



Arms of the de
Meppershall Family

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



VOLUME 25 – Issue 4
JULY 2009

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.

THE TEAM

Editor:	Dick Bulley, 116 Shefford Road	815114
	E-mail: richard@bulleyr.fsnet.co.uk	
Advertising Manager:	Christine Elbourne, 5 St. Mary's Place	817409
Distribution Manager:	Colette House, 90 Fildyke Road	815585
Treasurer:	John Thompson, 16 Brookmead	812983

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EDITORIAL

This month's editorial is a mixture of congrats and complaints.

Congrats to all those who made the unveiling of our new cabinet such a success; you may have seen the picture in the Biggleswade Chronicle. Many people deserve congratulations and thanks: firstly to Dorothy Morris and Cllr. Younger who did the honours; to the Messenger Committee who were working until the last minute to get the contents of the cabinet organised and the hall ready; to the ladies of the WI, inexplicably not mentioned by the Chronicle, who provided tea and the most delicious cakes, and to the Brownies, including an honorary Brownie from outside the village, who served the tea so nicely; to those who came to support us - I hope you enjoyed yourselves. A final thank you to Signline who made the signs for the cabinet and for our "brick". I think it all looks wonderful: see for yourselves next time you are in the Village hall.

Now for the complaints! And they are addressed to you, dear reader! The Messenger now has a team of writers who provide really interesting and entertaining features every month, but the input from the rest of the village is falling away to nothing! I am very happy to publish "thank you"s on the letters page, but I would love to have some more correspondence. And what about photos? With one honourable exception, there has been a complete dearth of pictures, both for the cover and for the souvenir issue. Although the long days (and occasional sunshine!) give plenty of opportunity for photography, pictures for the Messenger do not have to be taken specially: old pictures are specifically welcome for the souvenir issue. Last month I asked for some humorous contributions, but nothing yet. You will notice that there is no Freecycle again this month and the August box on the Coming Events page is empty: are you all planning to be on holiday at the same time?

So don't be shy: put pen to paper or finger to keyboard or camera button. See especially my appeals on page 8.

Dick Bulley



LETTERS

Message of Thanks

My thanks have been a long time coming. The months since my operation seem to have flown by. I would like to thank everyone who sent me the lovely cards, letters, flowers and messages through my family during that time. Your kindness was overwhelming.

Once again, thank you all so much.

Elizabeth Lambley

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined me to celebrate my 40th Birthday last month and for all the lovely gifts I received.

I thoroughly enjoyed my Birthday and party and hope everyone else did too.

I wasn't looking forward to turning 40, but actually it's not so bad!

Many thanks again,

Karen Lucas

OUR COVER COMPETITION

The judges were very pleased to have a greater choice this month, thanks mostly to one person; thank you also to John Harper for standing in as a judge for Phyl Kidger who is temporarily indisposed.

The judges chose a picture that combined quality of composition with a recognisably "Meppershall" subject.

But do you recognise it? Did you realise that the village you live in has such a wonderful green oasis?

The names of the first three people to contact the Editor with the location of this month's picture and the position in which the photographer was standing will be published in the next issue.

And who was the photographer? David Foskett!

Thank you to David for this and for several other very interesting pictures.

Please keep the pictures coming: we need still more choice.

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

On what proved to be a very windy and chilly day, particularly for Shefford Leisure Group, we set off for Pensthorpe in Norfolk – home of BBC2's Springwatch. On our way there we called at the Brandon House Hotel for tea/coffee and a selection of biscuits. Pensthorpe itself is a truly magnificent setting, with a wide range of aquatic birds, many of which had their young in tow. There were some very exotic birds in very large aviaries. They also have a colony of red squirrels which, unlike the human beings, stayed in the warm! The Wensome Discovery Tour took those who were lucky enough to book their seats, through areas of the reserve that the public do not usually have access to. The restaurant had a very wide range of food as did their shop.

By the time you read this, several of us will have completed an eight day holiday in Paignton and Torbay. This we will report in the next issue.

Listed are a few of the day trips currently available:

Bressingham Steam collection and gardens:

Sunday 9th August

Runnymede and Windsor Castle: Wednesday 26th August

Sulgrave Manor Banbury: Wednesday 16th September

Secret London: Wednesday 14th October

Milton Keynes Theatre (using the Letchworth Lions Minibus)

Magic of the Dance (Matinee Performance): Saturday 1st August

Brick Lane Music Hall Monday 21st December

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 30th November to Friday 4th December. Places are still available.

Late February 2010, we are planning Mystery 3-night weekend break. Included in the 3-nights accommodation is a 3-course evening meal, a full English breakfast, scenic drive and luxury coach travel throughout with a one day excursion. Further details later.

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.

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

Sunday Masses

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

Meppershall Parish Council Report

The latest meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 3rd June at Meppershall Lower School.

