       | Meppershall School              |
| <b><u>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</u></b>     |               |                                 |
| Friends of Sam Whitbread Quiz Night                 | 7.30 PM       | Samuel Whitbread                |
| <b><u>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>     |               |                                 |
| St Francis of Assisi RC Church, Christmas Bazaar    | From 10.30 AM | Methodist Church Hall, Shefford |
| <b><u>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>       |               |                                 |
| Snow White Opens                                    |               | Village Hall                    |
|                                                     |               |                                 |

## ***December 2008***

|                                                 |             |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| <b><u>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</u></b> |             |                    |
| Parish Council Meeting                          | 7.45 PM     | Meppershall School |
|                                                 |             |                    |
|                                                 |             |                    |
| <b><u>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</u></b>   |             |                    |
| School Assn .Family Disco                       | 6.00- 800PM | Village Hall       |
|                                                 |             |                    |

## WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT IN MEPPERSHALL CHURCHES

### St. Mary's Parish Church

|                                 |                                         |              |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Rector:                         | Rev. John Harper                        |              |
|                                 | The Rectory, Church Road                | 813334       |
| Curate:                         | Rev. Patsy Critchley                    |              |
|                                 | 39 Rooktree Way, Haynes                 | 01234 381510 |
|                                 | (normally available Wed, Fri & Sun)     |              |
| Church Wardens:                 | Mr. Brian Bellamy, 125 High Street      | 815944       |
|                                 | Mrs. Brenda Wright, 75 High Street      | 816446       |
| Lay Reader:                     | Pam Halliwell, 15 Buxton Close.         | 817069       |
| Junior Church leader            | Alex Sinfield 97, High Street           | 851473       |
| <u>Parochial Church Council</u> |                                         |              |
| Secretary:                      | Mrs. Janice Middleton, 11 Shefford Road | 813925       |
| Treasurer:                      | Mr. D. Bartlett, 14 Taylors Close       | 811191       |

### Methodist Chapel

|           |                                           |        |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| Minister: | Rev. P. Snelson, 79 Amphil Road, Shefford | 813284 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------|--------|

### Roman Catholic Church

|         |                      |        |
|---------|----------------------|--------|
| Priest: | Father Bennie Noonan | 813436 |
|---------|----------------------|--------|

## SCHOOLS

|                                    |              |                   |        |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------|
| Meppershall Lower School           | Head Teacher | Mrs. Moira Coomes | 813293 |
| Henlow Middle School               | Head         | Mr. Payne         | 813733 |
| Samuel Whitbread Community College | Head         | Mr. Rob Robson    | 629900 |

## DOCTORS

|                                                                    |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Cakebread & Partners, The Health Centre, Ivel Dale Drive, Shefford | 814899 |
| Puritz & Collins, The Surgery, 109 Station Road, Lower Stondon     | 850305 |

## LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

|                                                                                           |                                                                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman, Parish Council                                                                  | Mr. John Parsons, 17, Shillington Road                                              | 01462 813333      |
| Council meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month, in Meppershall Lower School at 7.45pm |                                                                                     |                   |
| Clerk:                                                                                    | Mr. C. Waghorn, 15 Church Lane, Letchworth                                          | 637531            |
|                                                                                           | Email: <a href="mailto:waggers.uk@ntlworld.com">waggers.uk@ntlworld.com</a>         |                   |
| County Councillor:                                                                        | Cllr. Robin Younger                                                                 |                   |
|                                                                                           | Jesmond House, High Street, Flitton                                                 | 01525 717090      |
|                                                                                           | Email: <a href="mailto:robin.younger@bedscc.gov.uk">robin.younger@bedscc.gov.uk</a> |                   |
| Surgery/Advice Centre:                                                                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday each month (except August), Shefford Library 10am – 11.30am  |                   |
| District Councillors:                                                                     | Mr. Paul Carne, 6 Hoo Road, Meppershall                                             | 857803            |
|                                                                                           | Email: <a href="mailto:paul.carne@midbeds.gov.uk">paul.carne@midbeds.gov.uk</a>     | Fax: 01462 857804 |
|                                                                                           | Mr. Tony Rogers, 3 Poppyhill, Henlow                                                | 816305            |
|                                                                                           | Email: <a href="mailto:tony.rogers@midbeds.gov.uk">tony.rogers@midbeds.gov.uk</a>   | Fax: 01462 816510 |
| Member of Parliament:                                                                     | Mrs. Nadine Dorries, House of Commons                                               |                   |
|                                                                                           | London SW1A 0AA                                                                     | 0207 2194239      |
| Member of Euro Parliament:                                                                | Christopher Beazley (Con)                                                           |                   |
|                                                                                           | C/o Herts & Stotfold Conservative Ass, 4a Swains Mill                               |                   |
|                                                                                           | Crane Mead, Ware, Herts. SG12 9PY                                                   | 01920 463064      |

