



Arms of the de
Meppershall Family

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



VOLUME 25 – Issue 5
AUG/SEPT 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.

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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 issue is “double” because there will not be a regular issue until September, but the collating team will be very relieved that it is not twice as thick as last month. Because we wanted to help the WI by inserting their programme as a pull-out supplement; and because the Treasurer needed our support for his Water Aid Charity; and because we wanted to support the new hosts, Sue and Keith at the Sugar loaf, we ended up with a very thick issue that required huge efforts to staple and fold. Thank you again to that dedicated team who toiled for hours on one of the hottest days of the year (so far).

As far as we could judge, the Summer Fayre was a success, even though warmer and drier weather would have been nice. For our own Messenger perspective, see page 9: I hope that all the many people who put work into it felt that their efforts had been rewarded.

But just before the Fayre, we at the Messenger had a bombshell: our printing machine has been lodged in 4 High Street by kind permission of Andrew Brinkley, and Andrew now needs that room for commercial reasons – so we could shortly be homeless! If you know of any room that is dry and secure and not too far from the centre of the Village (so that our printing ladies can pop in and out without a great trek), we really would be glad to hear from you.

It is very nice to have the letter pages brimming again. This month they include some “nature” observations, and it would be very good if we could have those regularly. Would any of our younger readers care to take that on - perhaps as a school class? And we have a feature on page 17 because a proud Mum let me know that her son had seen a rare butterfly in Old Road Meadow; other Mums please copy! No jokes or cartoons yet, though: have we no humorists in the Village? And no Freecycle again. The local on-line Freecycle sites are always busy, so what is wrong with our paper-based site?

If you have any suggestions for the Messenger that you cannot do by yourself, please let me know so that I can try to put great minds together.

Have a wonderful summer!

Dick Bulley

LETTERS

Farewell to Meppershall.

For the past twelve years my wife Margaret and I have enjoyed living in Meppershall but now is the time for a change.

By the time this goes to print we will have moved to Darlington for a number of reasons. More facilities, - library, swimming pool, shops etc - that we can access by bus. Clubs, cinema & theatre again accessible by public transport. As I am the only driver, this allows Margaret much more independence and I do not have to be chauffeur.

We have been going to the North of England for many years and to us this move is quite a natural thing. It is a new challenge that we have looked forward to for some time. Whilst we leave behind our daughter and her family, we will move within walking distance of our son and his family. very fond memories of those we have met, as neighbours, as committee/team members for the allotments & Village Plan and those people we met around the village who were always very pleasant to us.

Best regards to all – John & Margaret West

And we thank you John for your efforts on behalf of the Village over those years; we wish you both all the very best in Darlington. – Ed

Thank You – From Louise Savory

I would just like to say a very big thanks to all my family and friends for making my 40th birthday party a night to remember, and for all the lovely gifts and vouchers you gave me. Also to Graham and the bar staff at the Social Club. And to my Mum, Dad, Sister and Auntie for helping me do the food.

*Thanks and love to you all,
Louise*

Congratulations!!!

To Charlotte Hughes on gaining a place at Bedford University studying for a B.Ed. in Primary Education.

We are very proud of you. Love, Mum, Ollie, Elliot, Lisa, Nan, Poppa, Louise, John, Dan & Josh. XXXXXXXX!

Letter from Elsie Lawrence

I would like to thank the Team who tidied up the area round the Village Hall and provided and planted all the flowers. It has helped enormously to enhance the centre of the Village.

If we can now sort out the car parking and see a footpath to Shefford completed, it will make a big difference to one and all.. If will be even better if we get much needed repairs done to the paths and roads.

Thanks again for the flowers and all the hard work by those concerned.

<p>Message from Cllr. Lewis Birt:</p> <p>Will Meppershall residents who experience or witness vandalism, please report the incident by telephone to P.C. Steve Busby on 07768 468066, there is a recorder on this line if it is unattended.</p> <p>Without such reports the Police are unable to build up a record of events resulting in the inability to put investigative measures in place.</p>

Lovely to be able to say positive things once in a while!

There are more insects around this year than of late, which may account for never-before-seen birds in my garden. A Mistle Thrush has nested in my conifers. A flock of a dozen or so Long Tailed Tits was around for a week. Gold Finches were feeding and drinking and nesting across the road.

The Sparrows are back in their usual numbers and the morning chorus is loud and vibrant again. In addition, the Owl box at the back of the Village Hall is once again filled with the sound of Owlets (after a couple of empty years) and the Red Kites are wheeling over the Parish Church. The Sparrowhawk is back in our vicinity.

A balance which I had noticed was dipping away seems to be returning, very uplifting if nature is your bag.

John Chapman

Would anyone care to contribute a regular nature Notes item? - Ed

COVER COMPETITION

Well!! Did nobody recognise Old Road Meadow on the cover of the last issue, or were you all too shy to call and say so? So nobody gets their name in lights: shame!

This month's picture was taken by Greg Horsford and submitted by Nicola without telling him! Although we get more pictures of the water tower than of any other single subject, this one is different. The judges particularly liked the warm evening light, so evocative of high summer and thus just right for this issue.

Please challenge our judges with yet more pictures: only a small fraction of what we receive are actually suitable for our cover, so we just need more and more to pick out the good ones.

25th ANNIVERSARY

As you may have seen on our stand at the Fayre, pictures of Meppershall in the past are starting to come in. It would be particularly interesting to have pictures of businesses or trades that have now gone; the horse-drawn hearse from Simons makes a fascinating picture.