In the open part of the meeting Steve Ansell, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC), asked Councillors why they had banned the Village bonfire. It was explained that the VHMC had asked two or three years ago for assistance in staging the event, after making a loss on the event due to bad weather. The Council, mindful of the complaints received each year at the length of time taken to clear the site, paid for a skip which was filled quite quickly but unfortunately was not removed until well into the following year and that did not solve the problem of large quantities of nails and other small sharp metal objects left in the ground. In the period since the last bonfire the Council has spent in the region of £1000 getting a contractor in to remove and replace the contaminated soil and level the area. The Councillors felt that they could not justify regularly spending 1/31st of the precept in such a way. Also agreed last year was that the Council's insurance policy would be used for the event so that the VHMC did not have pay the large one-off sum request by their Insurer. Concern was voiced by Councillors at the dangers of leaving such a large fire to burn itself out over night without any supervision.

The matter was discussed once the Council had reconvened and it was agreed that the matter would be reconsidered at the July meeting if the VHMC submit a plan for controlling the amount and type of material used to build the fire, how the fire would be controlled on the night and clearance of the site afterwards.

Highways & Lighting (spokesman Cllr. Roger Bryant)

Paul Makin, Mayor of Shefford has undertaken two surveys of the number of pedestrians and road vehicles using Shefford hill over a four hour period including the morning peak time. This information will be passed to the relevant people as part of the pressure for a new footpath to Shefford.

Environment & Leisure (spokesman Cllr. Paul Merryweather)

The proposal for the low level solar powered lighting to the teenage area has been approved and installation will occur once costs have been rechecked.

Planning & Housing (spokesman Cllr. Peter Chapman)

Three planning applications had been received this month; two, one for an extension and the other for change of use, were passed. The third was a retrospective application for a temporary home which has an existing enforcement notice on it for the removal of the building; the Clerk will write to Central Beds and say nothing has changed and the enforcement notice should be acted upon.

From our Shadow Councillors.

Only Cllr. Carne was present and since he was standing down he reported that he will pass to the new Central Bedfordshire Councillors all information on outstanding matters relating to Meppershall.

Other Matters.

The village sign that resides at the junction of the High Street and Cracklehill Road is back in place but it needs supporting in a different way.

The installation of the CCTV at the Village Hall has been completed and covers inside and outside the hall.

Peter Chapman
Chairman of Meppershall Parish Council

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

THE MESSENGER'S 25th ANNIVERSARY

The unveiling ceremony provided a sneak preview of our Anniversary Roundel, but we will be selling other goodies on our stall at the Summer Fayre; come and buy your exclusive Messenger tee-shirts and other gift items.

We also need pictures, both to display on the stall and to publish in the souvenir issue. To go with the enlargement of the picture taken in 1985 recording the award of our "brick", I have been promised other photos of the Village as it was in the '80s and '90s, but no one has yet delivered! 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. And at the other end of the age scale, I would love to have a picture of our oldest inhabitants. Paul Derrick has offered to take the picture, **so I urgently need the names of all village residents over the age of 90:** please nominate them if they are too shy to do it for themselves. I do not want to give offence by leaving anyone out.

<u>MESSENGER COLLATING DATES – 2009</u>						
Month	Day	Comment		Month	Day	Comment
June	29			Oct	26	
July	27	Double Issue		Nov	30	Double Issue
August	None			Dec	None	
Sept	28			Jan	25	

Meppershall Bakery Bees by *Roger*

Meppershall bees are all doing well after taking a good crop of honey. There is now honey for tea.

Honey bees fall into three castes. During the summer months, approximately 50,000 bees reside in a healthy hive and while you think that all those insects look exactly alike there are actually three different castes, (worker, queen and drone) make up the total population. Each has its own characteristics, roles and responsibilities.

Upon closer examination, the three types even look a little different and being able to distinguish one from the other is important.

Her majesty the queen, let there be no mistake about it. The queen bee is the heart and soul of the colony. She is the reason for nearly everything the rest of the colony does. The queen is the only bee without which the rest of the colony cannot survive. As a beekeeper, on every visit to the hive, I need to determine, do I have a queen? And is she healthy? Only one queen lives in the hive and she is the largest bee. She is the only female with fully developed ovaries. The queen has two primary purposes, one to unite the colony and the other to lay eggs - and lots of them. She is in fact an egg-laying machine capable of laying 1,500 eggs a day. The other bees pay close attention to the queen, tending to her every need. Like a regal celebrity she is always surrounded by a flock of attendants as she moves about the hive. She is not spoiled, these attendants are vital as the queen is totally incapable of tending to her own basic needs while she tirelessly goes from one cell to another doing what she does best – laying eggs. The queen can live for two or more years.

The little worker bee lives for a modest 6 weeks during the active season and for four to eight months during the less active winter months. The term “busy as a bee” is well earned, as the worker bees do a considerable amount of work, day in – day out, in fact during the busy season they literally work themselves to death.

More on the worker and the drone in next months issue.

Honey available now at Rogers Bakery – see you there.

Meppershall Village Hall News

BARBEQUE

RAFFLE

BOUNCY CASTLE

SUMMER FAYRE

TEAS AND COFFEES

AND MUCH MORE

SATURDAY 11TH JULY

10 AM TILL 4 PM

**IN AND BEHIND
THE VILLAGE HALL**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
GEMMA ON 07968 529282**

To book a table or stall – Charge £10 - contact Gemma

It is your Village – it is your Village Hall!