**SHOPS**

|                                                 |                                                      |        |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Roger's Bakery & General Store (next to School) | Mon-Fri 8.15am – 5.30pm / Sat 8am – 1.30pm           | 813398 |
| Post Office & Village Store, 6 High Street      |                                                      | 811252 |
| Post Office:                                    | Mon-Fri 9am – 1pm & 2pm – 5.30pm (closes 12..30 Sat) |        |
| Shop:                                           | Mon-Thurs 6am – 6pm, Friday 6am – 7pm                |        |
|                                                 | Saturday 6.00am – 6pm, Sunday 6.30am – 1pm           |        |

**PUB**

|                |                                          |        |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|--------|
| The Sugar Loaf | 25 High Street (Charlie & Glynis Bailey) | 813513 |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|--------|

**ORGANISATIONS****Meppershall Village Hall Committee**

|                               |                              |        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| Chairman:                     | Steve Ansell 6, High Street  | 811252 |
| Treasurer:                    | Mr. D. Birch                 | 817014 |
| Secretary                     | Linda Gold 7, Brook mead     | 811970 |
| Booking Secretary:            | Karen Lucas, 51A High Street | 811581 |
| Village Hall Telephone Number |                              | 817359 |

**Babysitting Circle**

Vacant

**Brownies**

|            |                         |              |        |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------|
|            | Mondays 6pm – 7.30pm    | Village Hall |        |
| Brown Owl: | Mrs. Christine Elbourne |              | 811964 |
| Snowy Owl: | Mrs. Suzanne Brightwell |              | 815752 |

**Beavers**

|                       |                          |                    |        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------|
|                       | Tuesdays 6.30pm – 7.30pm | Shefford Scouts HQ |        |
| Leader:               | Mrs. Hayley Henshall     |                    | 817446 |
| Leader (Shillington): | Jan Montgomery           |                    | 712386 |

**Bingo**

Fridays 7pm Village Hall

**Mid Beds Conservative Association**

|            |                                     |        |
|------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Chairman:  | Mrs. Pippa McLuskie, 4 Stondon Road | 813417 |
| Secretary: | Mrs. G. Bird                        | 811260 |

**Cubs**

|             |            |        |                 |        |
|-------------|------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Shefford    | Wednesdays | 6.45pm | David Cousins   | 811441 |
| Shillington |            |        | Pauline Goodman | 711943 |

**Evergreen****Alternate Thursdays 2.30pm Village Hall**

|            |                                         |              |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| (over 60s) | Miss E. Ashton (Poppy), 20 Fildyke Road | 07931 636544 |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|

**Friends of St. Mary's Church**

|            |                                     |        |
|------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Chairman:  | Mr. Trevor Thorley, 9 Hoo Road      | 813357 |
| Secretary: | Margaret Evesham, 107A, High Street | 814291 |
| Treasurer: | Mr. H. Davies, 15 Hoo Road          | 812127 |

**Shefford Leisure Group**

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street | 851397 |
|------------------------------------|--------|

**Meppershall Players (Amateur Dramatic Society)**

|                      |               |        |
|----------------------|---------------|--------|
| Chairman:            | John Stinson  | 816919 |
| Contact              | Colette House | 815585 |
| Treasurer & Contact: | Graham Scrase | 813966 |

**Meppersall Lower School Association**

|              |                 |        |
|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| Chairperson: | Sarah Saunders  | 850817 |
| Secretary:   | Lorraine Jarvis | 811216 |
| Treasurer:   | Ann Cawley      | 819434 |

**Meppershall Social Club**

(see Notice Board for opening times)

|           |                              |        |
|-----------|------------------------------|--------|
| Chairman: | Mr. G.R.Walker, 37 Brookmead | 815183 |
|-----------|------------------------------|--------|

**Meppershall Baby & Toddler**

Tuesdays 1.30pm – 3.pm

Village Hall

|              |                     |        |
|--------------|---------------------|--------|
| Chairperson: | Jessica Bryant      | 819143 |
| Secretary:   | Liz Gornley-Fleming | 814110 |
| Treasurer:   | Nicola Metcalfe     | 816785 |

**Meppershall Pre-School**

Village Hall

Monday - Friday Morning: 9.30am – 12 noon.

