



Arms of the de  
Meppershall Family

# *THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER*



**VOLUME 25 – Issue 3**  
***JUNE 2009***

Meppershall Village Website: [www.meppershall.org](http://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 12<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication at the end of that month. Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

### **DISCLAIMER**

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

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## **EDITORIAL**

So I did it again! Reprinting April birthdays in May! Profound apologies to all children who were disappointed last month: they are there this month, along with the real June birthdays.

After a slightly slim issue last month, I am delighted to welcome two new features this month. On page 13 is the first of a regular Financial News Update, and many thanks to Jon Ingarfill for volunteering to contribute this each month. Please take up his request to suggest topics or financial questions to him. On page 17 is the first of a mini-series by Melissa and Lee Hamilton on the virtues of buying local produce. And a warm welcome and congratulations to two new contributors who have just taken up new positions: Peter Chapman on his election as Chair of the Parish Council and therefore, *ex officio*, author of our Parish Council Report, and Gill Smith who is currently Acting Head Teacher of our school and will be formally Interim Head Teacher from September. Gill now contributes the School Report.

And talking of public service, may I draw your attention to the report on page 31 from the Meppershall Gardening Club – henceforward to be known as the MGC! The club is very much to be commended for volunteering to brighten up the front of the Village Hall with flowers and shrubs, as is the Village Hall Committee for accepting their offer and contributing funds; likewise the Parish Council for contributing Funds and four large planters, which they just happened to have! If you would like to volunteer your labour for this project, please contact one of the ladies of the MGC.

One type of contribution that I think is still needed in this magazine is humour. The Messenger at the moment is a fairly serious publication, apart from the unintended humour of the Editors mistakes! We could do with some deliberate light relief, whether as jokes, cartoons or funny stories. If any one feels able to contribute along these lines, please get in touch; if several people do, it will make for variety.

Dick Bulley



## LETTERS

### Message of Thanks

Dave and Kathy Hankins would just like to thank all those people in the village who made their daughter Amy's wedding day so special when she married Matt on Easter Saturday. We would specially like to thank The Reverend John for the wedding service and the ladies at the church who did the lovely Easter flowers which filled the church.

Kathy would like to thank especially Vicky Gudgin for her wonderful help and for the fabulous bridal hair and make up that she did; the ladies at Spring House in Fildyke Road for their wonderful pamper day the Thursday before, much recommended; Jo Sheppard from the High Street who did the most beautiful bridal flowers; Alex who helped with sewing; Charlie and Glynis at the Sugar Loaf for opening up a little earlier on Easter Saturday and last but not least everybody in the village who wished them well and who we may have forgotten to mention.

Warmest thoughts from Kathy and Dave.

### Here's to the farmers...

The countryside around Meppershall has never looked better. In recent weeks, many conversations with friends in the village have dwelt on the beauty of the landscape we live in at this time of year. On behalf of many others, we want to thank those who own and work the land around the village for their generous and careful treatment of the footpaths, banks and hedgerows out on the fields. Your excellent stewardship of the natural beauty we are blessed to have on our doorstep is very much noticed, highly valued and truly appreciated. Thank you! And by the way, for anyone considering a wander on a sunny afternoon, we recommend the route west from the church, down over the Cow Bridge, rising again into Upper Gravenurst – where the Green Dragon offers some welcome refreshment right opposite the end of the path!

James Read

**SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP**

Several people from Meppershall joined our coach starting in Shefford for an early start to Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds. We picked up our guide for the day early in Newmarket, then made our way to The Gallops, where we saw a magnificent sight, dozens of horses galloping up the hill and gently walking down. Then off to Tattersalls for an interesting talk on the sale of horses. After coffee and biscuits we joined the 'Stud's Guide' for a very informative tour of the Stud. Lunch was taken in Newmarket, then on to Bury St. Edmunds for a tour of the Abbey and gardens which were absolutely glorious in their Spring colours.

Brick Lane Music Hall, a new venue for our Leisure Group, is set in a glorious gothic style church, situated near the Thames Barrier. We were treated to the old style music hall with singing and dancing, and a hilarious comedian. During the interval we were served with a truly English afternoon tea, after which we then enjoyed the many songs and hits of 'The Bachelors'. Due to the popularity of this venue we have now booked for a Christmas lunchtime treat.

The first of our holidays was a Dutch River Cruise on The Princess Christina. We set off early on Monday morning with comfort stops along the way before boarding our boat in Amsterdam. After a gentle cruise down the Dutch River to Volendam, during which time we enjoyed coffee, biscuits and light entertainment, we started the first of our three excursions, a trip aboard a truly 'old fashioned' steam train which took us through the countryside. We then rejoined our coach to return to our boat. The next morning we returned to Amsterdam and our second excursion, to the Dutch Folk Park. The following morning we disembarked for our journey home stopping off at the truly magnificent Keukenhof Gardens.

Listed are a few of the day trips currently available:

**Bressingham Steam collection and gardens:**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August

**Runnymede and Windsor Castle:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August

**Sulgrave Manor Banbury:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

**Secret London:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Milton Keynes Theatre (using the Letchworth Lions Minibus)

**Magic of the Dance** (Matinee Performance): Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August

**Brick Lane Music Hall** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Our holiday booked for Paignton & Torbay will take place from June 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> when we visit the 'hotel on the beach' Preston Sands Hotel. During this time there will be two full and one half day excursion. The local amenities are all within easy walking distance. Places are still available.

Our venue for Tinsel & Turkey this year will be Street, Nr Glastonbury, staying at The Wessex Hotel. We are planning excursions to Wells and The Cheddar Gorge. Clarks Village Outlet Centre is within walking distance of the hotel. The dates for this holiday are Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Places are still available.

*For all holidays, which include Hotel accommodation, Shefford Leisure Group acts as an agent for the tour operator, their terms and conditions apply.*

*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 contact Enid on 01462 851397 or e-mail [Enidpamment@aol.com](mailto:Enidpamment@aol.com).*

## Meppershall Parish Council Report

The latest meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 6th May at Meppershall Lower School.

