



Arms of the de
Meppershall Family

THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER



VOLUME 25 – Issue 6
OCT 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

So here we are again, brimming with new ideas after our summer recess and bulging at the staples with 52 pages! It is very heartening that so many people have sent in material, including dates for the diary: please keep it up.

The first welcome is to Trevor Thorley's new feature on pages 10 & 11. My proper welcome to Trevor is on that page, so here I will only say that I hope that this venture will receive the support that it needs and deserves from you, our readers.

Another welcome, this time to Andy, Jenny & Pete, the new tenants in The Sugar Loaf – see their announcement in the advertising pages. We apologise to Phyllis Corns that, due to the change of tenancy, she was not able to make use of her voucher for Sunday lunch at the Sugar Loaf; and we are very grateful to The Carriage House Hotel for agreeing to honour our commitment to Phyllis.

A further piece of good news is that our printer has found a new home and is very comfortable, thank you very much! You may recall that, for perfectly understandable reasons, Andrew Brinkley needed the office that he had been allowing us to use at 4, High Street. We were sad to say good bye to Steve Davies and the Signline team, but very pleased that John Thompson is able to accommodate the machine in his Brookside home, so we have hardly had to move at all! Thank you very much, John.

And now, the apology: due to the editor's oversight, the following names were missed from the Pre School Ponderings in the last issue: Jaiden Hunt, Rees Davies, Vinnie Simpkins, Aiden Collins, Matthew Emms and Finn Rose. I hope that they have all started to enjoy their new school.

Moving swiftly on.....may one editor offer hearty congratulations to an ex-editor? We wish every happiness to Linda and Charlie Primett following their wedding in July.

And finally, our technical update: after a trial run last month which was welcomed by the collating team, we have used our printer to collate and staple the advertising pages. We have also bought a booklet maker to take some of the effort out of stapling and folding the whole magazine; and we have introduced four new pages of colour adverts, to make the Messenger more attractive to our advertisers. Onward and upward!

Dick Bulley

LETTERS

We would like to thank everyone who helped make our wedding at St Marys Church on Saturday 18th July such a wonderful day. The day before the weather was awful with torrential rain, thunder and lightening, but we were blessed with fantastic weather on the day itself.

We'd particularly like to thank Rector John for the lovely service, Mark Brinkley for allowing us to use his farm for parking, Jo Sheppard for the beautiful flowers at the church and reception, and everyone who came along and made it a wonderful day.

We are now settling back into married life following a fantastic 2 week honeymoon in Egypt.

Louise and Wayne Woodcock

Planters outside Village Hall

If no one else has mentioned it and you can still get it in the magazine, please say how good these are looking. I drove past yesterday evening and thought how wonderful they looked and how they brightened the area up.

Christine Elbourne

I think Christine is expressing a widely held view. Thank you very much to the Garden Club for taking on this project and nurturing it throughout the summer. We wait in expectation for the winter showing! – Ed

Jill's 50th Birthday

I would like to thank everybody who attended the joint Birthday Party for my 50th and Dad's 80th. I was absolutely over-whelmed by all the beautiful cards, flowers and presents I received. It took me nearly two days to open them all! Thank you so very much for making it one of the most memorable nights of my life.

Also, thank you for your extraordinary generosity regarding donations to "Help the Aged". You raised over £350 and I know some of you donated on-line so the final sum may be more than that.

I hope that you all enjoyed the night as much as Dad and I did and once again a huge Thank You!

Love, Jill Wright xxx

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRIS & YVONNE – 5th Sept 2009

What a beautiful and happy occasion this was. There was standing room only when guests and members of Shefford Methodist Chapel turned out in force to support and wish Chris & Yvonne every happiness in their future lives together.

The bride looked absolutely radiant and the whole atmosphere was filled with joy and love. Sarah Louise made a beautiful bridesmaid and Jamie looked so smart and proud as he escorted his mother down the aisle. Their father Norman would have been so proud of them. It was a privilege to witness and take part in such a happy and joyous occasion.

God's blessings be with you all.

Maureen Cole

Dear Dick,

Letter to the Editor ref Vol 25/5 Farming Diary:

It is a reflection on the “ME” society we seem to be in that people can move themselves into areas with established custom and practice and then go about trying to change it even to the point of expensive legal actions. Farmers suffer with complaints about chemical sprays and pubs with noise caps (Shefford White Swan) and our own Sugarloaf at one time; the wind tunnel at Manton Lane in Bedford – the list is becoming very long. The winners of course are the legal profession who reap huge fees from this, win or loose.

For farmers such as Chris, why do they not get together across the country and agree a national red flag system like our beaches, warning the public when spraying is to take place. Then, on that day, windows can be closed, walking areas avoided and car vents shut. There would be little excuse then for the public to complain, as warning had been given.

If farmers are not allowed to farm efficiently prices will rise and the same people who complain about the farming methods will then be the first to moan about the prices and quality.

John Chapman

COVER COMPETITION

We are very pleased to announce that this month Linda Primett joined the distinguished judges of our photo competition.

And this month the judges again went for a picture that showed recognisable children, beautifully composed in a topical harvest setting. Congratulations and thanks to Rob Kovacs.

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. Some of those that we have received we are keeping on file for a future cover.