School Report

Meppershall VA Lower School

'An Outstanding Church of England School'

The summer term is always a busy time in school and this year has been no exception. The Oaks class members (our Year 4) have begun their transition to middle school by meeting some of their teachers and visiting their new classes. We have very close liaison with our middle schools and many meetings and events are put in place to ensure transition is as smooth as possible.

Our new entrants have also started their transition visits. As well as coming into their class for different activities they will be joining their new friends for a teddy bears' picnic on the school field organised together with the Preschool.

For their last Meppershall School outing the Oaks class spent a very exciting day in London this month visiting the Tate Britain Gallery. Seeing the enormous original works of art for the first time can be quite awe inspiring and the children were suitably impressed. (See Lydia's letter below.)

Our Visit to the Tate Britain Gallery

By Lydia Woolley, Oaks Class

First we all got a partner and squashed on to the coach! We set off on the motorway and went through a massive tunnel. When we got to London, I saw a person being filmed! We were playing sweet and sour, we waved at her and she waved back.

When we got to the gallery we sat on the steps, our class looks quite big when you look at it like that! I had strawberries and grapes (yum yum) then a door opened and we stumbled in. Mrs. Terry signed in and Mrs. Wright told us our groups. We ran in and started to do the activities.

I saw a painting of three horses & two goats, it was painted by George Stubbs. One painting of a horse and a lion was really detailed. We had a Tudor activity too, we had to draw and write what kind of clothes they were. The other task was to create a painting using tissue paper. I did a picture of lines going down in brightness. It was a long journey home on the coach. I nearly fell asleep, but then Manishka giggled next to me and I scrambled off the coach and said bye!

I really enjoyed my visit to the Tate Gallery because I love art.

This month our two Year 4 teams entered a swimming festival at the Saxon pool in Biggleswade. They competed with 13 other schools and were the WINNERS of the competition.

WELL DONE to Maya Cox, Chloe Marshall, Ben Horsford, Jack Hilton Jones, Sasa Kovacs, Zoe Wesley, Katrina Brennand, James Parrott, Bryony Lowden, Lucy Edwards and Katie Halford,

There will be more excitement to come. Our Football Team will be entering the Henlow Tournament at the Henlow Summer Fayre and a Kwik Cricket Tournament also takes place this half term.

The younger children will also be very busy in the next few weeks. Beeches and Willows (Years 1 and 2) are busy practising for their Multi Skills Festival. They will be competing against many other schools in the area that will be holding their festivals on the same day. Each school taking part represents a different country. We are representing the West Indies this year. Last year we represented India and came third so keep you fingers crossed for another success.

Thank you to all those who joined us for the Memorial Service which proved to be a very special celebration of Mrs. Coomes' time at Meppershall School. The church was full and many people commented on the beautiful singing. Well done to all the children who volunteered to read and to the choir for their wonderful performance of Whistle down the Wind. (Thank you to Mrs. Michelle Allen). All the children attending were a credit to her memory and I am sure Mrs. Coomes would have been very proud.

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

Financial News Update

In this month's financial news update I'm going to talk about something which affects virtually every adult in the UK. We've all seen and read about the billions of pounds that have been injected into the banking system to shore up their balance sheets, numbers so huge we cannot comprehend them. But there is another shortfall so great that it runs into trillions of pounds making the billions given to banks seem like petty cash. What on earth can I be talking about? Well the sad truth is that the UK adult population is under-insured to the tune of many trillions of pounds.

It wasn't that long ago that most people had life assurance cover, and if nothing else they at least had their mortgage covered. Somehow, somewhere along the line, protecting our families and each other has slipped down the list of priorities of what we spend our money on. I think it currently languishes several places lower than a bag of chips! We routinely insure our cars, our homes, our suitcases when we go on holiday, and even our household appliances but the one thing we cannot replace (i.e. ourselves) we don't bother with. We seem to take great comfort in the belief that it won't happen to me. Unfortunately it does happen to people like us every day; road traffic accidents, heart attacks, strokes, cancer and so on.

Life assurance is comparatively inexpensive, indeed the cost has fallen quite sharply in recent years as the fears surrounding mass fatalities from HIV, BSE, CJD, bird flu etc., have failed to materialise. Everyone should take a few minutes out of their busy schedules to sit down and work out what would happen (financially) if one of them were to die unexpectedly – how much money would you need, say, to pay off the mortgage and any other loans such as credit cards, car loans, and then leave enough to pay the household bills. Some of you may be financing children through college or university, and so you need to include the cost (both now and future cost if you have young children). As a rule of thumb, to be fully

insured you need to cover any mortgages and loans plus up to ten times your income.

If you already have life cover in place, make sure you review it regularly as you may be paying too much (I've already said the cost has fallen in recent years), and have you got enough (or possibly too much) cover? One thing is certain; your circumstances will have changed since you took it out and will change again in future.

One note of caution is that whilst life cover is readily available and at times very cheaply, on the internet I would recommend you stick to well known providers with a good track record for paying claims – do not be afraid to ask for details of their claims history, and reject rate. Avoid any site promising to get you covered in ten minutes; typically these providers wait until a claim comes in, and then start digging through your medical past. Cheapest isn't always best! Better to choose a company which underwrites at outset so that once accepted, they will pay out. After all, the one time you need a plan to do what it says on the tin is when someone (possibly your partner) has died. You need the money quickly and without fuss.