This was the annual meeting of the Council when the Officers and spokespersons for the various groups of the Council were elected. The only change was at the top; the Chairman John Parsons asked not to be considered for another term so I was nominated and duly elected to the post. John was an excellent Chairman and I hope I can maintain the high standard he set.

At the open part of the meeting Linda Parker informed Councillors that a Gardening Club had been formed and that they would like to use their skills to plant up and care for the areas around the Village Hall. The Council had recently obtained four planters and it was agreed that the group, once permission had been granted from the Village Hall Management Committee, could use the planters.

### **Highways & Lighting** (spokesman Cllr. Roger Bryant)

A joint inspection of the village had taken place with numerous areas for repair being marked up. Repairs should be completed by the end of May. Paul Makin, Mayor of Shefford is actively supporting Cllrs Carne and Rogers in keeping the footpath to Shefford high on the agenda with the new Central Bedfordshire Council.

The additional parking in Fildyke Road opposite Buxton Close has no start date but is due to be completed in this financial year.

### **Environment & Leisure** (spokesman Cllr. Paul Merryweather)

Grass cutting is being undertaken by the existing contractor.

As mentioned last month the area on Foster's Field affected by the village bonfire has been cleared and reseeded. It was agreed to inform the Village Hall Management Committee that they will not be allowed to have a bonfire on Parish Council land because of the costs involved. The annual inspection of the play equipment is due before the Spring Bank holiday.

The proposal for the low level solar powered lighting to the teenage area appears to be getting negative responses from planning representatives on the grounds that the light may attract youths to the area for longer periods. We await the final response late this month.

### **Planning & Housing** (spokesman Cllr. Peter Chapman)

Apart from the Council's own planning application re the lighting in the play area, there were no applications for consideration this month.

### **Health & Safety** (spokesman Cllr Michael Castle)

Cllr Castle highlighted some problems with lumps of concrete and protruding steelwork on and around Fosters Field. Once the Clerk receives a comprehensive list, he will instruct a contractor to do the necessary work.

### **From our Shadow Councillors.**

Cllrs. Carne and Rogers reported that the new Central Bedfordshire Council organisation is bedding in well with only IT problems causing concern. Also in attendance were Lewis Birt and Tony Brown the Conservative Party nominees for the two Shefford, Campton and Meppershall seats on the new Unitary Authority.

### **Other Matters.**

The village sign that resides at the junction of the High Street and Cracklehill Road has been away for refurbishment and should be back in place by the end of May.

The refurbished gates to the churchyard are now in place.

A grant of £500 was made to The Meppershall Messenger to assist in the financing of the 25th Anniversary Issue.

The installation of the CCTV should be completed by the end of May.

Peter Chapman

Chairman of Meppershall Parish Council

The next two Parish Council meetings will be held on Wednesday 3rd June and July 15th at Meppershall Lower School commencing at 7.45pm.



## **THE MESSENGER'S 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Our plans continue to take shape.

As well as the enlargement of the picture taken in 1985 to record the award of our “brick”, I have also been promised other photos of the Village as it was in the ‘80s and ‘90s. We plan to exhibit these on our stall at the Village Fair, as well as reproducing as many as possible in the special Souvenir issue of the Messenger. Please let me have your photos and if you would like to write something of your memories of the village as it was, please drop me a line; or if you would prefer me to do the writing, let me know and I will come and “interview” you!

We are also planning an exhibition of children’s photos and photos of children with their pets. Entries for this will be equally welcome.

We still need a copy of the first issue of the Messenger to complete the set in our new cabinet.

### **Messenger Collating Dates**

## 2009

Month	Day	Comment		Month	Day	Comment
June & June	1 29			Oct	26	
July/Aug	27	Double Issue		Nov	30	
August	None			Dec/Jan	None	Double issue
Sept	28			Jan	25	2010

### Meppershall Bakery Bees *by Roger*

Meppershall bees are very busy. All 7 hives have colonies and are doing well. We have 3 new queens, from our own stock, who should be laying eggs by the time you read this. The old queens did not die; I have placed them in small nucs, or small hives, just in case the new queens fail. As soon as the oilseed rape turns green the honey will flow. So by early June there will be honey for sale at the bakery. (It's been a long 6 months!)

At one of the inspections, I noticed antennae coming out of the drone brood comb. As the drones take longest to hatch, the varoa mite prefer to lay their eggs in these cells. I watched George (a male drone bee) emerging from his cell and closely inspected him as his legs were kicking in the air, for varoa mites. He was clean and with a little help from me crawled away to wait for his wings to dry and to join his colony.

At the beginning of May I was carrying out artificial swarm control without the proper footwear. So... protective clothing is a must for all beekeepers. No-one should examine bees without a veil, gloves and boots etc. One feature of beekeeping today is a general prevalence of combined veil and bee-suits. These plus gloves and

boots offer the most complete protection available. When I visited the bees I was stung on the foot – twice. After the initial pain the sting produced swelling which was quite spectacular. As these swellings declined, the next reaction was spectacular itching, which lasted two days. I now wear my boots every time I visit the bees. You must be aware that your reactions to stings get less (or so I was lead to believe) However , if your reactions get worse rather than better, or you start to develop reactions like nettle rash, seek medical advice. It can get so bad that a single sting can cause death. However wonderful a hobby beekeeping is, it is not worth using it as means of giving work to the undertakers!