We are also keen to get pictures of our oldest residents and to tap their memories. So far I know of 11 current or recent residents of Meppershall who are over 90:

Esther Butcher	John Pontin
Michael Foster	Archie Russell
Jack Groom	Ida Taylor
Marjorie Gudgin	Min Tink
Eric Jepps	Florence Vintner
Phyllis Kidger	

This seems to us to be an amazing number: there must be something in the Meppershall water, but if you know of anyone else who should be on that list, please let us know – we really do not want to overlook anyone.

We are also working on ideas to make the souvenir issue even more special. More of that anon. Our actual birthday will be in April 2010, so we are hoping to bring out the souvenir issue closer to that date.

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

To end the month of June we set off by coach to Preston Sands Hotel which overlooked the beach in Paignton, Devon. The weather was very kind which meant that many of us enjoyed an evening stroll along the promenade. Our trips included Babbacombe and the very impressive model village; another was to Buckfast Abbey which was most interesting and we were able to enjoy a Devonshire cream tea which was extremely good for the waistline! The other organised trip was to Totnes with a cruise down the river to Dartmouth. On our free days several people visited Cockington and enjoyed a ride in a horse and trap, Torquay and the steam train to Kingswear. We were all very sorry when departure date arrived having had such a lovely and relaxing holiday.

We began July with one of the many trips organised with a Blue Badge Guide which always prove very popular. This time we visited Hullbridge where we met our guide for a coffee stop before proceeding down to Southend for a pie and mash lunch. Our guide took us through many villages and hamlets with an amusing dialogue throughout. One of our stops was at St.Nicholas Camewdon Parish Church which had been endowed with many of the features coming from churches in London. On our way down to Southend we passed Southend Airport, now housing a Vulcan Bomber which they warm up and taxi down the runway on occasions. After many dubious comments regarding the pie and mash, this proved very welcome and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. During our free time, some decided to go shopping whilst others strolled the promenade before making our way to Leigh-on-Sea to finish our day with cockles, mussels and of course for those daring enough jellied eels!! A super end to another perfect day for Shefford Leisure Group.

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

The Railway Children – York

Wednesday 4th August

The Lord Mayor's Show

Saturday 14th November

Brick Lane Music Hall

Monday 21st December

STREET, Nr Glastonbury, staying at The Wessex Hotel will be our venue for Tinsel & Turkey this year. 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 a 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

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

Meppershall Parish Council Report

The latest meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 15th July at Meppershall Lower School.

During the open part of the meeting Tony Brown, one of our Councillors on the new Central Bedfordshire Council, said that 91% of those who replied to the questionnaire sent out by the Conservative Party prior to the election were in favour of the new footpath to Shefford and that information had been added to the debate on how quickly the path may be constructed.

There were also representations from the owner/occupiers of The Pigling, Woodview Nurseries regarding the comments made last month about the recent retrospective planning application on their property. Two residents commented on the new gate across the track to the allotments and the chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) detailed the proposals so that a bonfire could be built for firework celebrations.

Highways & Lighting (spokesman Cllr. Roger Bryant)

A list of repairs to the highways and footpaths in the Parish which could be completed under the Enhanced Parish Partnership Scheme has been submitted to Central Bedfordshire. There is still no news on a start date on the additional parking in Fildyke Road opposite Buxton Close but it is due to be completed in this financial year.

Environment & Leisure (spokesman Cllr. Paul Merryweather)

The lighting equipment for Fosters Field has been ordered.

The annual inspection of the play equipment has taken place and items requiring attention have been placed with a contractor to carry out the necessary repairs.

A course of spot weed spraying has been carried out in Old Road Meadow. My apologies to the lady from Hoo Road who rang asking if the work had been carried out safely and was advance notification required, as I mislaid your telephone number. I can confirm that the work was carried out by an authorised contractor using a spray that was

safe once dry. As it was only spot spraying the contractor was satisfied that everything was dry before he left the site.

The gate across the track to Wry Close allotment field has been installed. Following representation from the residents it was agreed to keep the gate open until legal guidance has been received over what rights the residents have to use the track. Once this is received, a final decision would be made.

It was agreed that allotment rents would be increased to £10 per plot.

The proposal from the VHMC for the control of the bonfire was approved.

Planning & Housing (spokesman Cllr. Peter Chapman)

There were no applications this month to consider. Regarding the representation from the owners of 'The Pigling', the property was constructed 15 years ago without planning permission. The complete planning procedure, including public enquiry, has taken place and an enforcement notice for the removal of the building is in place. The Council will always back the planning process.

Other Matters.

The plan of all the grass cutting requirements within the Parish has been received and it is hoped that the complete tender document for grass cutting for 2010/12 will be ready for distribution in October.

Peter Chapman - Chairman of Meppershall Parish Council

The next two Parish Council meetings will be held on Wednesday 2nd September and 7th October 2009 at Meppershall Lower School commencing at 7.45pm.



MESSENGER AT THE SUMMER FAYRE

I hope you will have seen our stand at the Fayre; it was certainly nice for us to see you, and to be able to put a face to several regular contributors who had hitherto been only e-mail addresses. Our visitors included Michael and Kathleen Foster, seen posing in our souvenir T-shirts in the picture below (left).

We were grateful for some appreciative comments about The Messenger.

We took our 25th birthday as the theme of our stand and were very pleased to be able to display some of the pictures of Meppershall in the past that have already come in. It was wonderful when people came up and identified themselves or their children in the pictures.

We received some flattering comments on our new 25th Anniversary T-shirts and I am delighted to be able to say that all the Messenger team will be receiving one, with our compliments. Please contact Colette if you have not already heard from her.