Make five minutes to sit down and work out what you are covered for and what you really need, and then cover the shortfall. You may be pleasantly surprised at how little it costs.

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

Polehanger Farm: A Farming Diary - Episode 5

I'm writing this on Saturday 6th June and at last we have some desperately needed rain, with more forecast over the next couple of days. We have had some very warm sunny days over the previous few weeks and everyone (understandably) has been remarking on the lovely weather. It all depends on how you define lovely!

For weeks now we have looked longingly at the weather forecasts predicting rain in two or three days time. Like a mirage in the desert the rain has disappeared as we got nearer to the expected time of precipitation. Meppershall often seems to miss rain coming from the south west when the clouds are diverted by the hills at Sharpenhoe towards Hitchin or Bedford. We recorded just 2.6 inches of rain between March 1st and May 31st.

Thanks to James Read for his letter in the June edition about the countryside. It's always nice to be appreciated. As I've mentioned previously, although we don't always get it right, we take our responsibility of stewardship very seriously whilst at the same time trying, and needing to run a successful and profitable business.

The wheat is now on ear and we need to keep that and the top flag leaf clear of disease as the grain sites in the ear fill during June and early July. The plants are a bit shorter than normal due to the dry conditions. Time will tell how the grain yield has been affected by the very dry spring.

The thin oilseed rape crop has flowered and set it's seed pods. It will be interesting to see to what extent, if any, the lower numbers of plants growing have been able to compensate with more pods per plant.

July is a month of preparation for harvest. Grain stores that have been emptied through the winter period as grain is loaded onto

lorries and taken to mills around the country, need to be thoroughly cleaned and fumigated against insect pests. Harvesting machinery has to be serviced (if that hasn't already been done in the winter).

Rape doesn't ripen evenly up the plant so it is normal practice to force that process either by spraying a desiccant on the crop, or cutting it with a swather and leaving it in rows on the stubble to die back for a week or two, before threshing those rows through the combine. This normally occurs over the last two weeks of July. Wheat isn't usually ready until early to mid August though these dates can be earlier in a very dry year.

Mid June through early July can also be a time to plan for the new cropping season leading to harvest 2010, and prepare or update financial budgets. Finding time to get away can be a problem if there are children of school age in the family as school holidays are so often the busiest times on the farm. Once harvest starts in earnest, long working days will continue, weather permitting, right through into early October. After the crop is harvested, cultivations will start immediately to establish a good enough seed bed at which point the new crop can be drilled (planted). More on that nearer the time.

Are you fully metric in your thinking? We have to fill in forms and paperwork in metric using hectares as the unit of area. But like many farmers I suspect, I still talk and think in acres. Similarly with miles and stones. It's my age I guess. I'll probably just get away with it though!

Chris Foster 6th June 2009

GOOD REASONS TO BUY LOCAL PRODUCE.

By Melissa Hamilton, buy-LOCAL.net Hertfordshire.

Consumer habits are changing and we are now more than ever interested to know how our food is produced and where it comes from. So how can we all benefit from buying locally?

- Get close to the point of production. Find out where your food is coming from. Are you really satisfied with the vague labels on your supermarket meat that describe food origin as from 'the EU'...?
- Cut down on food miles – can it really make sense to eat a Sunday roast that has travelled 25 000 miles before reaching your plate?
- Buy a safe, traceable product – British agriculture has some of the highest welfare and safety standards in the world.
- Support your local economy - your pound will stay local. £10 of your money spent locally will create £24 for the local economy that is £10 more than the same money spent in your supermarket.
- Better for your Health – by eating local food you are helping to ensure you and your family are eating fresh, wholesome food.
- Reduce waste - some food grown for the supermarkets is rejected because it's the 'wrong' size, colour or shape. Farmers selling local foods will include large and small and irregular shapes because that's how nature does things.
- And most importantly of all - British tastes excellent!

Visit us today at 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 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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ADVANCE NOTICE!

The 2009 Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike will be on Saturday 12th Sept 2009. We need as many of you as possible to see if we can beat last year's total of £700 raised. More details later, but please keep the date free and ensure your equipment is up to scratch.

Trevor Wilkinson,
Church Organiser.

Did you know that the machine that prints the Messenger could work for you too?

**We now have a portfolio of jobs undertaken for
satisfied customers:**

- **The programmes for the Players Panto**
- **Fixture cards for Henlow Bowls Club**
- **Healthy Eating Recipe Book for the Pre-school.**
Black and white or full colour.
Sizes from A3 down to A7.

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:**Trouble With Email?**

I will talk here about the free Microsoft Outlook Express but much of this will apply to other similar programmes.

Go to "Tools" / "Options" and ensure the first and third boxes are ticked. If you want a Read Receipt for **all** your emails (to know they have arrived), click on "Receipts" and tick the first box. Go to "Compose" and choose the default font style and size you wish to use. Go to "Maintenance" and tick the first box if you wish to get rid of all your deleted items when you shut the programme down. Go to "Spelling" and tick the box to turn on the spell checker. When you are satisfied with your changes, click "Apply" and "OK".