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

Items available	Phone		Items Wanted	Phone
King size black metal & antique pine headboard	01462 812217			

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

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

## School Report

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

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, letters and good wishes to the school following the death of our Headteacher Mrs Moira Coomes. As you can imagine, her loss was a terrible shock to the school. She was a truly remarkable Headteacher, colleague and friend and she will be sorely missed. We will be holding a Memorial Service for Mrs Coomes on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at St Mary's Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

During the Easter holidays our wonderful outdoor play equipment was completed. This was part of our latest project to improve our outdoor environment. It includes a colourful climbing frame for the Early Years, an exciting adventure trail for the older children and an outdoor classroom which can also be used as a theatre. It is wonderful to see the children playing cooperatively, developing their skills and just having fun. During the first week of term we held a special assembly followed by a dedication of the equipment to Mrs Coomes' memory.

Our playtimes will be further improved this term by a new menu of activities for lunch time play. The older children will become play leaders and help to demonstrate and organise a variety of new games and old favourites. New ideas and resources have been provided as part of our membership of the Redbourne Sports Partnership. Through this we benefit from a wide variety of sports opportunities, both curricular and extra curricular. We also benefit from the expertise of Premier Sport who provide one lesson a week for each class in the school and extra curricular clubs. This term we will be taking part in many different sporting festivals and tournaments including Football, (Thanks to our parent volunteer coaches), Kwik Cricket (not a spelling error!), Multi skills, Tag Rugby, Swimming,

Netball and even Curling! Our Gardening Club is once again proving a big success both in providing extra lunch time activities, developing green fingers and helping to further improve our outdoor area.

This term we welcome a new cook to our school and her dinners are delicious. We are really very lucky to have our own freshly cooked dinners made on the premises. Don't forget you can still contribute to our Healthy Lunch Box Recipe Book if you have any ideas for packed lunches.

We have now achieved Healthy Schools Status and received our certificate which is proudly on show in our entrance hall. We have also received our Active Schools Mark for the second year.

Our new Website and Learning Platform have now been launched and will be developing further in the coming months. You can access the website at <http://www.meppershall.beds.sch.uk>.

The Governors have started the process of recruitment with a view to appointing a new Headteacher for September 2010. Until then I shall be taking on the Interim Headship. I look forward to building on the excellent work achieved by Mrs Coomes and to leading the school forward.

Gill Smith

*If your child's birth date falls between 1/9/04 and 31/8/05 and you haven't yet applied for a place in our 'Outstanding' Foundation Stage class in September 2009, please contact the school office on 01462 813293. Mrs Reynolds, our secretary, can arrange a time for you to visit. We also have a few spaces in two other year groups. You can read our excellent report on the Ofsted website. Clarification of the parish boundaries that make up our catchment area can be found on the [www.achurchnearyou.org.uk](http://www.achurchnearyou.org.uk)*

## **Financial News Update**

This is the first of what I hope will become a regular feature, with future subject matter being requested by you, the Messenger readers. Please either call or email me with topics you would like covered, although please be aware that I cannot answer issues personal to you in the pages of this magazine. That would require a meeting, so this (and following articles) can only deal with the generic subject matter.

There has been so much going on in the world of finance these past eighteen months that it is difficult to know where to start, so I have chosen to kick off with some good news. I'm going to start with ISA's (or Individual Savings Accounts to give them their full name). These are tax free savings plans that are available to anyone who is over 18 and resident in the UK. There are two types of ISA – a Mini-ISA, and a Maxi-ISA, and you can have two mini-, or one maxi- ISA in each tax year (6<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> April the following year). Mini-ISA's are usually marketed as 'Cash ISA's by Banks and Building Societies, and Maxi-ISA's are often called 'Stocks and Shares ISA's'. If you do not use your allowance in any year, it is lost for that year, you cannot roll it over. You can save regularly (e.g. monthly) or by paying-in lump sums, but you must not exceed your allowance for that year. Another little wrinkle is that it is the amount you put in that counts towards your annual allowance e.g. if you put in the maximum in a particular tax year, then draw half of it back out, you cannot put anymore in – you have used your allowance for that year.

Until the recent Budget the limits were £3,600 p.a. for a mini-ISA, and £7,200 for a Maxi-ISA; however the good news is that the Chancellor in his recent budget has increased the limits to £5,100, and £10,200 respectively. Sadly, the good news is tempered with the fact that only those over 50 can use the higher limits this tax year, and even then not until October (to give the providers time to

adjust their systems), with the new limits being open to those under 50 from next tax year (2010/11).

Despite this, everyone should use their ISA allowance to the best of their circumstances. The savings grow tax-free, and you can have it all back any time you like, again with no tax to pay, so it really does make sense to use your allowance to the full. For many this will mean using some or all of their mini, or cash-ISA limit (and please shop around for the best deals). For those fortunate enough to have larger sums available, please make sure you use as much of your allowance as you can. There are hundreds of investment funds to choose from covering the whole risk spectrum from cautious to speculative. If you have any stocks & shares already, make sure that as many of them as possible are “sheltered” in an ISA so that the earnings (if any!) are tax free. After all, there is little enough in this life that is tax-free!

Jon Ingarfill – 07870 564115  
jon@rutherfordfinancial.co.uk

## OUR COVER COMPETITION

The judges have broken new ground in our winning picture this month by choosing one of people rather than landscapes or buildings. This month's cover was in fact taken at Sparks last year, so it is a happy coincidence that the advertisement for this year's Sparks is in the same issue.

We received some lovely pictures but several had to be disqualified as not being recognisably “Meppershall”; some of the others were really beautiful, and we are saving them for future issues, but the judges unanimously decided for this issue to reward the break away from beautiful landscapes in the hope that it will encourage others to enter pictures of people or events as well as landscapes.

So, many congratulations to Sandra Harper for this month's cover; please keep them coming.



## Polehanger Farm: A Farming Diary - Episode 4

Our crops really get up a head of steam in May and early June before the ear emerges and it starts the ripening process. Mark continues to apply nutrients to optimize this growth and to spray to try and keep on top of fungal diseases which would otherwise reduce the plants' ability to maximize the available soil moisture and sunlight. Difficult weeds that could compete with the crop have already been dealt with over winter and in early spring.

However it doesn't matter how competent one is and how much attention to detail is given, without sunlight and water a cereal plant is doomed to fail.