25th ANNIVERSARY

We have had a bit of a lay off from this subject over the summer, but now we have to return to the charge. We have started on the process of talking to our Nonagenarians, and, as expected, they have some fascinating stories to tell. We shall be following up on that and trying to get as many as possible together for a photograph.

We would also like more photos of village businesses, ideally since 1985, but older ones would also be welcome. Similarly, any other pictures of people, places or events which help to illustrate what our village used to be like. Can anyone tell me anything special that happened in the village in April 1985? We will be consulting the parish records for births, marriages and deaths in that month.

We have also written to all the organisations that appear in our “Who’s who” section, asking them for a brief outline of their history and a picture to illustrate it. We hope that that will provoke some interesting replies.

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

With the sunshine accompanying us we made our way to Bressingham in Norfolk for an interesting day among the working narrow gauge steam engines on which many of us enjoyed a ride around the grounds. Like all big children we also queued up for a ride on the carousel. A stroll around the gardens in glorious sunshine showed floral displays in the well kept beds to their full glory. Blooms Garden Centre was also well worth a visit.

A miserable start to the day changed to sunshine by the time we reached Runnymede where we took a cruise down the River Thames to Windsor; after disembarking we all went our separate ways to find refreshments before making our way to Windsor Castle, where we were able to visit Queen Mary's Dolls House, the State Apartments and St George's Chapel, after which we made our way into Windsor to partake of a last minute 'cuppa' before making our way back to Shefford.

Listed below are a few of the planned future day trips:

Secret London (Sold Out)	Wed. 14 th October
The Lord Mayor's Show	Saturday 14 th November
Welney flood lit swan feeding	Wed. 2 nd December
The Mighty Wurlitzer Christmas Concert	Tuesday 8 th December
Brick Lane Music Hall	Monday 21 st December
The Olympic London	Monday 8 th March 2010
'Get Together' Memorial Hall, Shefford	Saturday 27 th March 2010

The venue for our Turkey & Tinsel, Monday 23rd to Friday 27th November, is now being held at The Midland, a family run hotel in Weston-Super-Mare which is only a short walk from the Town Centre and Grand Pier. Excursions will include Street and Wookey Hole Caves. Twin rooms still available.

Friday 19th – Monday 22nd 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.

A Rhine Cruise has been organised departing the 7th to 14th August 2010. Highlights will include Cochem, Boppard, Moselle Valley and the Rhine Gorge. The price, which includes excursions, varies according to the cabin you choose.

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 2nd September 2009 at Meppershall Lower School.

In the open part of the meeting the matter of the hedge that had been removed between Shillington Road and the field beside the church locally known as Moses' Field was raised. The field is in a designated Conservation Area and the residents who had telephoned Central Beds to complain had not received a reply.

Since the meeting it has been confirmed by Central Beds that the hedge was removed without permission and the Council are considering what action to take against the landowner. In his defence the landowner has stated that it is his intention to replace the hedge further into the field.

From our Central Beds Councillors.

Cllr Brown explained how the combining of the two Councils plans had shown that Mid-Beds were several months ahead of South Beds in many aspects.

Highways & Lighting (spokesman Cllr. Roger Bryant)

The legal side of preparations for the footpath to Shefford continues, with both parties signing the necessary documents. Temporary signs will be erected in the near future.

Environment & Leisure (spokesman Cllr. Paul Merryweather)

The order for the low level solar powered lighting to the teenage area has been placed and a date for the installation is awaited. The play equipment had been inspected and a contractor has been asked to provide costs for the repair of the major items highlighted in the report. The tender document for the grass cutting within the Parish requires checking ready for issue by the end of September.

Allotments

It was agreed that the Clerk's version of the Tenancy Agreement would be used, with a couple of minor additions. An inspection of the allotments should have been carried out by the time you read this.

The legal aspect of the access to the allotments and for residents who park their cars at the back of their houses has been partially resolved. A verbal reply has been received to the outstanding matter but until the written reply is received the gate will remain open.

Planning & Housing (spokesman Cllr. Peter Chapman)

Just one planning application had been received this month, for an external flue to the side elevation. From the plans the flue looked out of place with the rest of the building and the Clerk was to ask if the plans meet the Council's Design Booklet.

Peter Chapman
Chairman of Meppershall Parish Council

The next two Parish Council meetings will be held on Wednesday October 7th and November 4th at Meppershall Lower School commencing at 7.45pm.

Collating Dates for your diaries.

2009			April	26	
October	26		May	24	week early
November	30	double issue	June	28	
December	No		July	26	double issue
			August	No	
2010			September	27	
January	25		October	25	
February	22		November	29	double issue

March	29	December	No
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OUR LATEST FEATURE!

As I have mentioned in previous editorials, I have been concerned that The Messenger lacked items of local news. I am therefore absolutely delighted that Trevor Thorley, who has a background in newspapers, has agreed to run a regular “news page”. He describes below what he would like to see, but I would like to make clear that this new feature does not mean that I do not want any more “letters to the editor” or news pieces from local organisations. Trevor and I will be working together to make the Messenger as lively and topical as we can, so we can make final decisions on “what goes where” as we go along. The main thing is that you should send Trevor as much material as possible!

YOUR SHOUT

Editor Dick Bulley has invited me to launch a new page of news items as an addition to the already excellent content in this popular magazine of ours.