As well as anniversary memorabilia for sale, we had three raffles and a "How many sweets in the jar" competition. The winners on the day were:

Children's raffle- Thomas the Tank Engine: Holly & Emily Parker of Lower Stondon. (see picture below right)

Half case of wine: Christine Bowden of Luton

Sunday Lunch at the Sugar Loaf: Phyllis Corns of Hoo Road

And the closest guess to the number of sweets in the jar was from Ruth Neilson of Orchard Close.

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you all for helping us towards a total of £50 to the Messenger's coffers.



Meppershall Bakery Bees by *Roger*

All hives still okay with lots of honey. By the time you read this we should have started to harvest the main crop of honey, which is looking good. At my last inspection, 10th July, I spotted some Queen cells, not swarm cells, but supersedure cells also called Queen cells. The bees create these cells if they believe their queen is not performing up to par. Supersedure is a natural occurrence when the colony replaces an old or ailing queen with a new one. We have had some swarming this year. When a colony swarms half the population leaves with the old queen, looking for a new and more spacious home. With half the girls gone and several weeks lost while the new queen gets up to speed, we are left with far fewer bees gathering honey. We were lucky this did not happen until the first crop was taken at the end of May and with the June gap they have recovered well, with some supers already with honey. We have marked 3 of the new queens with a green marker pen so we can spot them easier in the hives. Green is the colour for 2009 each year having different colours.

The worker bee- The specific jobs and duties they perform during their short lives vary as they age but understanding their roles will deepen your fascination and appreciation of these remarkable creatures. From the moment the worker bee is hatched, she has many and varied tasks clearly cut out for her. As she ages these tasks are many: housekeeping, undertaking, nursery, attending royalty, going to the grocery (royal jelly stores) fanning, architecture and building, guarding the hive and stepping out foraging. (What busy bees!)

The Drone bee- This brings us to the only male bee in the colony. Drones make up a relatively small percentage of the bees' total population. At the peak of the season their numbers may be only in the hundreds. The drone gets a bad rap in many bee books, described as lazy, gluttonous and incapable of caring for himself. You might even begin wondering what he's good for? He mates! Procreation is the drone's primary purpose in life. Despite their high maintenance (they must be fed and cared for by the workers), drones are tolerated and allowed to remain in the hive because they may be needed to mate with a new queen, when the old one dies or needs to be superseded.

Honey available at Rogers Bakery – see you there.

School Report

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

Well, the Summer term is almost over as I write this and what an active one it has been. The children have been very busy taking part in many sporting competitions. Our football team played really skillfully at the Henlow Middle School Football Tournament, without losing any of their matches. Unfortunately they did not get into the final which was decided on goal difference. Thank you to Mr Clark, one of our parents, for coaching the team. Year 4 also represented the school at an inter-schools cricket tournament organized by the Redbourne Sports partnership. Once again they did us proud, coming 5th in a very competitive event with 15 other schools. Thanks to Mr Davies for his cricket coaching.

Our Key Stage 1 children, Beeches and Willows, worked valiantly at their Multi Skills Cricket Festival, competing against many other schools in the area as well as against each other. The Bahamas team won the intra school competition and we await results for the inter-schools winner. The event was enhanced by a very interesting talk by Mrs Marshal-Davies about life in the West Indies.

At Meppershall we like to provide our children with as many 'Out of School' opportunities as we can. The Hazels class have become very keen horticulturists, designing their own gardens and growing salad crops. They then took part in their own Gardeners' Question Time with our resident gardener Mr John Cook. Finally they visited the Swiss Gardens at Shuttleworth and spent a very enjoyable time picking up extra tips.

Our Gardening club have been very busy this term growing flowers and vegetables for our expanding school garden. Thank you to Mrs Saunders and all her helpers for their sterling work.

Our younger pupils, the Acorns, Beeches and Willows had a wonderful day at Mead Open farm. As well as looking at animals they were able to feed the lambs, handle the rabbits, go for a tractor ride and witness a sheep race! The experience was really 'hands on'

and I am sure all the children will remember it for a long time to come.

Our Learning Platform was launched this term and the children can access this at home to support their learning in many different areas and further develop their ICT skills.

As part of their Design Technology, the Oaks and Hazels spent a very exciting morning with an engineer constructing and testing their own K'nex vehicles. The winners of the challenge were: Daniel Morris, Darcey Sheppard, Jack Hilton- Jones and Ben Horsford who were then invited to an inter schools event in Bedford. Jack and Ben came up trumps again coming second, beating many, much older pupils from other schools.

Our Year 4 School Councillors (Katie Halford, George Duffield, Jack Hilton-Jones and Chloe Burr) accompanied me to a special event to celebrate our school's National Healthy School Award at the Rufus Centre. Fun activities were organized and we were then treated to a healthy and very tasty lunch!

Our School Association have been hard at work organizing fund raising events this year. Amongst many things, their efforts have partly funded our wonderful new play equipment and helped towards our school trips, our swimming lessons and Bibles for the leavers. Their hard work is very much appreciated. We also have a team of parent helpers who come into school to help in many different ways and we very much appreciate all that they do.

We wish our Year Fours all the very best at their new schools. We really are very proud of each and every one of them. Our new entrants joined us for their pre-school visits this half term and met their new friends. The pre-school also joined the Acorns for a teddy bears' picnic on our school field and a good time was had by all. We look forward meeting our new Acorns when they start with us in September.

If you would like to find out more about our school you can access our website at <http://www.meppershall.beds.sch.uk>

Financial News Update

One of the most commonly asked questions at the moment comes from 'people of a certain age' wanting to know where they can put their money to earn a decent return on it. Many retired people have relied upon the interest on their savings as a means of supplementing their incomes. As recently as eighteen months ago, they could get up to 6% p.a. from their bank/building Society accounts. Today, many are getting less than a tenth of that, which means they are rapidly eroding their capital. Furthermore, most people in this age bracket do not have the wherewith all to replenish it.