Which takes me back to the old saying I mentioned last month about when the Oak breaks leaf before the Ash - which it did quite markedly this year - we'll only get a splash. Father has kept rainfall figures for as long as I can remember and based on these for April we only had 1 inch of rain in the month and 6 inches so far this year, which extrapolates to only 18 for the year.

Our average annual rainfall here is around 22 to 23 inches, ranging from just over 16 inches in 1975 and 1976 up to over 30 inches in 1992. There are desert areas in the world that have almost as much rainfall as we do, the difference being that ours is generally spread out little and often throughout the year, rather than in one or two ferocious downpours. Incidentally I have a friend who recently moved out to Auckland in New Zealand. He wrote last week to say that they had had a wet day with just under an inch of rain but a place on the mountainous west coast of the South Island had 38 inches in 48 hours!

My instinct confirms the Oak / Ash saying that this year will be drier than usual which could well stress the crops, particularly the spring sown wheat. If so, then good soil structure is critical to

minimize this stress so that roots can go deep in search of moisture. Yield for each acre sown is simply a factor of two things; total grain numbers and the weight of a given volume of grain. Plump grain weighs more heavily than shrivelled grain.

So rainfall interspersed with sunshine is key to a successful harvest yield. But rainfall during harvest, which we had too much of last year, when the plant is no longer needing moisture, is not welcome. We're a fussy lot! Perversely in the UK a dry summer usually, but not always, means a hot summer. We all know the grey days that affect Eastern England particularly when we see neither sun nor rain.

On a global scale the availability of fresh water (as opposed to salt sea water ) is becoming a critical issue for those who predict international affairs. The demand for an increasingly scarce resource to irrigate food crops, and the increasing consumption for meat - it takes about 15 cubic metres of water to produce 1 kg of beef compared to 1 – 3 cu m for 1 kg of cereals - is likely to cause tension and even hostilities between countries that share water sources.

Next time you (and I) mutter darkly about rain spoiling our plans, think positively about it as a vital part of farming life . . . and therefore your life!

Chris Foster, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009



## **Dispelling the myths of shopping locally**

Lee Hamilton, [www.buy-LOCAL.net/herts](http://www.buy-LOCAL.net/herts)

It's not a pre-requisite that you must be a super green eco-warrior to enjoy local, fresh produce! However whilst enjoying your excellent tasting food, possibly accompanied by a chilled glass of local white wine - yes we DO have a vineyard in the area! - , you will help reduce food miles, reduce packaging and waste and in turn reduce your own carbon footprint. Now that is my idea of total guilt-free indulgence!

*But.....It's too expensive!*

Don't compare prices to the supermarket value lines – do you really think a whole chicken priced at £2.50 is fair? Someone, somewhere down the line is paying the price whilst you aren't. Even so, free range meat & poultry on [www.buy-local.net/herts](http://www.buy-local.net/herts) is actually cheaper than the free range items at leading supermarkets. When you buy good quality local produce, you are paying for just that and ensuring that the farmer/supplier is earning a sustainable living. As a nation we spend less of our salaries on our groceries than many other countries in Western Europe – we spend enormous amounts of money on looking good and preserving our outer body; anti-wrinkle creams, skin care, body wraps etc) but when it comes to nurturing our insides it appears to be a totally different story.

*But.....I haven't got the time!*

In this day and age of wanting and needing everything to be done quicker than yesterday, modern life runs at a different pace. If you are unable to visit your local shops or farmers market (because of lifestyle constraints or simply that you no longer actually have these local amenities) the convenient solution is to do your shopping on the net. Buying local food on-line will surely be more time efficient and enjoyable than dragging the kids around the supermarkets this summer?

*But..... my supermarket already stocks local food!*

The supermarkets are indeed getting more creative with presenting you with local choice products. Promoting local produce can of course only be a good thing; however, can they really offer you a truly local experience? For starters, you may be surprised to learn what their definition of 'local' really is. Sometimes, even when the food on display appears to have come

direct from the farm down the road, they may have been driven miles out of Bedfordshire to be packaged before returning to the 'local' supermarket aisle...

*But.....*Not enough choice!

If you have not explored the possibilities you will be amazed at the huge selection of food and drink available to you. Visit your local specialists, farm shops, farmers markets and delis and as well as your weekly staples, find products that are unique to your local area and won't be found on the supermarket shelves

Visit us today at [www.buy-local.net/herts](http://www.buy-local.net/herts) and use the promotional code: MEPS1 at the on-line checkout and get delivery on your first order...absolutely free!

[www.Buy-Local.net/Herts](http://www.Buy-Local.net/Herts) is a Campton based on-line farmers' market full of locally sourced goods that can be ordered online and delivered directly to you at a time to suit you.

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We are not commercial printers and we undertake work only for organisations or charities in the local community, but if that describes you, why not get in touch? We charge only enough to cover our costs and the work keeps our machine well exercised.

## Computer Tips:

### WHICH OPERATING SYSTEM?

There are currently three main operating systems available – Windows, MAC and “open source” Linux (in its various forms).

*MAC* requires an Apple MAC computer to run it and is not commonly used as a domestic operating system.

*Linux* derived from the UNIX platform used in Server computers and is still very much a “nerds” territory but is appearing in the new “netbook” very small laptop type PCs as it does not take up much hard drive space and is quick to run, it feels nice to use but is still a bit quirky.

*MS Windows XP* pretty much runs the world at present and has become a stable and fast platform from which to run your programmes. It is taught in most schools and is still available (despite Microsoft trying to kill it off) for most computers. It is still the choice of most business users because it gets the job done with little fuss and few crashes.

*MS Vista* started life in the usual Microsoft fashion of only partial development, leaving the computing public to find the bugs and the software manufacturers to play catch-up. It was (and is still) slow unless you invest in a computer built within the last 18 months with at least 2 GB of RAM. As an operating system it works generally like *XP* but well recognised items have been moved around to make it feel “new” and a lot of clutter was added to make the user interface look different. Essentially it was an upgrade to *XP*.