This page will be ‘your’ page, ‘your’ news on virtually anything you wish to let others know about. This page hopefully will be published each month, but it will depend on how little or how much input I receive from you. It is simply up to you.

Initially, I would like to hear about special birthdays, special events, anniversaries, weddings, obituaries, ambitions, holiday experiences, embarrassing moments, gossip (not scandal), local talent, fund raising results, pub news, village hall, church news, Evergreens, special achievements, Meppershall F.C. news etc. Meppershall is a vibrant village, not a sleepy one, and your input will help to bring Meppershall alive even more so.

I very much look forward to your contributions but as a starter I will throw in an unusual experience I had some time ago.

I have been retired almost ten years now, but back in the early 90's, I was striding down Kensington High Street in London, on my way to the office in Derry Street when I was conscious of a black saloon car stationary at traffic lights, windows blacked out, but with the driver's window being lowered quickly to expose the face of a lady in a black tracksuit who started to wave vigorously. Instinctively, I almost started to wave back but I was quick to realise that this person was waving to a group of people 'behind' me. Just as quickly as the window came down, the window went back up and I realised that I knew the face...but where from? Only when I saw the car turn into Kensington Gardens did the penny drop and I realised it was the late Princess Diana, no doubt on her way back from the gym!

Do let me have your contributions whatever they may be. You may contact me by email trevor.thorley1@btinternet.com or telephone 01462 813357 or push a note through my door.

REMEMBER - IT'S 'YOUR' SHOUT!

Friends of Samuel Whitbread

Quiz Night

Friday 16 October at 7.30pm
Samuel Whitbread Community College, Clifton
Licensed bar
Ploughman's supper included in price
Teams up to 8 people
Tickets just £6

Buy your tickets on 629900 or post name, contact number and payment to FoSW, Samuel Whitbread Community College, Shefford

**Road, Clifton SG17 5QS (please write cheque to Samuel Whitbread
Parents' committee)**

Meppershall Village Hall News

We had our Annual General Meeting in July and the only change on the Committee was Karen Lucas stepping down as Bookings Secretary. Thankfully we had two volunteers to take over the job and we would like to welcome Sarah McKearney and Zoe Jackson onto the Committee as Joint Bookings Secretaries! The Committee would like to extend a very big thank you to Karen for all her hard work over the years.

The various fund raising events have been successful and the Committee looks forward to arranging future events. The main one coming up in November is, of course, Bonfire Night! This year, it will be held on Saturday 7th November, but if we experience unkind weather (like last year) then it will take place on Sunday 8th November. The event will run just like last year with advance tickets available at a reduced cost. The tickets are available now from the shop or bakery. We hope the evening will be well attended and look forward to seeing you all there. There will be, as usual, a family disco afterwards in the Village Hall courtesy of Andy Cannon.

With regard to dumping materials for the bonfire, the gates will be open 9am to 4pm on the weekends only, from 17th October to 7th November (a total of seven days). There will be two people manning the gates doing two hour shifts, monitoring what goes on the bonfire. We would ask that anyone who is willing to volunteer their time for a two hour shift, please see Steve at the shop where your name will be put on a rota. Only flammable materials will be allowed, e.g. garden rubbish, tree trimmings, clean wood, etc. No metal, glass, mirrors, mattresses, sofas, tyres, fridges, freezers or other unsuitable items. It is at the discretion of the people manning the gates as to what is allowed and any items that are deemed unfit

will not be accepted. The area where the materials are to be dumped will be marked out with stakes and tape and we would ask that they are all placed within that area, please.

We have had to make these rules to comply with the Parish Council's conditions for letting the bonfire go ahead. Finally on this subject, we also need volunteers to help clear up the site afterwards. We plan to do this on Saturday 14th November and, again, if anyone could volunteer their time please let Steve know. The more help we get, the less time it will take. Thank you.

Now on to other matters! The Village Hall car park has been repaired and re-surfaced. It is thanks to all the fund raising events organised by the Committee and supported by you, donations from Chris Foster of Polehanger Farm, the Social Club and a grant from Central Bedfordshire Council along with many hours of negotiation and organisation from members of the Village Hall Committee that it has been possible for this work to be carried out. I hope you will all agree that it looks magnificent and improves the look of the outside of the Hall no end – let's hope it stays that way for a very long time!

Finally, the Committee would also like to extend their thanks to the members of the Gardening Club who have been working hard to brighten up the flower beds outside the Hall. The four large containers have been looking glorious over the summer and have certainly brought some colour into the Village. Now that the work on the car park is complete, no doubt we shall see some more activity taking place! Thank you Gardening Club from all the Committee and residents of the village.

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

Meppershall Bakery Bees by *Roger*

August was a busy month harvesting the honey, which was good, better than last year. We should have enough honey to get us through to next year's spring harvest.

Wasps have been my one big problem this August and September. I have never seen so many wasps as this year. We had two nests in our house roof in early August and called the pest control to remove them. I have lost one colony of bees to the wasps and a second colony looks threatened. At the moment I am feeding sugar syrup and treating against varoa. The Meppershall hives are now seven and it takes a lot of sugar syrup to keep up with the hungry bees and the gluttonous wasps. At one stage I thought I was only feeding the wasps! To get on top of the wasp attacks I have had to close up the hives to one bee way and block up and seal all the gaps, which is a very difficult task with W.B.C hives.