Mon, Wed, Fri only: Afternoon: 12.45 – 3.15

Lunch Clubs available: 12.00 – 12.45

|              |                  |        |
|--------------|------------------|--------|
| Chairperson: | Catherine Turner | 812134 |
| Secretary:   | Rachael Bamford  | 819403 |
| Registrar:   | Louise Hutson    | 814148 |

**Scouts**

|             |              |       |        |
|-------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| Shefford    | Diane Landau | 01234 | 381153 |
| Shillington | Paul Major   |       | 834251 |

**Tennis (at Langford)**

Neil Franklin

815735

**Womens Institute**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in month 7.30pm

Village Hall

|            |                |        |
|------------|----------------|--------|
| President: | Gillian Thomas | 815979 |
|------------|----------------|--------|

**AMENITIES**

|                                          |                                                                                                                   |                                                 |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Banks</b>                             | Barclays, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford<br>Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm                                      | 0845 7555 555                                   |
| <b>B&amp;B</b>                           | Old Joe's                                                                                                         | 815585                                          |
| <b>Dentist</b>                           | Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Shefford                                                                                | 814020                                          |
| <b>Fishmonger</b>                        | Les Braithwaite (Mobile Van) – Thursdays approx 11.45am                                                           |                                                 |
| <b>Flower Workshops</b>                  | Joanne Sheppard, 74 High Street. Booking essential.<br>Children: Saturday 10.30-12.00; adults Tue & Wed 7.30-9.00 | 816849                                          |
| <b>Greengrocer</b>                       | Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) – Fridays 12.30pm – 2.30pm                                                                | 711802                                          |
| <b>Hedgehog Rescue</b>                   | Hedgehog Trust<br>St. Tiggywinkles                                                                                | 01584 890801<br>01844 292292                    |
| <b>Kennels/Cattery</b>                   | Wayside, Chapel Road                                                                                              | 813261                                          |
| <b>Library</b>                           | High Street, Shefford                                                                                             | 639070                                          |
| <b>Livery Yard &amp; Training Centre</b> | Caroline Carter, Fildyke Road                                                                                     | 07747 686118                                    |
| <b>Mobile Library</b> (alternate Wed)    | High Street/School 1.55pm – 2.10pm<br>Village Hall 2.15pm – 2.30pm<br>Fildyke Road 2.35pm – 2.50pm                |                                                 |
| <b>Newspapers</b>                        | Meppershall Village Stores & PO                                                                                   | 811252                                          |
| <b>Police</b>                            | Emergencies/Police attendance required<br>Shefford Police Post (non emergencies)                                  | 01234 841212<br>Or 01582 471212<br>01234 841212 |
| <b>School of Dance</b>                   | Positive Moves Saturday Mornings Village Hall<br>Emma Scott, 29, Fildyke Road                                     | 07914 063892                                    |
| <b>Whitbread Wanderbus</b>               |                                                                                                                   | 01767 318444                                    |

# ***Meppershall Village Hall***

## ***BONFIRE NIGHT***

***Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008***

***Advanced Tickets available from***

***Post Office and Roger's Bakery***

***Adults £4, Children under 16 £2***

***Family (2 adults and 2 children) £10***

***Tickets on the Night:***

***Adults £5, Children under 16 £2.50***

***Family (2 adults and 2 children) £12***

***Includes entrance to firework display and disco  
afterwards in the Village Hall***

***Food Available from Fish & Chip Van***

***Lighting the Bonfire at 5.45pm***

***Firework Display begins 7pm***

***All Welcome !!***



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

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX APPEAL**

We are still urgently looking for donations of small toys, soap, pens, pencils, paper, etc. Apparently plastic jewellery and bling items are special favourites of the girls. The rules for filling the box are simple – no liquids, only clothing allowed are hats, scarves and gloves, and no war toys or books with writing. These can be given to me, a Brownie or left at the Post Office or Bakery. There is no need to fill a shoe box on your own although obviously it would be marvellous if you could. If you want to know more please give me a call.