It is of little comfort that the official rate of inflation is nearly zero; the official measures (the Retail Prices Index, and the Consumer Prices Index) are based on a basket of items that people might buy. Some of these have fallen in price (e.g. phones, plasma TV's etc.,) which serves to offset the items which have gone up in price. The problem is that pensioners tend to spend all their money on the things which have gone up (e.g. food, heating, cooking and so on), which leaves many of them with a personal inflation figure of as much as 10%!

It is still possible to get income of 5% p.a. net of tax, but it involves moving the money out of the bank, and investing in something else. Unfortunately that does involve a little bit of risk, but even here there are schemes which will preserve your capital. The major barriers I come across are emotional ones, and number one is usually that they feel their money is safe in the bank. The bowler-hatted friendly bank manager of yesteryear is long gone I'm afraid – we mustn't forget they are outright money-making institutions. They pay you 0.5% p.a. on your money whilst investing that same money in some of the highest risk investments there are.

Number two is often that they can get at their money if they need it, and yet in many cases they haven't touched that money for years, partly because they need it in place for the interest, and partly because it gives them an emergency fund for everyday needs.

It is true to say that some schemes require the money to be invested for typically five years, but then again there are many bank bonds which lock up your money for several years as well. In any event you can always get your money back if you really need it.

Number three is "What if that company goes bust, will I lose my money?" Well we all now know that only the first £50,000 is guaranteed in the bank; however, many of the schemes I use have protection of 90% of an unlimited amount.

So, in summary, there are ways of getting higher returns on your savings, but make sure you abide by the golden rules – don't put all your eggs in one basket, make sure you have access to sufficient funds for any conceivable emergency, and take professional advice.

So, my message this month is don't let your savings deplete to nothing, there are plenty of places to invest in which are low risk, and which will give you a better return than you are currently getting.

Don't forget to let me know what you want to hear about.

Jon Ingarfill

Tel: 07870 564115 or email: jon@rutherfordfinancial.co.uk

Polehanger: A Farming Diary, Episode 6

There is nothing more that we can do now. The rape and winter wheat crops are starting to ripen and lighten in colour and harvest will soon be upon us. The rape should be ready to combine at the end of July / beginning of August, the winter wheat by mid August and the spring wheat will follow soon after that.

Having been desperate for rain in May and June we would now rather it held off to let harvest happen on time and in the dry, unlike last year. Above 15% moisture, cereal grain in a big heap will heat up and deteriorate. Artificial drying is possible using heated / unheated air blown through the heaps in the storage barn, but the cheapest way to dry grain is to let the sun do it in the field! In order to get a decent length of day for harvesting, combines may have to start to cut above 16% expecting that moisture readings will fall as the day progresses and the sun gets to work. Harvesting is often done after dark before the moisture levels rise again with the dew.

The really heavy downpours of rain in early July have been very localized and we have missed many of them. We have even noticed differences in rainfall measurements at our end of the village compared to the top end. Anyhow, torrential rain at this time of year is of little use to crops and is likely to cause damage.

Have you heard of Georgina Downs? After suffering ill health that she claims is caused by chemical spray drift, she has been campaigning, very effectively against the use of agricultural pesticides next to residential properties that border cropped fields. Last November she won a 'landmark' case in the High Court when the judge ruled that DEFRA's policy on protecting bystanders from crop spraying was unlawful. On 7th July the Court of Appeal overturned this ruling. However it is quite likely that Hilary Benn, the Environment Minister - there isn't a cabinet minister for farming and fisheries anymore - will introduce some form of compulsory restrictions to protect bystanders from crop spraying whatever the outcome of any further rulings on the Downs case.

Clearly pesticides are toxic to a point, as is the fly spray we use in our kitchen or the exhaust emitted from my car. However, farmers can only use products that are recommended after extensive testing and subsequent licensing before becoming available. So it feels rather harsh when the inference of some reporting of a case such as this is that we farmers are pouring vast quantities of poison indiscriminately onto our crops without a thought for the well being of anyone else.

Aside from any personal mutterings as a farmer, this does raise some interesting issues about the interface between the general public and industry of any kind. Noise, dust, fumes and smells are generated from a multitude of industrial and retail activities as well as agriculture. The difference, I suppose, is that no one pays a premium to live next to an industrial estate whereas they might consider doing so for a garden that looks out over fields!

How does our society reconcile the apparent conflict over the rights and needs of two significant sections: the public who have the right to enjoy the countryside, and the farmers who not only make a living from that countryside but also provide much of the basic foodstuffs for our table? How do you define a bystander in this particular matter of pesticide spraying ?

I would be interested in your thoughts on this.

Chris Foster : 10th July 2009

Please share your thoughts with all of us by writing to the Editor, and please do write!



HE ALWAYS KNEW WHAT HE WANTED TO DO!



Jeremy Holden, pictured here in Cambodia where he currently works for Flora & Fauna International, was born in Meppershall. He attended Meppershall Lower School, Henlow Middle and then Samuel Whitbread, before going on to Nottingham University.

But even while still at Meppershall school he had such an interest in wild life that he was often called upon to identify minibeasts that someone else had found. From that early age he knew that he wanted to be a professional wild life photographer and his chance came while he was back-packing in Indonesia in 1993. He has never looked back.

But he does come back, and this summer he saw in our own Old Road Meadow the Marbled White butterfly, pictured below.

The internet will tell you that the Marbled White is almost extinct and the remaining specimens are to be found only in the west of England; yet on 1st July 2009 this one was in Meppershall! This just goes to show what a special wild life haven we have in our own village.