When wasps attack, the guard bees challenge them and try to stop them entering. Inside the hive two or three bees will attack the wasp and suffocate it and some times fight to the death. A bee can only sting once but wasps can sting many times, paralysing the bee. Once the bees have won the fight, they drag the wasp outside the hive and start all over again. Wasps attack in hundreds, day after day, until the hive is empty of food and the bees starve to death.

One of the main causes of colony loss during the winter is starvation. To survive through the winter a colony needs enough food in the hive to cover the period roughly from October to the beginning of April. There is a small autumn nectar flow from Michaelmas daisies, Himalayan balsam and ivy. The bees are rebuilding their stores of winter food to replace the crop of honey removed by the beekeeper. In October, feeding and the varoa treatment should be finished. The mouse guards will be put in place and all hives should be ready for the winter months. Which will leave me to do some repair work on the hives and equipment; they are all in need of some tender loving care.

Runny and set honey now available at Rogers Bakery-see you there.

School Report

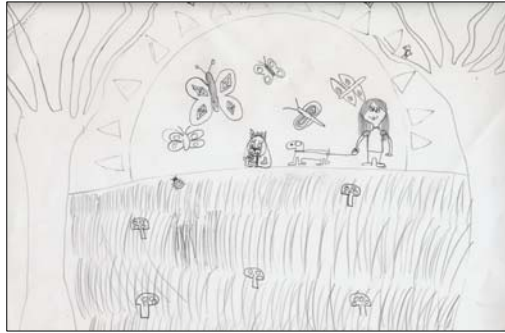
Meppershall VA Lower School
'An Outstanding Church of England School'

How quickly the summer has passed and here we are at the beginning of another school year. Welcome to our new entrants (Acorns) who have settled so quickly that they look as though they have been with us for a year! The Oaks class (Year 4) have helped the 'Acorns' settle in by taking on new responsibilities, either by being a Play Leader or a Play Pal. Play Leaders organise playtime games and Play Pals befriend their individual Acorn pal to ensure playtimes are happy ones and that no one is feeling lonely.



Meppershall School has always given Music a high priority. This year is to be no exception. Our Year 4 pupils will all be learning to play the guitar and Year 3 will be taking part in the 'Sing Quest' initiative. All our pupils have recorder lessons from Year 2 and benefit from lessons by a specialist musician from Year 1.

Our Netball and Football clubs have resumed this term and the Key Stage One pupils will be having extra gymnastic sessions. All pupils, even the youngest, take part in PE sessions run by specialist coaches.



The School Association are busy planning their next fund raising events. They hope to buy new classroom resources and continue to develop our school garden and outdoor play areas. Please put the date of our Autumn Fayre in your diary and come along and support us. (November 14th)

The art work in this report represents "Nature in Autumn", courtesy of Adam and Katie. (They know who they are!)

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

What a difference a few weeks makes! At the time of writing the last article there was still a sense of doom, and trepidation. However, a series of upbeat messages from both companies and economies have seen stock markets rise around the world during the usually benign summer months, and a feeling of optimism that the worst is over is all around – let's hope it lasts!

This month I'm exploring that vexed (and frequently asked) question of whether to put money into a pension, or invest in property? We have all heard stories of people who bought a property for a bargain amount, slapped some paint round and sold it for a handsome profit a few months later. Whilst a few lucky people might have experienced that, for the vast majority the picture is very different.

What these budding property tycoons conveniently leave out of the discussion is that as well as the purchase price, they also had to pay estate agents fees, solicitor's fees, survey fees etc., and along the way they possibly incurred maintenance costs, letting agent fees, and on the way out they incurred further legal fees and then finally Capital Gains Tax on the profit. Not forgetting of course that rental income is also taxable. Taking all this into account, the profits are a lot less spectacular than they first seem.

Furthermore, many people (who shouldn't be there) have been sucked into property investment on the back of the belief that they cannot fail to make handsome profits, and some have taken out large mortgages on that assumption. Don't forget if the property lies unoccupied the mortgage still has to be paid! Having said all of the above, for some people with capital to spare, property investment can be a real alternative to pensions, but it's most certainly not for most people.

It is easy to understand why people have turned to pension alternatives: bad media coverage of large company pensions in the 1990's coupled with nearly a decade of both volatile, and poor performing stock markets have dented enthusiasm for traditional pension saving. In early 2000, the stock market got to within one point of 7000. Over nine and a half years

later it still hasn't been back there! It is a pity that pensions have dropped off people's list of 'must do's', as for most people it is still the most tax efficient way of saving for later life. Any money paid in personally attracts tax relief, so for every £80 you invest, the pension company invests £100, and if you are a higher rate taxpayer the additional 20% relief is given via your self assessment (unless you earn in excess of £150,000). Whilst invested, the money also grows virtually tax free. There is no more tax efficient a way to save money than via pensions, not to mention the fact that if your employer offers a pension scheme, there may be an employer's contribution as well, which is equivalent to extra salary!

Property has just finished a near 20 year run of growth, and despite stock markets having gone nowhere for the last ten years, over the longer term, stocks and shares still outperform property, and as we move out of recession stocks and shares look set to do well.

Whether you choose property, pensions, ISA's, some other investments, or indeed a combination, the fact remains that if you rely solely on the Government in your old age they'll provide you with the one thing money can't buy – Poverty!