To highlight a message to be sent as urgent go to the "Priority" button on the tool bar and choose "High Priority" which will append a red exclamation mark to the message in the recipient's Inbox. To request a read receipt once only, go to "Tools" / "Request Read Receipt". Don't forget, the recipient does not have to allow the receipt to be sent back to you, it is optional.

To save an attachment, go to the message and click the paperclip symbol on the right of the message. Click on "Save Attachments" and navigate on the next screen to "My Documents" and then click on the place you wish it to go under this heading – click "Save".

To send an attachment (a document, photo etc.) compose your email and click on the "Attach" button on the toolbar. Navigate to where your files are and attach them one by one or, holding down your "Control Key", shade the ones you want and attach them all at once.

Security is a must with email as this is the place where most viruses / spyware / adware / malware / Trojans enter your system. **If you don't know from whence it came or recognise it at all - DELETE IT!** Remember, your emails and those sent to you are kept by your ISP (Internet Service Provider) for up to a year and can be obtained and read by many agencies under different legislation so anything you want to be kept private or that could be used against you in a Court of Law, send it by post ; - it is currently the least spied-on system available.

Tip of the Month: Keep the total size of email attachments below 10MB unless you know you are allowed to send bigger ones by your ISP.

John Chapman – www.ceekay.co.uk

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

July 2009

<u>Wednesday 1st July</u>		
<i>Read through of Pantomime. Open to all</i>	<i>7.30 PM</i>	<i>Village hall</i>
<u>Thursday 9th July</u>		
<i>Pantomime Auditions</i>	<i>7.30 PM</i>	<i>Village hall</i>
<u>Saturday 11th July</u>		
<i>Summer Fayre</i>	<i>10 AM – 4 PM</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>
<u>Wednesday 15th July</u>		
<i>Parish Council Meeting</i>	<i>7.45 PM</i>	<i>The School</i>
<u>Mon 20th – Thursday 23rd July</u>		
<i>Sparks</i>	<i>See Advert</i>	<i>St Mary's Rectory</i>
<u>Thursday 30th July</u>		
<i>Mobile Police Station</i>	<i>11 AM 12 Noon</i>	<i>Outside Village Hall</i>

August 2009

<u>Thursday 27th August</u>		
<i>Mobile Police Station</i>	<i>11 AM 12 Noon</i>	<i>Outside Village Hall</i>

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT IN MEPPERSHALL

CHURCHES

St. Mary's Parish Church

Rector:	Rev. John Harper	813334
	The Rectory, Church Road	
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 leaders	Alex Sinfield 97, High Street	851473
	Gillian Marshall-Davies, 9 Brookmead	850947

Parochial Church Council

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
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Roman Catholic Church

Priest:	Father Bennie Noonan	813436
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SCHOOLS

Meppershall Lower School	Head Teacher	813293
Henlow Middle School	Head	Mr. Payne 813733
Robert Bloomfield Middle School	Head	Mr. Rogers 628800
Samuel Whitbread Community College	Head	Mr. Rob Robson 629900

DOCTORS

Cakebread & Partners,	The Health Centre, Iveldale Drive, Shefford	814899
Puritz & Collins,	The Surgery, 109 Station Road, Lower Stondon	850305

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Chairman, Parish Council	Peter Chapman, 9, Brookside	813497
Council meets 1 st Wednesday each month, in Meppershall Lower School at 7.45pm		
Clerk:	Mr. C. Waghorn, 15 Church Lane, Letchworth	637531
	Email: waggers.uk@ntlworld.com	
Central Beds Councillors:	Tony Brown 11 Clifton Road, Shefford. Beds	816254
	anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk	
	Lewis Birt 165 Clifton Road, Shefford Beds	819948
	lewis.birt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk	
Surgery/Advice Centre: 1 st Friday each month (except August), Shefford Library 10am – 11.30am		
Member of Parliament:	Mrs. Nadine Dorries, House of Commons	
	London SW1A 0AA	0207 2194239
	Organising Sec: Mrs. Andrea Gordon	811992

SHOPS

Roger's Bakery & General Store (next to School)	Mon-Fri 8.15am – 5.30pm / Sat 8am – 1.30pm	813398
Post Office & Village Stores,	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	813513
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ORGANISATIONS**Babysitting Circle**

Vacant

Beavers

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

Bingo

Fridays 7pm Village Hall

Brownies

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

Mid Beds Conservative Association – Meppershall Branch

Chairman:	Mrs. Pippa McLuskie 4 Stondon Road	813417
Secretary:	Mrs. Gee Bird	811260

Cubs

Shefford	Wednesdays 6.45pm	David Cousins	811441
Shillington		Pauline Goodman	711943

Evergreens

(over 60s) Alternate Thursdays 2.30pm Village Hall
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

Garden Club

3rd Wednesday in month
Linda Parker 812144
Kim Lee Tyler 811750
Sarah Till 817176

Meppershall Players (Amateur Dramatic Society)

Chairman:	Vacant	
Secretary:	Alison Heath	850191
Contact	Colette House	815585
Treasurer :	Graham Scrase	813966