Computer Tips:

HYPERLINKS

Nothing to do with agitation or e-numbers, these are the links you click on when surfing the Internet to get you from page to page. They are displayed in the browser address bar (the one at the top) and can be shaded, copied and pasted into any document, where they become a “live” link. Try this with an email to yourself for practice. You can also type a web address into your email – just start with **www.** and the link will become “live” for the recipient.

It is also possible to make your own hyperlinks on your own computer. Take an Excel spreadsheet for instance: you may have cells which refer to another document, photograph, video file or even a folder on your computer. It can be time consuming and fiddly to bring up those items in the normal way so why not hyperlink them from your spreadsheet? *Right click* on the cell and choose “Hyperlink” from the drop-down menu. In the Explorer box navigate to the file or folder you want to access and either *double click* it or *click OK*. Your cell script will now turn another colour (default is blue) to show a Hyperlink has been set. Click out of the cell (to embed the link) and then click on it and the file or folder you chose will come up on screen. To remove the Hyperlink, *right click* on the cell and choose “remove hyperlink”; easy as that.

For Word (or any supported text), shade the text you wish to use as a Hyperlink, *right click* on the shaded area and proceed as above. This also works in Open Office etc. If you do not wish to use the *right click* option, there is a “globe with glasses” icon on the toolbar which does the same thing.

All back numbers for these articles are available from the village website: www.meppershall.org . All the links from my articles will be “live” there, just click on them to enact. Have fun.

John Chapman www.ceekay.co.uk

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

August 2009

<u>Saturday 1st August</u>		
<i>Grand Opening & Hog Roast</i>	<i>12 Noon – Late</i>	<i>Sugar Loaf Public Hse</i>
<u>Tuesday 25th August</u>		
<i>Tea Dance</i>	<i>2PM – 5PM</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>
<u>Thursday 27th August</u>		
<i>Mobile Police Station</i>	<i>11 AM 12 Noon</i>	<i>Outside Village Hall</i>
<u>Monday 31st August</u>		
<i>Treasure Hunt and BBQ</i>		<i>Village Hall</i>

September 2009

<u>Wednesday 2nd September</u>		
<i>First Pantomime rehearsal</i>	<i>7.45 PM</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>
<u>Thursday 3rd Sept</u>		
<i>Parish Council Meeting</i>	<i>7.45 PM</i>	<i>The School</i>
<u>Saturday 12th Sept</u>		
<i>Sponsored Bike 'n Hike</i>		<i>St Mary's Church</i>
<u>5th -13th Sept</u>		
<i>Bedfordshire walking Festival</i>		<i>See Page 27</i>
<u>Saturday 26th September</u>		
<i>Table-top Sale</i>		<i>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
<u>Parochial Church Council</u>		
Secretary:	Mrs Carolyn Holmes, 19 Buxton Close,	07868530221
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Bartlett, 14 Taylors Close	811191

Methodist Chapel

Minister:	Rev. P. Snelson, 79 Ampthill 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	Keith & Sue 25 High Street		813513
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ORGANISATIONS**Babysitting Circle**

Vacant

Beavers

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

Brownies

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

Meppershall Garden Club3rd Wednesday in month

Linda Parker	812144
Kim Lee Tyler	811750
Sarah Till	817176

Meppershall Players (Amateur Dramatic Society)

Chairman:	Vacant		
Secretary:	Alison Heath		850191
Membership:	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 – 3.15pm	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)	Village Hall
Chairman:	Mr. G.R. Walker, 37 Brookmead	815183
	Tuesdays : Darts & Snooker – 8.30 pm	
	Thursdays : Crib/Dominoes – 8.30 pm	
	Fridays: Bingo 7.00 – 9.00 pm	

Meppershall Village Hall Committee

Chairman:	Steve Ansell 6, High Street	811252
Treasurer:	Mr. D. Birch	817014
Secretary:	Linda Primett 18, High Street	815629
Booking Secretary:	Sarah McKearney, 35, High Street	07821 776185
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
Sarah McKearney on 07821 776185

You can also visit our website for full information on
www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

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



A vehicle crime took place in Church Road, in Meppershall, opposite St Marys Church, between the afternoon of the 11th, and the afternoon of the 12th of July.

The vehicle was a Grey, 55 registered, Seat. The offender used a brick to smash a side window in the vehicle. A handbag, and a purse were taken from the vehicle.

Bedfordshire Police remind vehicle owners to remove all property from vehicles when parked. Remember to remove the holder for any Satellite Navigation Systems, or Mobile phones, and clean away any marks left on the windscreen or dashboard. Leaving the empty glove box open will also discourage an offender breaking into the vehicle.

{ For more information on reducing vehicle crime visit http://www.safer-beds.org/rmwebportal/rm_desktop/files/Crime%20Reduction%20-%20Vehicle%20Crime.html }

If you have any information about this crime, please call the Police Control Centre on (01234) 841212, for North and Mid Beds, or (01582) 401212 for South Beds, and quote crime reference, J/,2,8,6,4,3,/2009.

Alternatively text your message to (07786) 200011 { or email your message to chc@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk }
Or call Crime stoppers in Confidence on (0800) 555111.
Thank you for your support.

Help save your Heritage!

Sponsored Bike 'n Hike 2009



Over 600 churches and chapels to visit!
Raise funds for your church or chapel.

Saturday 12 September 2009
10 am to 6 pm

Raise money for the repair of your local church or chapel by getting sponsorship for cycling or walking between churches in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Anyone can take part and there is a choice of over 600 open churches and chapels for you to visit.