There has never been a greater need to provide for oneself, we are all living longer, and in fact I heard the other day that there are now 10,000 people over 100 years old in the UK. They've been retired 40 years, and in many cases they've spent longer in retirement than they did working – isn't that a frightening statistic?

So, whatever you choose to do, take proper advice, spread your risk, and review it regularly. Doing nothing is not one of the options!

Jon Ingarfill

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

Polehanger: A Farming Diary - Episode 7

Which is your favourite season ?

Spring, with the bursting forth of waking nature and the expectation of the sun on your back in days ahead?

Summer, with long lazy warm evenings and holidays to look forward to?

Autumn, with its field and hedgerow harvest complete and the wonderful tinted trees?

Winter, with snow, frost, log fires and family Christmas?

Although the picture in this country is seldom echoed by reality the seasons are, nevertheless, evocative.

My favourite is autumn. As Keats wrote in his poem, it's a season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness'. The pace of farming life slowly starts to moderate with harvest over, the culmination of a year's hard work and hope invested. The colours of sugar-rich tree leaves . . . and the start of the rugby season !

In the end the Polehanger harvest was trouble free and better than expected. I hinted in an earlier episode that cereal plants have a wonderful capacity to compensate for thin populations and the Oil Seed Rape did just that. It wasn't a bumper yield but higher than we thought in May. Our Winter Wheat though did yield a record for this farm and some of the credit for that goes to Mark for his meticulous attention to detail in the growing of the crop. There is also still evidence of residual fertility in our soil near the farm buildings from the years under pasture, even though it's 18 years since we sold the cows.

However, the price of wheat at the moment is awful, due to a combination of some surplus carried over from the big harvest of 2008, together with big yields expected from this harvest worldwide and depressed demand due to the world recession. We sold some wheat forward in June for January 2010 delivery at a half decent

price and will now hold onto the rest to see if prices improve. We got it horribly wrong when we sold forward in 2007. You win some you lose some!

When I started driving a combine harvester at the tender age of 15, it had a 10 ft. cutting head and we were excited if we harvested 25 – 30 tonnes in a day. This year we cut 70 acres of winter wheat with a 30 ft header and carted about 350 tonnes back to store in one day. Wheat breeders have given us varieties with much stronger straw now so that even though the yield has almost doubled from 40 years ago, the crop stands up much better, which means the harvester is always able to travel at optimum speed.

Once the wheat seed is through the combine, threshed and sieved and emptied into a trailer in field, it is driven back to store at Bury Farm, and tipped onto a specially perforated barn floor. The barn sides have reinforced walling so that the grain can be heaped or elevated up to a height of 10 feet or so thus making best use of the barn space available. Air can be blown through ducts below the floor and up into the heap to cool and dry the grain as necessary. In order to store well and be acceptable to the mill where it will end up in the next stage of it's journey, it must be below 15% moisture. Above this moisture it will heat up and mould and get insect infestation. However, if it is below say 14% then each % point of moisture extracted is weight and value lost. The temperature and moisture can be accurately and regularly monitored by a sampling spear that takes a small amount of grain from depth at various points across the heap.

Meanwhile, as you will no doubt have noticed, no sooner has the combine left the field than hedgerows are trimmed and cultivations start to prepare a seed bed for the next crop . . . and so we start the cycle all over again. Roll on Harvest 2010.

Chris Foster

Computer Tips:

Hyperlinks continued:

If you want to show a document that has Hyperlinks to someone else, put all the information on a memory stick as follows:

Start a folder on the stick and put all the files / folders into it that you wish to use (by copying and pasting). Write your document and save it into that same folder. Now set up your Hyperlinks to the files / folders within that main folder. Effectively you have made yourself a transportable mini-website which you can carry to school for instance and all you have to do is put your memory stick into any computer, bring up the document containing your Hyperlinks and the whole thing will work just as it does on your home computer. How cool is that?

Internet Explorer (IE) - V8

The latest incarnation of IE is Version 8. Your Microsoft update has probably set this up already on your PC, if not go here:

www.microsoft.com/uk/windows/internet-explorer/ to download.

One big improvement is the ability to surf in *private* i.e. any information about your surfing is wiped off the computer at the end of each session.

To access this go to *Safety* on the toolbar and *In Private Browsing*. A new browser window will open confirming your request and you then need to click on the *House* symbol on the toolbar to restore your Home Page. Browse as normal and when you have finished just "X" out of that window and you will return to the standard browser window. All your browsing history will have automatically been deleted.

If you have any computer issues that need attention, we have a special low domestic rate for Meppershall residents.

John Chapman www.ceekay.co.uk - 01462 813080

THE MARBLED WHITE - CONTINUED

Dear Richard,

A friend has shown me the note in the last edition of the Meppershall Messenger about the sighting of a marbled white butterfly in the parish on July 1st. It's a lovely butterfly - always a joy to see - but the Internet information that it is almost extinct simply isn't true. In fact it belongs to that select band of butterflies that are doing rather well.

Back in the 1970s when serious monitoring of butterfly numbers and distribution began, it was present throughout the south and southeast of England especially in Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset and Devon, favouring unimproved grasslands on the chalk and limestone. In the last thirty years or so it has increased its range both to the north and east and populations are also increasing. It's now found on grassy road verges, railway tracks and disused pits. In Bedfordshire it's found in 70 to 80 1km squares and I've recently had the pleasure of watching it on the waste ground at Beeston Green and on the set-aside fields behind our house at Ickwell.