MS Windows 7 is the next vaunted release to move on from Vista. It is in Beta testing which means “nerds” can download it and use it to help Microsoft find bugs before releasing it to us in its usual part finished form. The only really positive attributes I have seen so far are that it is a slimmed down version of *Vista* to make it run faster and the cluttered feel of *Vista* has been removed. As with *Vista* over *XP*, the user interface has been changed and well known actions altered yet again to make it seem different. In substance, very little has been achieved to improve the customer experience over *XP*. What Microsoft has done in style is, whilst offering a smooth upgrade path from *Vista*, it has decided to “punish” all *XP* users by not offering them the same. To upgrade you will have to wipe everything off your hard drive and literally start from scratch, a task best left to the professionals perhaps?

**Calendar of Forthcoming Events****June 2009**

<b><u>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</u></b>		
Parish Council Meeting	7.45 PM	The School
<b><u>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June</u></b>		
Memorial service for Moira Coomes	2.00PM	St Mary's Church
<b><u>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June</u></b>		
Shefford Gala	12.30 – 6.00 PM	Robert Bloomfield
<b><u>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June</u></b>		
James Bond & Casino Night	7.30PM-12.30 AM	Village Hall
<b><u>Sat &amp; Sun, 13<sup>th</sup> &amp; 14<sup>th</sup> June</u></b>		
St Mary's Gift Weekend		St Mary's Church
<b><u>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June</u></b>		
Mobile Police Station	11 AM 12 Noon	Outside Village Hall
<b><u>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June</u></b>		
Village Hall Committee AGM	8PM	Village Hall

**July 2009**

<b><u>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July</u></b>		
Read through of Pantomime	7.30 PM	Village hall
<b><u>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July</u></b>		
Pantomime Auditions	7.45 PM	Village hall
<b><u>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July</u></b>		
Summer Fair		Village Hall
<b><u>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July</u></b>		
Parish Council Meeting	7.45 PM	The School
<b><u>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</u></b>		
Sparks	See Advert	St Mary's Rectory
<b><u>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July</u></b>		
Mobile Police Station	11 AM 12 Noon	Outside Village Hall

Do you have a party to organise and no venue?  
 Do you have a wedding to organise and no venue?  
 Do you have any event to organise and no venue?

Have you thought about hiring

## ***Meppershall Village Hall***

The Hall is available and can cater for all events, large or small.

There are tables, chairs, lighting, kitchen, licensed bar and all facilities needed for your event to run smoothly.

Our very reasonable rates vary with the time of day and day of the week eg:

Children's party (afternoon) -	£36
Saturday Evening -	£140
Wedding (all day) -	£220

If this sounds like what you need, please contact our  
 Bookings Secretary  
 Karen Lucas on 01462 811581

You can also visit our website for full information on  
[www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk)

*Remember, it's your village. It's your Village Hall!*





# JAMES BOND NIGHT



**Meppershall Lower School Association  
are having a  
James Bond & Casino Night**



**Saturday 13th June 2009  
7.30pm - 12.30am  
at Meppershall Village Hall**

**Tickets £15.00 (per person)  
complete night of fun  
and entertainment including:**

- **Casino: 4 Gaming Tables with Free Gambling Chips**
- **Disco: Big Steve's Disco**
- **Cheese Board Supper**
- **Full Licensed Bar**



**007 (dress) code: Handsome James Bonds and  
Gorgeous Bond Girls only please!**



### WANTED WANTED WANTED

If you are a budding McKellen or a Dench, if you long for the smell of the greasepaint and the roar of the crowd, if you've been to see some of our past productions and you're thinking 'how hard can it be...?' or maybe you just want to get out in the evenings and meet new people, then we are just what you're looking for! Meppershall Players are seeking new members to appear in future productions. We are a friendly group committed to putting on plays and pantomimes to entertain our audiences whilst having a good time ourselves. So why not come along and join us and the perfect time to start is at the read-through for this year's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, on **Wednesday 1 July at 7.30pm in Meppershall Village Hall**. For further information call Alison on 01462 850191.

Hope to see you there....

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 01462-813996

Colette House 01462-815585

Aly Borthwick



### **Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group**

In May, The Orchard Children's Centre came to Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group and a free fun play session was enjoyed by all.

On Tuesday 16th June - the Baby and Toddler Group will be holding a Teddy Bears' Picnic. Look out for the posters around the village for further information.

The Baby and Toddler Group is open to all parents and carers of children under 5. We meet on Tuesday afternoons in the village hall from 1:45 - 3:15pm (term time only). We have a wide variety of toys to suit all ages - from 0 to 5 and we provide a craft table and singing session.

For more information call:

Sam Hefford 07590290078 (Chair)

Catherine Turner 812134 (Secretary)

Jo Mitchell 813146 (Treasurer)




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An attempted Burglary took place in The Acres, Meppershall, Shefford, between the 21st of April and 1.30 in the afternoon of the 1st of May. An offender has tampered with the front and back door handles causing them to break. No entry was gained, and the offenders have made off.

If you have any information about this crime, please call the Police Control Centre on (01234) 841212, for North and Mid Beds, and quote crime reference, J,,1,7,8,4,7,/2009. Alternatively text your message to (07786) 200011 or email your message to [chc@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk](mailto:chc@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk)

Many Burglaries can be prevented:

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times.
- Remove all keys from the locks and keep them in a safe place and out of view.
- Avoid leaving property like Handbags, Keys, or laptops in hallways, or where they can be seen from outside the house.
- Keep garden furniture, ladders, and Wheelie bins in a secure garage or shed, or locked up away from the house, where they might be used to climb onto a roof or access a first floor window.
- Be a good Neighbour.
- Be aware of sounds like breaking glass.
- Report any suspicious activity, or vehicles, in the area.