Meppershall Lower School Association

Chairperson:	Sarah Saunders	850817
Secretary:	Lorraine Jarvis	811216
Treasurer:	Karen Lucas	811581

Meppershall Baby & Toddler

	Tuesdays 1.45pm – 3.15.pm	Village Hall
Chairperson:	Sam Hefford	07590290078
Secretary:	Catherine Turner	812134
Treasurer:	Jo Mitchell	813146

Meppershall Pre-School

		Village Hall
	Monday - Friday	9.30am – 12 noon.
	Mon, Wed, Fri:	12.45 – 3.15
	Lunch Clubs: Mon, Wed, Fri:	12.00 – 12.45
Chairperson:	Damian Slade	850592
Secretary:	Rachael Bamford	819403
Registrar:	Louise Hutson	814148

Meppershall Social Club

	(see Notice Board for opening times)	
Chairman:	Mr. G.R.Walker, 37 Brookmead	815183

Meppershall Village Hall Committee

Chairman:	Steve Ansell 6, High Street	811252
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Birch	817014
Secretary	Linda Gold 18, High Street	815629
Booking Secretary:	Karen Lucas, 51A High Street	811581
Village Hall Telephone Number		817359

Neighbourhood Watch

Village Co-ordinator	Tanya Clark	07890 307063
	tanya@tanya3.orangehome.co.uk	

Scouts

Shefford	Diane Landau	01234 381153
Shillington	Paul Major	834251

Shefford Leisure Group

	Mrs. Enid Pamment, 112 High Street	851397
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Tennis (at Langford)

	Neil Franklin	815735
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Womens Institute

	2 nd Wednesday in month 7.30pm	Village Hall
President:	Gillian Thomas	815979

AMENITIES

Banks	Barclays, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm	0845 7555 555
B&B	Old Joe's	815585
Dentist	Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Shefford	814020
Fishmonger	Les Braithwaite (Mobile Van) – Thursdays approx 11.45am	
Flower Workshops	Joanne Sheppard, 74 High Street. Booking essential. Children: Saturday 10.30-12.00; adults Tue & Wed 7.30-9.00	816849
Greengrocer	Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) – Fridays 12.30pm – 2.30pm	711802
Hedgehog Rescue	Hedgehog Trust St. Tiggywinkles	01584 890801 01844 292292
Henlow Bowls Club	Denis Neilson	851208
Kennels/Cattery	Wayside, Chapel Road	813261
Library	High Street, Shefford	639070
Livery Yard & Training Centre	Caroline Carter, Fildyke Road	07747 686118
Mobile Library (alternate Wed)	High Street/School 1.55pm – 2.10pm Village Hall 2.15pm – 2.30pm Fildyke Road 2.35pm – 2.50pm	
Newspapers	Meppershall Village Stores & PO	811252
Police	Emergencies/Police attendance required Shefford Police Post (non emergencies)	999 01234 841212
School of Dance	Positive Moves Saturday Mornings Emma Scott, 29, Fildyke Road	Village Hall 07914 063892
Whitbread Wanderbus		01767 318444

USEFUL NUMBERS

Bedfordshire Police	01234 841212	Brit Transport Police	0800 405040
Lister Hospital	01438 314333	Bedford Hospital	01234 355122
Beds County Council	01234 363222	QE2 Hospital	01707 328111
National Rail Enqs	0845 484950	Central Beds. Council	0300 300 8118
Gas Emergency	0800 111999	NHS Direct	0845 4647
Fire Safety Advice	0800 0435042	Electrical Emergency	0800 838838
Emergency Plumber: Alan Dellar: 01462 814584 or 07885 786488			

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 e.g.:

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

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

James Bond and Casino Night (13th June 2009)

The Meppershall Lower School Parents Association put on a fabulous casino and disco night at Meppershall Village Hall.

My purpose for gathering some words together is to thank the committee for putting on such a fun filled night, and to thank those who came along and enjoyed all the entertainment.

The casino, with roulette, blackjack and poker tables, along with croupiers could transport anyone with a little imagination to a place a long way from Meppershall!

Big Steve's disco was, as always, fantastic with an eclectic mix of music covering several decades, including many Bond theme tunes.

Regrettably the evening was poorly attended, with only one third of the tickets sold, but those who came made up for the low turnout. There seemed to be a distinct lack of parents, staff and governors from Meppershall Lower School but it was great to see people from the village, not connected with the school at present.

I wonder what those who could not or would not attend had to fear, apart from possibly letting their hair down, having fun, and supporting their local hall, school and village?

The PTA had decided this year to break with its normal and somewhat stale events calendar, and support the village fair rather than competing with it, so the Bond Evening was scheduled to be the main fund-raiser for the year, replacing large funds usually made at the school summer fair. Without wanting to publicise how big a financial loss the Bond evening suffered, it was a 3 figure sum!!

The focus for our fund raising this year is help towards the costs of phase 2 of the outdoor play equipment, so desperately needed in the school's playground. The PTA hope to recover some of the lost funds, by increasing support for other family events scheduled for the year, so that this contribution can still be made.