For more information please contact:

TREVOR WILKINSON
3 ST. MARYS PLACE

MEPPERSHALL

01462 811583



Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust
www.BedsHertsHCT.org.uk

MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

Annual Advertising Charges 2009/10

Size	Black & White	Full Colour
Full Page	£190	£290
Half page	£105	£170
Quarter page	£65	£100
Eighth page	£45	£70

For further information, contact Christine Elbourne,
Advertising Manager, on 01462 817409



Casting for the Pantomime (Little Red Riding Hood) is now complete. Except that we need one more male and one more female. We would also welcome a few more adults to sing in the chorus.

If you would like to audition, please come along to the first rehearsal on Wednesday 2nd September at 7.45 PM in the Village Hall

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 + 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 01462-813966

Colette House 01462-815585

Claire Piller



Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group

Thank you to everyone who supported us at the Summer Fayre where we raised much needed funds for the group.

Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group meet in the village hall from 1:45 to 3:15pm on Tuesdays during term time. We offer a variety of toys - including ride-ons (first Tuesday of the month), a craft table, a snack, singing and much more! Sessions cost only £1.50 for the first child and £2 for families with more than one child.

We are hoping to organise some get-togethers during the summer holidays too (speak to Catherine for more information). We return from the summer holidays on Tuesday, 8th September.

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)

Bedfordshire Walking Festival 2009

Only a few weeks to go before the Bedfordshire Walking Festival takes its first step.

In the 9 days between 5th and 13th September over 60 walks will take place ranging from 1-3 mile Walks4Health, to Interest Rambles, to 5-7 mile half day walks to 12 mile full day walks to a 40 mile 3 day trip across Bedfordshire along the Greensand Ridge Path. The Festival makes use of Public transport wherever practical and in particular the Marston Vale Railway line on the first weekend which includes a special Sunday service.

Organiser Barry Ingram said “Offering such a variety gives an opportunity for people of almost all ages and abilities to participate. We want to welcome and encourage individuals and groups from all races colours and creeds, as walking is a healthy activity recommended by Doctors, Health Professionals and Government. This Festival, with several walks each day, most being free, and allowing people to just turn up is an ideal way of getting started”

The Festival is county-wide because Bedfordshire has an excellent network of footpaths, the vast majority well maintained and well marked. The North of the County is likened to “The Wolds”. The Middle offers excellent views and woodland whilst the South is hillier and more challenging. The Countryside along with some interesting Towns, Villages and Estates plus two important waterways means Bedfordshire has much to offer the walker.

Please make a note in your Diary and join us for Bedfordshire’s First Walking Festival.

The programme is available via the Web site www.bedswalkfest.co.uk or via local Tourist Information Centres or by Telephoning 01234 353704 (Office Hours Mon-Fri 9-00am to 6-00pm).

Meppershall Pre-school Ponderings

OFSTED

The committee of Meppershall Pre-school are delighted to share with the village the wonderful OFSTED report received earlier in the year. OFSTED visit, without warning, to assess the quality and standards of the learning environment provided. The staff were praised for the very welcoming environment they create, for their genuine desire to promote the best care and opportunities for our children, and for the plentiful and stimulating activities they offer. The inspector specifically noted that our children are extremely skilled with using computers and technology, and that they take delight in their local community. Thank you especially to Joy Donachie for her passion and commitment to the children and growth of the Pre-school.

Sports Day & Village Fayre

Our children recently enjoyed their annual Sports Day with the Egg and Spoon, Hat Race, Teddy in a Basket Race and even the parents racing too! Thank you to parents and grandparents for buying lots of cakes, and to Rogers Bakery, Sainsburys and Tesco Express Shefford for their donation of the raffle prizes. Thank you also to everyone who entered our Teddy Tombola at the Village Fayre. We are raising funds to buy the children a Dark Den, where they can experiment with colour, light and shadow, so all the Teddies who found new homes have contributed towards our efforts!

We also said our good-byes to the children who will be going to Lower School this September: Luke Merryweather, Emilie Bamford, Ben Halford, Lucy Hilton-Jones, Amy-Rose Cooper, Charlie Carey, Benjamin Sinfield, Ella Bryant, Rebecca Myers, Jaiden Hunt, Rees Davies, Vinnie Simpkins, Aiden Collins, Matthew Emms and Finn Rose. We wish them all well and look back fondly on their time with us at Pre-school.

THE MEPPERSHALL GARDEN CLUB

(The MGC)



July was a busy month for the Garden Club. As well as working on the flower beds around the village hall, the Club had its first group outing. Some of the members visited a plant nursery to view suitable plants for the front border of the village hall and then went on to Toddington Manor for a picnic lunch and a walk around the Manor garden. We could also be seen on our stall at the Village Fayre where we had a successful day selling our plants and books.

In mid-July, the group had its own private “open Gardens” where several of us visited each others’ gardens. We saw gardens of many different shapes and sizes and came away with lots of new ideas for our own gardens.

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 with 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

THE SUGAR LOAF PUBLIC HOUSE
MEPPERSHALL
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Keith and Sue would like to invite you all to our

GRAND OPENING ON
SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST

HOG ROAST - 12 Midday 'til Late
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT: 9PM – 11.30PM
MANDY FREEMAN – VOCALIST
60's, 70's & 80's MUSIC +
AMY WINEHOUSE TRIBUTE

FROM 4TH AUGUST

FOOD AVAILABLE

TUES – SAT, 12.00 – 2 PM & 6.00 – 8.30 PM

SUNDAY LUNCH: 12.00 – 2.30 PM

Choice of two roasts: main course £5.50

Bookings only, orders by prior Friday: 01462 815513

SKY SPORTS AVAILABLE FROM START OF NEW
FOOTBALL SEASON

QUIZ NIGHT EVERY 2ND SUNDAY IN MONTH

**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 August - September

Sun 2 August	11.15 a.m. Parish Communion & 'JC' – in Rectory.
Sun 9	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Family Service and baptism – Grace Finedon
Sun 16	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion 6p.m. Evensong
Sun 23	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sun 30	United Benefice Family Communion, with lunch
Sun 6 September	11.15 a.m. Parish Communion & 'JC'
Sat 12	1.30 p.m. Wedding: Ian Lynn Mullholland and Suzanne Brown
Sun 13	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Family Service
Sat 19	1.00 p.m. Wedding: Paolo Rodia & Kirsten Wright



Sun 20

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

6p.m. Evensong

Sun 27

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:**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, Shefford: Tuesday July 14 at 7.30 pm, organised by Shefford Churches Working Together.