For more information on reducing burglary related crime visit [http://www.safer-beds.org/rmwebportal/rm\\_desktop/files/Crime%20Reductio](http://www.safer-beds.org/rmwebportal/rm_desktop/files/Crime%20Reductio)

n%20-%20Burglaries.html Or call crime stoppers in  
confidence on (0800) 555111.

## **Meppershall Pre-school Ponderings**

As you wander past the Village Hall this summer you might see the children of Meppershall Pre-school in their outdoor play area beneath the shade of their new gazebo. A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Easter Raffle and Teddy's Easter Garden competition, which raised the funds for the gazebo. Thanks also to Tesco, Asda and Somerfield for their generous donation of raffle prizes. The children will be able to play outside, shaded from the summer sun – or perhaps from the summer rain!

Our theme for this half-term is 'Our World', as our children see it. We will be out and about in Meppershall, with trips to the bakery, school, park, shop and even the allotments. If you should spot us on our travels, do give us a wave!

### **Enjoy working with children?**

We rely upon a team of relief staff to come and work at short notice on days when a member of Pre-school staff may call in sick. We need to expand our team of relief workers. The role would be ideal for a retired person, or someone with children in full-time school who has spare time during the day. This is a paid position. If you would be interested in hearing more about the role, please call Emily Slade on 850592. We are always keen to have helpers come in to play or read to the children. Please get in touch if you would like to play a part in your village Pre-school.

**THE MEPPERSHALL GARDEN CLUB****(The MGC)**

Since last month's Messenger, the Club has held two meetings. The first was in April when we spent a very enjoyable morning admiring the hard work and cultivation skills of Colette, Marcia and Jacqui on their allotments.

The May meeting was the first of many to be held at the Village hall where the group intends to put time and effort into making the frontage of the hall into an attractive focal point for the village. The group would welcome any help and support from village

residents towards this project, irrespective of whether or not they wish to join the club on a permanent basis. If you are interested in joining the group, coming to our next meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June or for more information on the village hall project, gives one of us a call on:

Linda Parker	01462 812144
Sarah Till	01462 817176
Kim Lee Tyler	01462 811750



## **Meppershall Village Hall News**

The Village Hall Committee has been working hard making plans to improve the car park area. We have finally been successful in obtaining the necessary funds to get the work done, thanks to the efforts of John Thompson in obtaining a grant from the County Council, contributions from Chris Foster, the Social Club and the Village Hall. The work will start shortly. Also, members from the Gardening Club have very kindly offered their help in tidying up the front flower bed and generally brightening up the front of the Hall. The Parish Council are donating four planters, which will be situated around the Hall and looked after by the Gardening Club. This is great news and will certainly improve the look of the Hall (until we have enough funds to get a new one built!) Also, CCTV cameras are being installed at various points outside and inside the Village Hall.

Now the bad news. It was announced at our last Committee meeting by the Chairman of the Parish Council that the Council has voted not to allow the bonfire which has always been built at the back of the Village Hall (on Parish Council land) for Bonfire Night, but we can have as many fireworks as we want! Somehow, Bonfire Night wouldn't be the same without a bonfire! Agreed? The decision was made without any consultation with the Village Hall Committee, and the reason given was that it was too expensive and involved too much work clearing up afterwards. The Committee were astounded by the decision and Steve Ansell, our Chairman, will be attending a Parish Council meeting to try and reverse the decision and come to some amicable agreement. Perhaps all those in favour of keeping the bonfire could let us know by writing your comments on a Petition at the shop.

The Summer Fair is being held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July behind the Village Hall. There will be posters, etc. advertising the event nearer the time. It promises to be a real village event with stalls and entertainment during the afternoon and evening. Please come along and show your support.

Finally, our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm. All are welcome to attend.

*It is your Village – it is your Village Hall!*

***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  
(usual day off: Monday)

Curate: Rev Patsy Critchley; 01234 381510

(Patsy's usual ministry days are Weds, Fri & Sun)

Lay Reader: Pam Halliwell 01462 817069 (usual day off: Friday)

Churchwardens: Brian Bellamy 01462 815944 (Pastoral Assistant); Brenda  
Wright 01462 816446

**Services for June**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Sun 7</b>  | <b>Trinity Sunday</b><br>11.15 a.m. Parish Communion & "JC" in Rectory       |
| <b>Sun 14</b> | <b>Gift Weekend</b><br>8.30 a.m. Holy Communion<br>11.15 a.m. Family Service |
| <b>Sun 21</b> | 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion<br>6.00 p.m. Evensong                               |
| <b>Sun 28</b> | 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion<br>11.15 a.m. Family Communion & "JC"               |

**Weekday Services:**

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

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

Saturdays 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer

**Coming up this month:**

**Wednesday June 3 – God's World – local and global** All  
welcome to presentation at Shefford Deanary Synod meeting on

our care of the environment; 7.30-8.30 at The Stables, Haynes (next to the Church)

**Saturday June 6. 2.pm at St Mary's.**

Thanksgiving service for Moira Coomes, particularly for her devoted service to Meppershall School, 2006 – 2009. School children welcome.

**Shefford Gala Sunday - June 7: 12.30 – 6.00 at Robert Bloomfield School**

Parade of floats, sideshows and arena entertainment. Look out for the Shefford Churches Working Together refreshment tent and displays.

**Sat/Sun June 13/14. St Mary's Gift Weekend**

Including displays, refreshments, stalls, and "teddy abseiling" from the tower. Discover something more of the life of your Parish Church – past and present and its plans for the future. Gifts to sustain the Church's continuing work and worship will be appreciated.

**Confirmation?**

If you would like to explore the purpose of Confirmation and what's involved in preparing to be confirmed, you will be very welcome at a no obligation "just looking" session on Tuesday July 7 at The Rectory. Young people aged 10+ are invited to come along at 6.30 p.m. and adults at 7.45 p.m. Do ring if you would like to talk it over first: 813334.