Several of our well-loved garden butterflies are actually increasing - peacocks, commas, speckled woods and holly blues for instance. The media, of course, don't regard good news as worth reporting, so all their articles on wildlife tend to be of the doom and gloom variety. A useful antidote is the recent book produced by Butterfly Conservation entitled *The State of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland* (ISBN 1 874357 31 5). The two butterfly recorders for the county are Keith Balmer (01234 304741) and Peter Glenister (01582 524994) who would be delighted to have records from your readers.

Dr Nancy Dawson (formerly Conservation Officer of the Wildlife Trust).



1st MEPPERSHALL BROWNIES
OPERATION SHOE BOX

We ran out of shoe boxes last year so please keep hold of any you have - beg, borrow, call in at shoe shops when shopping so that we can collect a lot more. Last year we could have filled 200 but only had 50 boxes. The gifts all went but were packed at a distribution depot. The Brownies love packing the shoe boxes and carefully choose the items to go in them so that they are appropriate for the age concerned.

We will be filling the boxes in November and fund raising to send them on their way then as well. Before then please save any items you can to go in the boxes. These include toiletries, stationery, small toys, and sweets with a long sell by date, jewellery for children etc. The age range is 0 to 15, boys and girls. The only clothing allowed are hats, scarves and gloves as these are not too size dependent. The items that cannot go in are war toys and liquids, including soap bubbles.

As most of you know the boxes get distributed to children around Europe and Africa and it is often the only present they get at Christmas.

Any questions give me a call or e-mail me.

Christine Elbourne
Brown Owl
Telephone: 817409
mail@elbourne.co.uk

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

October 2009

<u>Wednesday 7th October</u>		
Meeting of Parish Council	7.45.PM	Meppershall Lower School
<u>Sunday 11th October</u>		
Harvest Festival	11.15 AM	St Mary's Church
<u>Monday 12th October</u>		
Harvest Supper	6.30 for 7.00 M	Meppershall Village Hall
<u>Tuesday 13th October</u>		
Shefford Picture House (See p 31)	7.30 PM	Shefford Community Hall
<u>Sat & Sun 17th & 18th October</u>		
Biggleswade Art Soc. Exhibition	10 AM - 4 PM	Northill Village Hall
<u>Saturday 31st October</u>		
Mini Sparks	10 AM – 3.30 PM	St Mary's Church
<u>Saturday 31st October</u>		
Sparks Chill Out	6.00 – 9.00 PM	Russell Park Baptist Church

November 2009

<u>Tuesday 3rd November</u>		
Baby & Toddler Halloween Party	1.45 – 3.15 PM	Meppershall Village Hall
<u>Wednesday 4th November</u>		
Meeting of Parish Council	7.45.PM	Meppershall Lower School
<u>Saturday 7th November</u>		
Bonfire & Fireworks	7.00 PM	Meppershall Village Hall
<u>Saturday 14th November</u>		
School Autumn Fayre	2 PM – 4 PM	Meppershall Lower School
<u>Thursday 19th November</u>		
Back to School (for parents!)	7.30 PM	Meppershall Lower School
<u>Saturday 21st November</u>		
St Mary's Christmas Fayre		Meppershall Village Hall
<u>Saturday 28th November</u>		
St Francis of Assisi RC Church Christmas Bazaar	From 10.00 AM	Methodist Church Hall Shefford
<u>Sunday 29th November</u>		
Opening of Panto	2.45 PM	Meppershall Village Hall

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. Carolyn Holmes, 19 Buxton Close,	07868530221
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	Andy, Jenny & Pete, 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

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), 20c, 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 Baby & Toddler

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

Meppershall Garden Club3rd Wednesday in month

Linda Parker	812144
Kim Lee Tyler	811750
Sarah Till	817176

Meppershall Lower School Association

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

Meppershall Players (Amateur Dramatic Society)

Chairman:	Vacant		
Secretary:	Alison Heath		850191
Membership:	Colette House		815585

Treasurer :

Graham Scrase

813966

Meppershall Pre-School

		Village Hall	
	Monday - Friday	9.30 – 12.00	
	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

Mid Beds Conservative Association – Meppershall Branch

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

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) – Thursday's 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	British 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		

Meppershall Village Hall

BONFIRE NIGHT

Saturday 7th November 2009

Advanced Tickets available from
Post Office and Roger's Bakery
Adults £4, Children under 16 £2
Family (2 adults and 2 children) £10

Tickets on the Night:
Adults £5, Children under 16 £2.50
Family (2 adults and 2 children) £12

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

**Lighting the Bonfire at 5.45pm
Firework Display begins 7pm**

ALL WELCOME!!

**If weather is bad, the display will take place on Sunday 8th November
2009
Same Time, Same Place**

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



A domestic burglary took place in the High Street, Meppershall, between Tuesday the 11th, and Sunday the 16th of August. The offender gained access to the rear of the house and forced open a UPVC door. A tidy search took place and a number of DVDs and small electrical items were taken.