Further ahead – dates for your diary:

Sunday 11 October – **Harvest Festival**

Monday 12 October – **Harvest Supper**

Saturday 17 October – **Friends of St Mary's Concert:** Phoenix Ladies Chorus with buffet & wine. Tickets-Trevor Thorley 813357

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

SPARKS

The summer holiday draws invitingly closer and with that comes the wonderful SPARKS holiday club from Monday to Thursday of the first week. SPARKS looks set to be another fun filled, action packed four days again this year; with plenty of activities going on to keep the children occupied and enthusiastic whilst being close to Jesus.

At this point, I think it appropriate to say an enormous THANK YOU to all of the people who have volunteered their time and talents to bring this wonderful event together and make it such a success. Without their help, SPARKS could not happen.

If your child/children enjoy SPARKS, perhaps they might like to come along to our 'JC' session on the first Sunday of the month held in the Rectory. Our children enjoy a variety of activities ranging from making things to mini drama. The emphasis always is on having fun whilst learning about Jesus. All are welcome.

Thinking beyond the summer holiday is a time of new beginnings - the beginning of a new school year, when many children will be starting new schools and new year-groups or college, university, apprenticeship or new job. What a daunting prospect this can be for children, young adults and parents alike, but also an exciting new experience for them as they gain even more independence and embrace their new found knowledge. There are many times of transition in our lives and our children's lives. At these times it helps to have someone to turn to and share feelings and emotions with, and who better than our Lord Jesus.

Blessings,
Gillian Marshall Davies

Some thoughts from our Curate.

As I write this piece, we are three days away from the start of the school holiday, so as you read it the holiday season will be in full swing; and that means that September is only just around the corner. I spent so many years teaching that I still view September as a new beginning – the beginning of the educational year. No doubt some of you will be seeing children go to school for the first time and others will be preparing for your now 'grown up' to leave for university or begin a

new phase of their lives somewhere else. For many September brings about major life changes.

At this time of the year, as holidays come and go, it is a good time to take stock and resolve to make time for personal space. Jesus followed a pattern of withdrawing to pray during his intensely busy ministry; giving Himself time to be with His Father, and review what He was doing in the presence of God. That strikes me as being a sensible approach to life for all of us to follow.

If you need some peace and quiet the church is always unlocked during the day and is a beautiful place for reflection. We hope you will use it.

Patsy Critchley

IN NEED OF PRAYER?

- Phone anyone on the list
- tell them what you want prayer for
- they will pray with you on the phone or straight after
- your request will be passed along a chain of people.

All of us on the prayer chain will then be praying for your situation.

All prayer requests are confidential: there is no need to give your name unless you want to, or if you'd rather you have a pseudonym that's fine.

PRAYER CHAIN

Morag	643387	Julie	814387
Steve	814224	Patsy	01234381510
Sandra	813334	Graham	813966
Brenda	816446	Gillian	850947
Brian	815944	Pam	817069
Alex	851473		

WHAT CAN YOU PRAY FOR?

Absolutely anything can be offered to God in prayer, not just physical illness. All specific requests, concerns, joys and emergency situations will be treated non-judgementally and with the utmost respect.

WHO ARE WE?

We are a network of people from St. Mary's Church, Meppershall who are committed to prayer. Prayer ministry is like the circulatory system of our church. We believe that prayer makes a difference to lives.

Jesus said, “.. I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Mark 11:24

Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Sponsored Bike 'n Hike - Saturday 12th Sept 2009 10am - 6pm

St Mary's C of E – Meppershall

Last year we did well and raised £700 in sponsorship, of which half went direct to St Mary's and half to the Trust. This was £200 more than in 2007 but only 4 cyclists took part. This is your opportunity to lose a few pounds (£s & lbs.) and raise money for your nominated church, hopefully St Mary's. Anyone can take part who can walk, cycle, skateboard or roller skate between as many churches as possible and you can even drive to the starting point! You can also help by welcoming riders and walkers to our lovely church and get sponsored for sitting down! There are no excuses for not being involved! I know it is a few weeks away yet, but please consider taking part and getting sponsors. Hopefully by now I should have all the necessary sponsor forms and church lists so please contact me at 3, St Mary's Place or tel. 01462 811583 / mobile 07960 513 498 or when you see me in the village. If you want to find out more, you can check out the Trust's website at www.bedshertshct.org.uk/bike.htm

Trevor Wilkinson

Church organiser

Fruit Fool + Shortbread

450g (1lb) of any of the following fruits gooseberries, apples, black or redcurrants, rhubarb, blackberries or raspberries.

45ml (3tbsp) water

75-175g (3oz) caster sugar, to sweeten depending on sharpness of fruit

350ml (12fl oz) fresh double cream

30ml (2tbsp) fresh milk

METHOD

- 1) Prepare fruit according to type. Put into a saucepan with water.
- 2) Bring slowly to the boil. Cover with lid and simmer until fruit is soft.
- 3) Remove from heat. Add sugar to taste. Either rub through a sieve or liquidise. Leave until completely cold
- 4) Whip 300ml (1/2pint) cream and milk together until lightly stiff then gradually fold in fruit puree
- 5) Transfer to 4 sundae glasses and chill.
- 6) Before serving, whip remaining cream until thick, pipe whirls on top of each fool, then decorate with nuts, grated chocolate or fruit that has been used.