We also urgently need empty shoe boxes and if Elaine who got in touch with me still has some could you please phone me again as I must have written down your phone number incorrectly.

### **Fun Fund Raising Event**

We will also be holding a fund raising event to raise the funds to send the filled boxes abroad. This will be from 6 to 7.30 on 10 November. There will be games, bring and buy (brilliant new items for sale – so shop for Xmas) and other stalls. Please come along and join us for a fun evening raising funds for this worthy cause.

If you would like to donate any items for shoe boxes, or even empty or full boxes, please bring them on 10 November or drop them off to me at 5 St Marys Place anytime or give me a call on 01462 817409 and I will collect them.

### **Stories**

It is hard to imagine how desperate these children are. The Brownies find it really hard to believe that the shoe box is the only present these children will receive at Christmas. There are lots of stories about where the boxes go to on this web site and they are interesting to read on how a simple gift of a filled shoe box can give so much pleasure [www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/stories](http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/stories). These are just one or two examples :

A child overjoyed because he had pen and paper in his box and so would now be allowed to go to school.

Children who have **never** had a toy of their own.

“All the young children I meet have been born here. I visit a house, which measures 15 feet by 12 feet, where a family of four must eat, wash and sleep. Although it has basic equipment it is no bigger than the size of my room back home. The families tell of their total despair and depression - they feel they have no future. But the children show sheer joy as they open their shoe boxes: Moma, 3, is delighted with his toy cars and plays with them transfixed. He does not let them out of his grip and beams for the camera, his wide smile animating his whole face. Angela, 10, shows off her new scarf and hat and is clearly very proud. She takes each item out of the box one by one, and then neatly places everything back in there - even the elastic band.” - description of the effects of boxes sent to Serbia.

A little girl of eight who has never even seen a Barbie doll before – and strokes the doll's long hair in wonder.

A girl of nine who has never seen herself in a mirror before – and makes little faces at herself in amazement.

Many thanks for all your support in earlier years and hopefully this year. Things may look bleak here at the moment with current economic problems but nothing like these children face every day.

Christine Elbourne  
Meppershall Brownies

### **Message from Pam Halliwell**

I find, as I expect some of you do, that time seems to go faster these days and so I make no apology to looking ahead to next year.

Do you find yourself wondering if there is anything more to life than work, shopping, worrying about the credit crisis and the needs of the family? We seem to ask many questions but never find any answers.

Would you be interested in meeting a group of fairly local people who have faced the same dilemmas and set out on a quest for answers from outside our own limited experience, from a more spiritual dimension? If this rings bells then you are invited to meet them at my home, 15 Buxton Close at lunchtime 12 noon till about 2pm on Friday January 16th. Please bring a sandwich or two, drinks provided.

If people are interested the plan is to start a small group to take our exploration further. If there are people who are not free in the daytime let me know and it may be possible to start another group in the evenings. I will confirm the date later. Meanwhile best wishes for the Christmas season, may it be a truly blessed time without the usual frantic rush and bustle.

Pam Halliwell

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

**Sunday Masses**

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

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# MEPPERSHALL BABY & TODDLER GROUP



COME ALONG AND JOIN US.

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



JESSICA

FURTHER INFO. TEL (01462) 819143

(01462 814110) LIZ

NICOLA

(01462) 816785





# Meppershall Players Present



## *Snow White*

a Pantomime by Norman Robbins

30<sup>th</sup> November & 7<sup>th</sup> December Matinee 3 p.m.

5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December 7:45 p.m.

### Meppershall Village Hall

Tickets; Matinees £5 Evenings £6 Last Night £8

No Concessions on any Performance

***ST MARY THE VIRGIN  
MEPPERSHALL PARISH CHURCH  
(CHURCH OF ENGLAND)  
Church Rd, off Campton Rd***

Rector: (Meppershall & Shefford) Rev John Harper, 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 November**

- Nov 2** 11.15 a.m. Parish Communion & 'JC'  
(Junior Church/Jesus Club) - in Rectory.  
6p.m. All Souls service (especially for those who are  
bereaved) – see note below
- Nov 8** 1p.m. Wedding: Mark Jepps and Jessica Wiley
- Nov 9** **Remembrance Sunday**  
8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
10.50a.m Service of Remembrance with 2 minutes  
silence at War memorial
- Nov 16** 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
6p.m. Evensong with address
- Nov 22** 3p.m. **Deanery Confirmation service** with Bishop of  
Bedford
- Nov 23** 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
11.15 a.m. Family Communion. & 'JC'. Responses to this  
year's 'Thanks Giving' renewal will be offered to God  
during this service
- Nov 30** 9.45a.m. United Benefice Family Communion  
at St Michael's Shefford, with breakfast from 9a.m.  
Please ask if a lift is needed – 813334

**Weekday Services:**

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

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

Saturdays 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer

**All Souls Service – Sunday Nov 2, 6p.m.**

This annual service is particularly for those who have been bereaved, although of course everyone is warmly invited.