Another thank you must go to the kind gift donors for contributions to the raffle. I hope the lucky winners truly enjoy their generous prizes. Thanks to Monks Pool Clinic, The Letchworth Centre, Gemini Cleaning Services, Elise's Keep fit, First Capital Connect to name but a few.

Jaqui Derrick, Mother and PTA Committee Member



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:

Graham Scrase 01462-813996

Colette House 01462-815585

Aly Borthwick



Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group

Look out for us at the Village Summer Fayre on the 11th July. Everyone will be a winner in our Hook the Duck and the Lucky Dip so come and have a go!

Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group meet on Tuesday afternoons in the Village Hall from 1:45 - 3:15pm (term time only). We are hoping to organise some get-togethers during the summer holidays too (speak to Catherine for more information).

We are a friendly group who welcome new members. Anybody looking after a child under 5 years of age is welcome to come along. We can offer you a variety of toys - including ride-ons (1st Tuesday of the month), dressing-up clothes, craft table, singing and much more!

For more information call:

Sam Hefford 07590290078 (Chair)

Catherine Turner 812134 (Secretary)

Jo Mitchell 813146 (Treasurer)



New and exciting volunteering opportunity with Citizens Advice !

As part of a new service offered by Citizens Advice, the Bedfordshire Bureaux are seeking volunteers to be part of a team to provide basic financial education to community groups and individuals.

Called **MoneyActive**, the project aims to encourage people to manage their finances more effectively and help people take control before they reach crisis point.

If you're looking for the opportunity to learn new skills and develop existing ones, this project offers roles as a:

Trainer, a Course Assistant, Marketeer or Administrator

Volunteers will receive free training with all expenses paid, as well as the opportunity to be part of a friendly team and work closely with your local community?

All sorts of people volunteer for the CAB, but one thing that unites them all is that they find it challenging, rewarding and varied and you never stop learning.

We're looking for a minimum commitment of 5 hours per week and volunteers will be attached to their nearest bureau. So if you'd like to be part of this team then please contact:

Pauline Mitchelmore
 MoneyActive Volunteer Co-ordinator
 Mid Beds Citizens Advice Bureau
 Priory House
 Monks Walk
 Chicksands
 Shefford, Beds
 SG17 5TQ
 Email: pauline@midbedscab.org.uk
 01462 819570 / 07798 692086

Tel:

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)**

We hope that you will have noticed that members of the Garden Club have made a good start in making the frontage of the Village Hall into an attractive focal point for the village. Four large green planters generously donated by the Parish Council now decorate the frontage, and it is hoped that their contents will give pleasure over the coming months. The front border has been cleared ready for autumn planting (with the help of Mick Trundle and a nice young man who will remain anonymous) and work continues on the other beds and borders.

Members of the Club would welcome any help and support from village residents towards this project, just turn up on a Wednesday morning at 10.30am and join in.

If you are interested in joining the group 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

THE PHOENIX CHORUS

The Friends of St. Mary's are delighted to announce that The Phoenix Chorus are returning to sing and entertain you in St. Mary's Church on Saturday October 17.

Back and now settled in again from their Hawaii trip where they competed against the world's very best, they came a creditable 20th out of 40 qualifying countries, a fantastic achievement to say the least.

They come to Meppershall on the back of this fabulous achievement to sing for you again. This is a great occasion to look forward to after the sun and beach holidays that most of you will experience this summer.

The concert will commence at 7.30pm, a concert of two halves with an interval of 15 minutes. Afterwards a buffet supper will be served together wine of your choice.

Tickets are £12 and can be obtained from early September from Trevor Thorley 01462 813357, Margaret Evesham 01462 814291, Roger's Bakery, The Post Office and General Stores and other Trustees.

Best wishes and have lovely holidays.

Trevor Thorley



WaterAid is a leading independent organisation, working in 17 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific Region helping communities overcome poverty through water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

WaterAid works with local organisations and the communities to help them set up, operate and maintain their own projects using low cost technologies, all projects combine, water, sanitation and hygiene education to ensure the communities gain the maximum benefit.

Across the world 884 million people live without access to safe water and 2.5 billion people live without improved sanitation; that is about two fifths of the world, living without adequate sanitation. As a result of this 4,000 children die every day or one child dies every 20 seconds from diarrhoea caused by unclean water and poor sanitation.

The Meppershall Messenger is seeking your help to assist WaterAid with spreading the word about the global sanitation crisis and generating public pressure on the Government to appoint a sanitation champion. You will find a post card in the middle of your magazine. Please consider taking action and filling it in and sending it in support of WaterAid. Thank you.

John Thompson, Treasurer

For more information visit www.wateraid.org

Registered charity numbers 288701 (England & Wales) & SC039479 (Scotland)



CLANGER RUN!