A garage burglary took place in the High Street, Meppershall, on Wednesday the 9th of September, between 8:30 in the morning, and 12:30 in the afternoon. The front door the garage had been left unlocked. The offender entered the garage through the insecure door, and removed a copper water tank. The owner had been approached a week before, by a man enquiring about the tank. He was described as in his late 30s, with a slim build, tall with dark hair. He drove a white van.

Many burglaries can be prevented. Your boundaries are your first line of defence against criminals. Always secure garden gates, keep fences and walls in good repair and consider defensive planting, and/or trellis. Keep garden furniture, ladders, and wheelie bins in a secure garage or shed, or locked up away from the house, so that they cannot be used to climb onto a roof, access a first floor window or access a neighbours garden.

Outbuildings, sheds and garages can be especially, vulnerable to criminals, and are often not the best place, to store high value items. Always lock shed and garages, and help keep sheds secure with a good quality padlock, and hasp. If possible anchor down items, like bikes and lawn mowers. Consider an alarm and make sure your security lighting is covering your shed and garage.

Report any suspicious activity, or vehicles, in the area.

If you have any information about the above crimes, 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./,3,3,7,5,7,/2009.

Alternatively text your message to (07786) 200011 or email your message to chc@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk.

SHEFFORD PICTURE HOUSE

The Movies Come To Shefford!

Want to see great films at a cinema that's right on your doorstep? Now you can! From October you'll be able to see a fantastic film every month just down the road in Shefford.

The first film will be the exciting thriller, **STATE OF PLAY** (12A) starring Russell Crowe, Helen Mirren and Ben Affleck.

STATE OF PLAY (12A) will be screened at the Shefford Community Hall, 60 High Street, Shefford on **Tuesday 13th October at 7.30pm**. The performance is open to all and tickets are just £3.50 on the door.

Shefford Picture House is a community film group, run by volunteers who believe you shouldn't have to pay a small fortune at multiplexes to see great films. Formerly 'Pictures@Priory' (showing films at Central Bedfordshire's Chicksands site), the group has taken the bold step to move to Shefford's Community Hall – bringing films into the heart of the community and making them more accessible to all. With the change of venue comes a change of name to 'Shefford Picture House'. Thanks to funding from Arts Aloud! and Shefford Town Council, the group has been able to keep ticket prices low.

For more information about Shefford Picture House, you can visit the group's Facebook page (www.facebook.com) or contact Lucy Boyle on the number below. The group is looking for people to get involved – if you'd like to help select which films Shefford Picture House shows next, or if you think you could help in any other way, please get in touch with Lucy Boyle on 07956 973945 or Tim Foster on 07980 989309.



This event is supported by
Arts Aloud!
Central Bedfordshire's
Community Touring



STATE OF PLAY (12A)
Tuesday, 13th October, 7.30pm.
Shefford Community Hall.
Tickets £3.50.
Call 07956 973945 for details.



The Meppershall Players

are pleased to announce that their 25th Anniversary Panto is



Tickets for this panto will be available from 19th October in Rogers Bakery.
Performances are on the following dates:

Sun 29 Nov at 2.45pm, Fri 4 Dec at 7.45pm, Sat 5 Dec at 7.45pm, Sun 6 Dec at 2.45pm, Thursday 10 Dec (Charity Night) at 7.45pm, Fri 11 Dec at 7.45pm and Sat 12 Dec at 7.45pm

Prices: Matinee £5.00, other nights £6.00, last night £8.00

A group discount is available if one individual purchases 10 or more tickets for the same performance, then you will receive one free ticket.

We still have a few adult parts available if anyone is interested.

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
Fancy Dress Halloween Party
Tuesday 3rd November



1:45 – 3:15pm
in
Meppershall Village Hall



Tickets are £2 per child.

Can you help?

Having had a big sort and clean of our toys we are looking to replace and improve some of them.

Do you have any of the following items which you are willing to donate to the group which serves your village?

- Dressing-up clothes (suitable for children up to 5 years)
- Fisher Price Little People toys
- Small baby toys - such as stacking rings
- Stickle bricks
- Plastic farm animals
- Plastic TV character toys - e.g. Postman Pat, Bob the Builder vehicles
- Wooden railway (compatible with Brio)

(Items must be in a good condition)

For more information or if you have any donations please contact:

Sam Hefford 07590290078

Catherine Turner 812134

Jo Mitchell 813146

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The NHW group attended its first Meppershall summer fete and all the co-ordinators agreed it was nice chatting to all the people who came over to our stand to say hello and find out more about Neighbourhood Watch in Meppershall. The response was so positive that another four schemes are about to be set up in the village. Building on this success NHW will have a stand at the Lower School Autumn Fayre on 14th November and hope to get more people on board to help make Meppershall a safe and crime-free village.

What is disappointing is that we met with many residents of Fildyke Road and Shefford Road who wish to be part of a NHW scheme in their area, but unfortunately no-one was willing to act as street co-ordinator. Therefore unless people are willing to become street co-ordinators these two areas will not be active schemes.

Active Schemes: Orchard Close; Hoo Road; Brookmead; Brookside; High Street – From Gregory Close to Fowler Drive; High Street – From Taylors Close to End of High Street (inc. Campton Road and Long Acre)

Schemes in the process of being set up:

Shefford Road – Opposite Orchard Close and along to Hoo Road; Buxton Close; Lyspitt Common; Gregory Close (Inc. The Acres and Coneygate); Church Road; Rectory Road

Please remember you **must** be registered with your street co-ordinator to be a member of a scheme. If you wish to join a scheme in your street or to become a street co-ordinator and set up a scheme in your street please contact me on 07890 307063.