Opportunity will be given for loved ones to be remembered in prayer, and a candle placed on the altar in their memory. A similar service

‘Special Memories’ takes place at St Michael’s Shefford on this Sunday at 9.45a.m.

There is also a People’s Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in St Albans Cathedral on Sunday Nov 23, 3p.m. Suitable for bereaved children.

**Confirmation Service - Sat Nov 22, 3p.m.**

This month St Mary’s plays host to the Confirmation Service for candidates from the Shefford Deanery, including a number of young people from the village. A confirmation is a very significant occasion in a person’s journey of faith, and the larger the congregation the more likely it is that those taking this step will feel encouraged and valued, The service will be conducted by the Bishop of Bedford. . Do join us if you can. Refreshments afterwards

An introduction to ‘**Godly Play**’ Thurs November 6 7.30 – 9p.m. at St Michael & All Angels, High St, Shefford . Presented by Rev’d Vanessa Cato, Diocesan Children’s Adviser. An innovative approach to encouraging children in their journey of faith. Please ring to confirm attendance

01462 851473. No cost – all welcome

**Dear friends,  
 ‘to have and to hold from this day forward’...**

One of the greatest delights of my job is to be able to get to know couples as they look forward to their wedding, and then to conduct the ceremony on their big day. It’s always feels a great privilege to be so involved in something so important in their lives, and my hope is that something of the significance of the words and actions of the service stays with them as the months and years go by. Sometimes however I have found myself having to explain to enquiring couples that I am not in a position to conduct their wedding, usually because they are not able to satisfy the legal requirements for a wedding in this benefice. Either they do not live in the parish or they are not able to meet the fairly stringent demands of a ‘Special Licence’. Often the sound of disappointment in their voice has been quite tangible. However, as from last month, the legal grounds for marriage in the local Church have been extended, and not I feel, before time. The Church authorities have always tried to protect the principle that there should be a genuine connection between those being married and the Church where their ceremony is conducted. This was established in the days where people for the most part lived their whole lives within the same neighbourhood, and where the local Church was the place of worship they naturally identified with. Today that is the exception rather than the rule, and often people feel that they connect with a particular Church even though they live far from it, and may never have lived within its parish.

So in recognition of changing social patterns, the Church has widened the grounds for permission to marry. In brief, couples who live outside the parish may now marry in the Parish Church if they can provide evidence that:

- One or other was baptised or confirmed there;
- A parent or grandparent was married there;
- One or other, or a parent, has lived in the parish for at least 6 months.
- One or other, or a parent, has habitually attended worship there for at least 6 months. (please note this is not an exhaustive summary).

In addition, couples, as before, may marry at the Church where at least one has their name on the Church Electoral Roll, or of course where one or other lives in the parish.



So the opportunities are much greater now for Churches to welcome those who seek the assurance and the richness of a Christian wedding. Given certain safeguards and assurances there is also opportunity for those who have been previously married to apply for their wedding on the same grounds as above. I believe a key characteristic of the Church should be her willingness to say 'Yes' to those who seek her ministry, and I trust that this new legislation will extend that 'Yes' to many more of those who are looking for the blessing that marriage in the sight of God provides. Patsy or I will always be pleased to explain the options for a Church wedding and what is involved in preparation, to any who may wish to enquire.

With good wishes,

John Harper, Rector

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### **COMMUNITY CHAPLAINS NEEDED**

**Community Resettlement Support Project** is a new charity set up as a *Community Chaplaincy* which has been set up to support men who are preparing to be released from **HMP Bedford**, supporting them as they leave through the gate into the communities of Bedfordshire, Luton and N Hertfordshire and in the days and weeks following their release as they resettlement in the community.