**Thoughts from St Mary's**

Driving back from a trip to the Library and pondering on my next task, my thoughts went unbidden to "my turn to make the tea", from which you may gather that it is my turn to write this!

The first Sunday in June is Trinity Sunday when all the less experienced

preachers hope they will not be asked to expound! I have come to understand the doctrine a bit better over the years but a few weeks ago a friend lent me a book called improbably “The Shack” by William Paul Young. It has been a wonderful inspiration and sheds new light on the Trinity amongst other things. It is a work of fiction, not a theological tome, and everyone who has read it has said they couldn't put it down. Buy or borrow it and see for yourselves!

Trinity is the last of the Christian festivals till Christmas, though there is always Harvest Festival to cheer us up. So it can feel a bit flat, though I enjoy the chance to follow the Gospel story through and hear again the parables and miracles. But life is not dull. We have Gift Day to look forward to and you may have noticed references to that mysterious event called Sparks when the team work hard for weeks to give the children 3 or 4 days of teaching, enjoyment and fun for all. The older children will be studying hard for exams while the older members of the community will be going on holiday before prices go up with the school holidays. The origin of the word holiday is Holy Day, a time not just for recreation but for re-creation, given us by God to enable us to recharge our batteries. So make time to enjoy your gardens, now in full bloom and to get out and about in the countryside. We need good things to inspire us amidst the gloom of swine flu, economic hardship and the daily bad news. One of my resolutions this year has been to get out and about with the Shefford Leisure Group and I gather I'm not alone as many of the trips are full. And if things really do get you down don't forget there are always people at St Mary's ready to listen to your concerns, help if we can and pray with or for you.

Pam Halliwell, Reader

### **Coincidence or answered prayer?**

If you've ever heard the screams of a 3 year old in pain, you'll understand something of the heartache we felt when our granddaughter suffered her eighth dislocation. And this time, after 4 agonising manipulations and 17 X-rays, Zahra's elbow could not be righted. She was given a sling, had to rest for 4 days and then return. We had been praying but by the evening before the return, the prayer became desperate. *“God, you say ‘ask and you will receive’. Why are you not answering? It was no fault of anyone’s.*

*How can you, when you say you have the power to heal, listen to the agonising, constant screaming of an innocent child?"*

I began to doubt God's existence and screamed at him. *"Do something or else! Holy Spirit heal her!. When she wakes up tomorrow may it be alright. May she not have any more manipulations or X-rays".*

The next morning Zahra woke up whimpering. At breakfast she began to move her arm a little. Two hours before the appointment, she took her sling off, for a while. At the hospital many of her arm movements had returned and the consultant decided not to do any more manipulations. By the end of the day she was almost 100%.

The sceptics could say it was sheer coincidence. But 'coincidences' happen more than is statistically probable in the lives of committed Christians. For example, this month I went to a healing service and from that point made a rapid improvement from sciatica. And my husband, John, got something embedded in his eye that could not be removed at A&E. When he returned for further investigation, it had disappeared.

It feels as if God's healing hands have been over us.

In response to God's love, a prayer chain will be starting so that Christians and non-believers may all benefit from God's healing power. Look out for further information in next month's magazine.

'The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well.' James 5:15

Sandra Harper



## Junior Church Report

### Saint Alban's Cathedral

On May 9<sup>th</sup> Darcy, Fern, Joanne, Emily and Brigid, 5 members of our Junior Church, joined 300 other children in St. Alban's cathedral for a day packed full of activities and worship. IT WAS BRILLIANT!

Emily and Darcy scored 300 and 150 points in hitting a target that made a toilet flush! This highlighted the need for toilets in some parts of Africa. In the Caribbean area, Joanne practiced limbo dancing and managed to get under a pole only 1 ½ metres from the ground! Fern and Brigid got stuck into spiking marshmallows in the chocolate fountain and everyone had a go at carving soap and produced fantastic framed paintings of African animals! There was a planetarium too. Awesome! The day ended with worship where an illusionist, by suspending a horizontal child on the back of a chair, demonstrated that when we trust in God amazing things can happen. Our 5 girls then presented flowers at the altar and led the prayers alongside the Bishop.

IT WAS A GREAT DAY OUT.

The next day out we are planning is:

Saint Alban's FESTIVAL PILGRIMAGE. Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> June

Join the thousands of people who, every year take part in the Festival. Fantastic day out. Processions, chariot racing, bouncy castles, circus skills, children's activities and worship. If you'd like to join a group of us going from St. Mary's please give me a ring. Sandra Harper 01462 813334 [revjohnharper@talktalk.net](mailto:revjohnharper@talktalk.net). Find out more from [www.stalbanscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stalbanscathedral.org.uk)

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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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# **SPARKS 09**

## **CHAMPION'S CHALLENGE**

*..... is a sizzling, christian holiday club for:*

5 – 12 yrs

Mon. 20<sup>th</sup>, Tues 21<sup>st</sup>, Wed, 22<sup>nd</sup>

July. 10am – 2pm

& Thu. 23<sup>rd</sup> July 10am – 3pm

at St. Mary's Church, Meppershall,

The Rectory & surrounds

*[please note - the site is NOT enclosed]*

Your child will need:

- £2 per day [bring on the day]
- A PACKED LUNCH [NO GLASS]
- TO WEAR OLD CLOTHES

We provide drinks during the day.

If any adults[18+] or teenagers[13 -18yrs]would like to help for all or part of any day, contact:

Sandra, Pam or Rector John 01462 813334; 01462 817069; revjohnharper@talktalk.net

REGISTRATION FORM OPPOSITE. Further forms available from: St. Mary's Church, The Rectory, St. Michael's Church Shefford, and through all local schools.