**SUNDAY
13TH SEPTEMBER 09**

**Registration from 10 am
At Luton Hoo**



IN AID OF THE ROAD VICTIMS TRUST

All types of vehicle and motorcycle are welcome

For further information please contact:-

Louise Stafford ~ Events Manager

Tel: 01234 843345

Email: enquiries@rvtrust.co.uk

Web: www.roadvictimstrust.org.uk

***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 July

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Sun 5 | 11.15 a.m. Parish Communion & "JC" in Rectory |
| Sun 14 | 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion |
| | 11.15 a.m. Family Service and commission of "Sparks" |
| | holiday club teams |
| Sat 18 | 2 pm. Wedding |
| | Louise Woodhams & Wayne Woodcock |
| Sun 19 | 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion |
| | 6.00 p.m. Evensong |
| Sun 26 | 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion |
| | 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:

Sheffield Gala

Heavy rain caused the postponement last month, but all is set for the revised date of **Sunday July 19**. Music, sideshows and arena entertainment: 12.30 – 6.00 at Robert Bloomfield School. Look out for the Sheffield Churches Working Together refreshment tent and displays.

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.

Service of prayer for Healing and Wholeness

St Francis' Catholic Church, High Street, Sheffield: Tuesday July 14 at 7.30 pm, organised by Sheffield Churches Working Together.

Further ahead – a date for your diary:

Saturday November 21st - **St Mary's Christmas Fayre**

Dear friends,

Over the past months Patsy, Pam and I have reflected on the major focus points of the Christian year – Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost. This time of year marks the less celebrated Trinity season, which continues now right up until November 1st.

You may remember learning that God is 'three in one and one in three' – Father, Son and Holy Spirit - the Holy Trinity. Whether that helped us in our quest for understanding is another matter! Some of the greatest minds have wrestled with the nature of God, and, not surprisingly, haven't produced findings that totally satisfy. St Patrick compared the three

leafed shamrock with the three fold nature of God. Others have compared God to water, which can take the form of liquid, steam or ice, but still retain its underlying identity as H₂O.

The earliest Christians wrote of God as Trinity not so much to define Him or explain Him but as a defence against heresy – i.e. against those who wanted to demote the role of Jesus, or ignore the work of the Spirit. But essentially the title Trinity is an attempt to knit together what the Old and New Testaments have to say about the relationship between Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. It's a kind of shorthand for saying that at the very heart of God there is an ongoing relationship – a communion of perfect love.

It's a reminder that, unlike the caricature of the medieval king who sits enthroned in splendid isolation, God's very nature is to relate – to give and receive of Himself, and out of that nature He creates new life in amazing diversity, including our humanity. And God dignifies human beings by making us 'in His image', so that we too can consciously relate to the God who gives us life and sustains us through life.

So, if we are made to reflect the relationship at the heart of God, we too are made to be in relationship with each other. That's why I believe a local sense of community is so vital. In an age where so much conspires to cause separation and the splintering of a sense of society, we need to hold on to and build opportunities to belong – to see God's Trinitarian image in one another, because it is for that that we are made, and it's through that mutual rhythm of giving and receiving that we find life in all its fullness, as Jesus promised.

With good wishes
John Harper





SPARKS Challenge ... the sizzling,
the sporting,
 the challenging,
 the champion's
 christian holiday club for ~

cricket
cross country
bible drama

5 – 12 yr olds

Mon. 20th, Tues 21st, Wed, 22nd July
10am – 2pm
& Thu. 23rd July 10am – 3pm
at

St. Mary's Church,
The Rectory & grounds, Meppershall
[please note - the site is NOT enclosed]

crafts
football
rounders
athletics

Your child will need:

- **£2.50 / day. ONLY £10 for 4 days [bring on the day]**
- **A PACKED LUNCH [NO GLASS]**
- **TO WEAR OLD CLOTHES**

Drinks available all day.

QUESTIONS? Sandra & Rector John 01462 813334 revjohnharper@talktalk.net
REGISTRATION FORMS available from: St. Mary's Church, The Rectory, St. Michael's Church Shefford, and through 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 20th 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 JULY

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

LAST CHANCE

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

GET AHEAD

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

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 ^p	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			
Shefford, High Street	NSch	Sch	
Meppershall, Sugar Loaf	07.45	07.45	10:15 13:31
Henlow Camp			
Hitchin, Bancroft	08:20	08:25	
Hitchin Station	08:23	08:35	
Hitchin, Bancroft			10:54 14:10
Hitchin, Grove Road Rd			
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			
Train arrives from London		Sch	NSch
Hitchin, Wilbury Way		15:54B	17:05
Hitchin Station		15:57	17:12
Hitchin, Bancroft,	12:35	16:00	17:15
Henlow Camp,		16:41	17:56
Meppershall Sugar Loaf,	13.12		
Shefford, High Street	13.17		

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

Anabella Gould who will be 12 on the 1st
Charlotte Rose who will be 2 on the 3rd
Oliver Zimmerman who will be 10 on the 6th
Chelsea Adams who will be 12 on the 6th
Charlotte Watson who will be 8 on the 12th
Chloe Watson who will be 8 on the 12th
Joshua Wright who will be 9 on the 13th
James Metcalfe who will be 7 on the 14th
Jessica West who will be 14 on the 14th
Erica Ward who will be 10 on the 17th
Scott Metcalfe who will be 5 on the 17th
George Nash who will be 3 on the 18th
Cameron Maxwell who will be 7 on the 26th
Kerys Henderson who will be 7 on the 26th
Heather Bull who will be 8 on the 26th
Ella Gregg who will be 11 on the 30th

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