#### **Why is there a need for this Project?**

HMP Bedford is a Category B Remand Prison for adult men aged 21+. Nationally the re-offending rate for offenders returning to prison within 2 years of their release is 55% and higher for younger men. This is a situation which affects offenders, their families, their children and all our communities. Many men who are released face high levels of stress, anxiety and loneliness as they are released from prison and need someone who will listen to them and support them as they seek to turn their lives around.

**The Community Resettlement Support Project** has been developed by the multi-faith Chaplaincy Team at HMP Bedford. The ethos of the Project is based on the Community Chaplaincy initiative originally developed in churches in Canada with proven success at reducing re-offending rates.

**Rev'd Sally White**, Chaplain at HM Prison Bedford and a Trustee said *"This work is one way for the Christian Community in our area and individual Christians to show the love of God in a practical way for a group of people outside of the life of the Church"*

Bishop Christopher said *"The virtues of courage, hope and patience are not very often found in civic society these days, but in the charitable sector they are alive and well. The charitable project led by Sally White and others is ground-breaking, committed as it is to some of the most needy and vulnerable people in society. I wish it every success."*

The Project is looking to recruit and train volunteers to provide befriending support; if you are interested in finding out more about being a volunteer, or how you can support this work, please contact **Rob Burton on 07940211527** or email **sally.white@hmps.gsi.gov.uk** for an information pack and details of the volunteer information evenings taking place in early December.

# Bedford Hospital

## Council of Governors

*Represent Your Community*



### Changes to your local hospital

Bedford Hospital's application to become a Foundation Trust is now well underway and approval of the application will mean big changes to how your local hospital is run. The central government will have less influence on how the hospital operates and instead you, the people of Bedfordshire will help to shape the future of your hospital.

### The Council of Governors

The Council of Governors will be partly made up of local people like you who will meet four times a year with the Board of Directors to ensure that your community's perspective is provided on the development of future plans and significant changes within the hospital.

### Becoming a Governor

Anyone living in Mid or North Bedfordshire can become a governor as governors are elected by the communities they intend to represent. Chief executive of Bedford Hospital Jean O'Callaghan says:

"Getting members of the public actively involved in the issues and proposed developments within the hospital is vital and the Council of Governors is a fantastic opportunity for local people to make a real difference by representing their community's perspective"

If you would like more information or to register your interest and request a Governor's pack please log onto [www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk](http://www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk) and click on the Foundation Trust pages, or alternatively, contact Kelly Burgess or Kate Burke on 01234 792627.

Friends of Samuel Whitbread



## **Quiz Night**

**Quizmaster Mr Eugene O'Sullivan**

**Saturday 22 November.**

**7.30pm**

**Samuel Whitbread Community College, Clifton**

**Licensed bar**

**Ploughman's supper included in price**

**Teams up to 8 people**

**Tickets just £5**

**Buy your tickets on 629900 or post name, contact number and payment to FoSW, Samuel Whitbread Community College, Shefford Road, Clifton SG17 5QS  
(please write cheque to Samuel Whitbread Parents' committee)**

**CHOCOLATE AND PEAR TART****INGREDIENTS.**

1 pkt shortcrust pastry  
125g ground almonds.  
2 eggs  
125g butter, softened.  
95g caster sugar  
185g Luxury Continental Belgian dark chocolate, melted  
3 conference pears, peeled, cored and quartered.

**METHOD**

- 1) Preheat the oven to 190 oC, 375o F, gas mark 5.
- 2) Roll out pastry until ½ cm thick and use it to line a 24cm tart tin. Leave in the freezer to rest for at least 20 minutes, or as long as you can.
- 3) Bake the pastry for around 10 minutes in the preheated oven, then remove, set aside, and reduce the oven temperature to 170o C, 325o F, and gas mark 3.
- 4) Mix your almonds, eggs, butter and sugar together, and stir in the melted chocolate while still warm.
- 5) Pour the mixture evenly into the pastry case.
- 6) Bake the tart for 45 minutes until the pastry is golden brown and the chocolate and almonds mixture is firm. Serve warm with crème fraiche.