## Registration Form

*Please RETURN FORMS to Meppershall School, St. Michael's, St. Mary's, or The Rectory, Meppershall.*

*NAME.....*  
*.....*

*Date of Birth.....*  
*Age on 20<sup>th</sup> July 09.....*

*Address.....*  
*.....*

*Tel.No.....Mobile.....*  
*.....*

*Name of additional contact & Tel*  
*No.....*

*Details of any regular medication or medical*  
*problem .....*  
*.....*  
*.....*

*Please TICK if you DO NOT want your child to be*  
*in any photographs/TV.*

*Please TICK that you are aware the venue IS NOT*  
*an enclosed site.*

*If your child wishes to be in the same group as a*  
*friend, please name the friend:*

*.....*



**SUNBURST PIZZA**

Serves 6

For the dough

6 oz self-raising flour

1 oz margarine

A pinch of salt

The drained tomato juice from the can

For the topping

14 oz can chopped tomatoes, drained

½ lb chipolatas, halved lengthwise

1 small onion, chopped

1 level teaspoon basil

2 level tablespoons tomato or own choice chutney

Salt and pepper

1 oz cheese, finely grated

Method

- 1) Set the oven to hot, gas mark 6 or 400F / 200C
- 2) Rub the margarine into the flour and salt until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs then using the drained juice from the can of tomatoes, stir in enough to give soft, rollable dough.
- 3) On a lightly floured working surface, roll the dough into a 10 inch round and place on a well-oiled baking sheet.
- 4) Mix the drained tomatoes, onion, basil, and chutney, salt and pepper together and spread over the dough, then lay the halved sausages over the top like the spokes of a wheel. Sprinkle the cheese in between the sausages.
- 5) Bake the Sunburst Pizza towards the top of the oven for 30 to 35 minutes.

Recipes are kindly supplied each month by Brenda Putwain

**GARDEN TIPS FOR JUNE**

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

#### **LAST CHANCE**

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

#### **GET AHEAD**

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

### 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	1335		
Barton, Windsor Parade	0801	1003	1153	1403	1759	1859
Luton, Silver St				1554	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	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			1330	
Sheffield, High Street,	0735	0935	1125	1335			

Route 89 to Henlow Camp – Meppershall - Hitchin			
	NSch	Sch	
Shefford, High Street			
Meppershall, Sugar Loaf	07:45	07:45	10:15
Henlow Camp			13:31
Hitchin, Bancroft	08:20	08:25	
Hitchin Station	08:23	08:35	
Hitchin, Bancroft			10:54
Hitchin, Grove Road Rd			14:10
Hitchin, Wilbury Way	08:30	08:42	
Train departs to London	08:42		
Sch = School Days. NSch = non-school days.	B = via	Girls	School
Route 89 to Hitchin – Meppershall - Henlow Camp			
	NSch	Sch	NSch
Train arrives from London			
Hitchin, Wilbury Way			17:05
Hitchin Station		15:54B	15:57
Hitchin, Bancroft,	12:35	16:00	16:00
Henlow Camp,		16:41	16:41
Meppershall Sugar Loaf,	13:12		17:15
Shefford, High Street	13:17		17:56

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

MAY	JUNE
Summer Bridger who was 3 on the 1 <sup>st</sup>	Chloe Marshall who will be 9 on the 1 <sup>st</sup>
Grace Finedon who was 1 on the 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Vinnie Simpkins who will be 4 on the 1 <sup>st</sup>
Joseph Daniel who was 11 on the 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Talis Hunt who will be 3 on the 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Annabelle Fox who was 12 on the 4 <sup>th</sup>	Charlotte Parrott who will be 15 on the 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Laura Stock who was 8 on the 4 <sup>th</sup>	Yasmine Vara who will be 10 on the 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Ryan Turner who was 6 on the 5 <sup>th</sup>	Abbie Bradshaw who will be 6 on the 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Samuel Boggon who was 9 on the 7 <sup>th</sup>	Niamh Fairweather who will be 7 on the 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Sasa Kovacs who was 9 on the 8 <sup>th</sup>	Francesca Gavin who will be 12 on the 4 <sup>th</sup>
Louisa Steeley who was 13 on the 9 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Borthwick who will be 15 on the 4 <sup>th</sup>
Harrison Isaac who was 3 on the 10 <sup>th</sup>	Abigail Lougher who will be 7 on the 4 <sup>th</sup>
Frank Donachie who was 10 on the 10 <sup>th</sup>	Aliyah Vara who will be 8 on the 5 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Bull who was 10 on the 11 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Stock who will be 12 on the 5 <sup>th</sup>
Adam Palmer who was 8 on the 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tilly Norris who will be 14 on the 7 <sup>th</sup>
Sophie Palmer who was 8 on the 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Louise Mountcastle who will be 15 on the 10 <sup>th</sup>
Alfie Harris who was 1 on the 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lewis Savuto who will be 7 on the 10 <sup>th</sup>
Isabella Lambley who was 6 on the 17 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Watson who will be 5 on the 14 <sup>th</sup>
James Parrott who was 9 on the 18 <sup>th</sup>	Maya Cox who will be 9 on the 15 <sup>th</sup>
Lily Hefford who was 1 on the 21 <sup>st</sup>	Hanna Laming who will be 15 on the 21 <sup>st</sup>
Rees Davies who was 4 on the 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Louis Fairy who will be 8 on the 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Bryony Lowden who was 9 on the 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Adelle Gainsford who will be 12 on the 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Chloe Thorne who was 7 on the 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lucie Morrison who will be 15 on the 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Kieran Clark who was 15 on the 27 <sup>th</sup>	Liberty Simpkins who will be 8 on the 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Hanne Boggon who was 15 on the 31 <sup>st</sup>	Tayla Woodcock who will be 3 on the 25 <sup>th</sup>
	Monica Steeley who will be 6 on the 26 <sup>th</sup>
	Naomi Crowson who will be 11 on the 27 <sup>th</sup>
	William Lambley who will be 3 on the 28 <sup>th</sup>
	Maya Derrick who will be 10 on the 28 <sup>th</sup>
	Finn Rose who will be 4 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