SHORTBREAD - can be served as a Cake, Biscuit, or with fruit and cream, or Ice Cream.

8 ozs flour

4 ozs castor sugar.

4 ozs rice flour. (Ground Rice) 8 ozs butter.

METHOD.

- 1) Sieve dry ingredients together.
- 2) Add the butter, work it in with the hands.
- 3) Knead till the mixture binds together.
- 4) Form into two balls and flatten into two 7 inch round sponge tins; prick well.
- 5) Bake in moderate oven till beginning to change colour. Mark 4 / 380 F
- 6) Reduce heat until cooked approx 1 hour.
- 7) Cut while still warm.

Recipes are kindly supplied each month by Brenda Putwain

GARDEN TIPS FOR AUGUST

(With acknowledgements to the RHS)

- Make sure birds and other wildlife have fresh water and keep ponds topped up
- Water plants that need it regularly
- Collect ripening seed from plants you wish to propagate
- Trim hedges
- Prune rambling roses after flowering
- Trim lavender after the flowers have faded
- Layer rhododendrons, pinks and clematis
- Protect dahlias, and chrysanthemums from earwigs
- Feed and water all plants in containers
- Take cuttings from tender perennials such as pelargoniums and fuchsias
- Mow lawns less frequently if the weather is hot and dry
- Lift and dry onions
- Cut and dry herbs for winter use
- Prop up heavily laden branches of fruit trees
- Summer-prune gooseberries and redcurrants
- Water and feed tomatoes regularly and remove yellowing leaves
- Plant new strawberry plants and keep them well watered
- Harvest the first apples and pears
- Start potted cyclamen and freesias into growth

LAST CHANCE

- Finish summer-pruning apples, pears and other trained fruit trees
- Complete summer-pruning of wisteria
- Plant colchicums for autumn flowering

GET AHEAD

- Force hyacinths for Christmas
- Start planting spring bulbs, especially daffodils
- Prepare ground for making new lawns
- Divide perennials towards the end of the month
- Sow parsley and pot up herbs for later use.

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 published timetables and has been abbreviated to show the main stops, including Meppershall. Correct as at Jan '09
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				1540	1747	1847
Meppershall, opp Sugar Loaf						
Sheffield, High Street,	0728	0928	1118	1328		
Barton, Windsor Parade	0730	0930	1120	1330		
Luton, Silver St	0735	0935	1125	1335		
Luton, Galaxy Centre	0801	1003	1153	1403	1554	1759 1859
	0838	1031	1221	1431	1825	1925

Route 79 to Luton – Barton – Meppershall - Sheffield

Luton, Galaxy Centre,					1630	1750
Barton, Windsor Parade					1656	1812
Sheffield, High Street,	0712	0912	1102	1252	1740 ^p	1840
Meppershall Loaf, Sugar				1320	1530	1745 1845
Meppershall, Rectory Road	0728	0928	1118	1328	1538	1747 1847
Meppershall opp, Sugar Loaf	0730	0930	1120	1330	1540	
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			
Hitchin, Grove Road Rd		10.54	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			
Train arrives from London		Sch	NSch
Hitchin, Wilbury Way			
Hitchin Station		15.54B	17:05
Hitchin, Bancroft,	12:35	16:00	17:12
Henlow Camp,		16:41	17:15
Meppershall Sugar Loaf,	13.12		17:56
Shefford, High Street	13.17		

A very happy birthday to those of you celebrating birthdays in August...

Megan Maxwell who will be 10 on the 6th
 Beth Donachie who will be 12 on the 7th
 Thomas Clark who will be 7 on the 8th
 Matthew Turner who will be 2 on the 12th
 George Lumbis who will be 1 on the 14th
 Lucy Standbridge who will be 8 on the 14th
 Billy Gower who will be 8 on the 15th
 Manishka Hart who will be 9 on the 21st
 Noah Flint who will be 3 on the 22nd
 Georgia Thomason who will be 8 on the 23rd
 Toby Standbridge who will be 5 on the 23rd
 Archie Zimmerman who will be 5 on the 23rd
 Lucy Edwards who will be 9 on the 24th
 Kate Chappell who will be 9 on the 25th
 Max Chappell who will be 9 on the 25th
 Ethan Kovacs who will be 11 on the 26th
 Katrina Robbins who will be 14 on the 27th
 Chloe Bryant who will be 2 on the 28th
 Owen Steeley who will be 11 on the 31st
 Hannah Boggon who will be 15 on the 31st

...and September

Joshua Turner who will be 4 on the 4th
 Ryan Sturgeon who will be 12 on the 6th
 Zoe Waring who will be 15 on the 7th
 Tailor Hunt who will be 7 on the 9th
 Chloe Burr who will be 10 on the 9th
 Niamh Maxwell who will be 9 on the 11th
 Ben Horsford who will be 10 on the 13th
 Jack Gregg who will be 8 on the 17th
 Leah Metcalfe who will be 4 on the 19th
 George Gavin who will be 14 on the 20th
 Fern Sheppard who will be 11 on the 21st
 Liam Sturgeon who will be 7 on the 22nd
 Katie Halford who will be 10 on the 23rd
 Lewis Bridger who will be 7 on the 24th
 Jonathan Bull who will be 6 on the 26th
 Marc Neilson who will be 9 on the 27th

If you are under 16 and would like your name added to the birthday page, please call
 Louise Hutson on 814148 or email at louhuts@btconnect.com