Recipes are supplied each month by Brenda Putwain

## **GARDEN TIPS FOR NOVEMBER**

With acknowledgements to the RHS

- Tidy the garden for winter
- Clearout bird boxes and put food out for birds
- Don't have a bonfire without checking the heap for hibernating creatures
- Press on with winter digging
- Clean or chuck old pots and trays
- Plant bare-rooted trees and shrubs and new roses
- Protect tender and newly planted shrubs from frost and wind
- Plant tulip bulbs
- Get the lawnmower serviced and sharpened
- Protect alpine from winter rains
- Keep off the lawn in frosty weather
- Insulate pots left out for the winter
- Install pond and greenhouse heaters
- Heel in a winter supply of leeks by the back door
- Plant fruit trees and bushes
- Lift and divide rhubarb crowns
- Winter-prune fruit trees and bushes
- Insulate the greenhouse

### **LAST CHANCE**

- Protect tender plants from winter weather
- Lift and store dahlias
- Start off hippeastrum (amaryllis) bulbs to flower at Christmas
- Plant out spring bedding
- Plant garlic

### **GET AHEAD**

- Order seed catalogues
- Begin any winter-pruning of deciduous trees and shrubs, including renovation of hedges
- Prune glasshouse vines

### Bus Timetables – (Weekdays only given here)

In developing the Meppershall Village Plan it was clear that there was a lack of knowledge about the buses serving Meppershall.

The following information has been taken from the web and has been abbreviated to show the main stops, including Meppershall:

Full information can be obtained from the bus companies or their websites.

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

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

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

|                             |      |      |      |      |      |                   |      |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|
| Luton, Galaxy Centre,       |      | 0850 | 1040 | 1230 | 1440 | 1630              | 1750 |
| Barton, Windsor Parade      | 0712 | 0912 | 1102 | 1252 | 1502 | 1656              | 1812 |
| Sheffield, High Street,     |      |      |      | 1320 | 1530 | 1740 <sup>p</sup> | 1840 |
| Meppershall Loaf, Sugar     |      |      |      |      | 1538 | 1745              | 1845 |
| Meppershall, Rectory Road   | 0728 | 0928 | 1118 | 1328 | 1540 | 1747              | 1847 |
| Meppershall opp. Sugar Loaf | 0730 | 0930 | 1120 |      |      | 1830              |      |
| Sheffield, High Street,     | 0735 | 0935 | 1125 |      | 1335 |                   |      |

|                                                 |        |             |        |            |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|------------|
| Route 89 to Henlow Camp – Meppershall - Hitchin |        |             |        |            |
| Henlow Camp                                     |        |             |        |            |
| Sugar Loaf                                      |        |             | 09:52  | 13:27      |
| <b>Hitchin, Bancroft</b>                        | 06:45  | <b>NSch</b> | 07:37  | 07:45      |
| <b>Hitchin Station</b>                          |        |             | 07:45  | 13:35      |
| <b>Hitchin, Bancroft</b>                        | 07:19  |             | 08:20  | 08:25      |
| <b>Hitchin, Grove Road Rd</b>                   | 07:22  |             | 08:23  | 08:35B     |
| <b>Hitchin, Wilbury Way</b>                     |        |             |        | 10:35      |
| Train departs to London                         |        |             |        | 14:10      |
| Sch = School Days. NSch = non-school days.      | 07:32  | 08:30       | 08:42  |            |
|                                                 | B =via | Girls       | School |            |
| Route 89 to Hitchin – Meppershall - Henlow Camp |        |             |        |            |
| Train arrives from London                       |        |             |        | 18.16      |
| Hitchin, Wilbury Way                            |        |             | 17:05  | 18:20      |
| <b>Hitchin, Grove Road,</b>                     |        |             |        |            |
| <b>Hitchin Station</b>                          | 15.54B | <b>Sch</b>  | 15:57  | 18:27      |
| <b>Hitchin, Bancroft,</b>                       | 12:35  |             | 16:00  | 18:30      |
| Sugar Loaf                                      | 13.08  |             | 16:33  | On request |
| <b>Henlow Camp,</b>                             | 13.16  |             | 16:41  | 17:48      |
|                                                 |        |             | 17:56  | 17:56      |



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

Alice Geneux who will be 6 on the 1<sup>st</sup>

Ben Halford who will be 4 on the 4<sup>th</sup>

Elliot Cooper Hughes who will be 10 on the 10<sup>th</sup>

Danielle Savory who will be 15 on the 10<sup>th</sup>

Freddie Hefford who will be 3 on the 10<sup>th</sup>

Emily Crowson who will be 12 on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Abbie Saunders who will be 9 on the 19<sup>th</sup>

Lucy Wallace who will be 5 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Alex Thorne who will be 9 on the 28<sup>th</sup>

Rebecca Croft who will be 15 on the 30<sup>th</sup>

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