Telephone Scams

Through the NHW network in Meppershall one of the co-ordinators was advised about telephone scams which are currently happening. One scam purports to come from TalkTalk claiming they have gone bust and have been taken over by a new firm and you have to pay £11 for the new service. The other from BT saying you have underpaid your last bill by between £10 - £12, please settle it now, and giving a false address to send the money.

Please do not give these people any money. If you are unsure about anything, then end the telephone call and telephone the company to check that the call was genuine.

Tanya

Area NHW Co-ordinator, Meppershall - 07890 307063

Football Players Wanted!

We are a group of Men from Meppershall and surrounding villages, who play football every Wednesday evening from 9pm to 10pm at Robert Bloomfield School Shefford on the Floodlit Astro turf pitch. We currently have an opening for some players to join in our game. This is not a league team, we simply turn up, contribute £2.50 each towards the facility, split into two teams and play. Age, standard, ability and fitness all vary.



We are looking for players who will turn up weekly, despite the weather, Places are limited so if you are interested please call Wayne on:

07739 909065

ST MARY'S HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 11th October at 11.15 am.
in the Church

HARVEST SUPPER

Monday 12th October at 6.30 for 7 PM
in the Village Hall

£6 adults
£3 under 12's

Tickets from: Bakery, PO & Rectory



Meppershall Pre-school Ponderings



The children and staff of Meppershall Pre-school are delighted to welcome our new friends Kate Fleming, Amie-Lee Lumbis, Callum Collins, Kian Smith and Logan Hunt as they join us this term.

As autumn approaches we will be celebrating the Harvest Festival. The children will be looking at different types of transport, with visits from the Fire-fighters and the Police with their engines and cars. We would LOVE to show the children a real tractor, so if any Messenger readers have one please do get in touch!

If you would like to add your child to our waiting list, please contact Louise Hutson on 814148. We welcome visits from parents and prospective pre-schoolers

1st MEPPERSHALL BROWNIES

We need more Brownies – lots of spaces available at the moment. Just come along on Monday term time 6pm to 7.30p.m. and give us a try if you are between 7 and 10 years old and a girl.

Christine Elbourne, Brown Owl. Telephone: 01462 817409

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

Traditionally, summer is the time for enjoying gardens rather than working in them. The MGC has done its fair share of enjoying, both individually and together, but you will have seen that we have been working too. As well as keeping the planters at the Village Hall watered when the rain did not oblige, we have also made a start on the beds round the newly surfaced car park. We have deliberately left the bed along the road to lie fallow to let the persistent weeds come up so that we can kill

them but we have planted lavenders in the bed beside the access road; in due time we hope these will become a sweet-smelling hedge.

On Saturday October 10th we plan to have a working day at the Village Hall for all comers and plant sale.

If you are interested in joining us on that day or for more information on the Garden Club, gives one of us a call on:

Linda Parker	01462 812144
Sarah Till	01462 817176

THE PHOENIX CHORUS

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Friends of St. Mary's very much regret that due to tragic and unforeseen circumstances, the Phoenix Chorus have had to cancel their concert which was scheduled for October 17.

Phoenix Chorus want to come to Meppershall again, we very much want to welcome them here again, and we know that you too want them to come and perform for you again.

A new date is being arranged for late November and further details will be available in the next issue of the Messenger. Details will also appear in the Meppershall columns of the Biggleswade Chronicle and The Comet, supported also by a poster campaign. Tickets for the new date should be available from early to mid October!

Trevor Thorley, Chairman.

01462 813357 trevor.thorley1@btinternet.com



**Hospice at Home
Volunteers**

Registered Charity No. 1077727

West Mid Beds and Ivel Valley
10 Dane Lane
Wilstead
Beds MK45 3HT
Tel: 01234 743063
Email: soniabanks5@aol.com

CAN YOU SPARE 2-3 HOURS A WEEK TO HELP US?

Volunteers needed to visit, give practical help where needed and become a supporting friend to people in this area with a life-threatening illness

Hospice at Home Volunteers

is a free and confidential service offering extra care and support in cases of life-threatening illness.

All you need is a kind, caring, warm-hearted and non-judgemental nature and able to spare a few hours a week to help your local community. If you feel you can fulfil these requirements we would very much like to hear from

YOU

Our next Volunteers Preparation Course will be held shortly, so if you feel like making new friends then please give us a call

For further information please call Sonia Banks on
01234 743063

All applications are subject to CRB disclosure

**AWARDED THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR
VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2006**

**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 October

Sun 4 October	11.15 a.m. Parish Communion & 'JC' – in Rectory.
Sun 11	Harvest Festival 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Family Communion with newly established Village Choir
Sun 18	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion 6p.m. Evensong
Sun 25	Bible Sunday 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Family Communion & 'JC'
Sun 1 November	All Saints Day 11.15 a.m. Parish Communion & 'JC' – in Rectory. (see also "Special Memories", below)



Weekday Services:

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

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

Saturdays 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Harvest Festival –

Sunday 11 and Supper Monday 12 October

Gifts of produce, perishable and otherwise, will be greatly appreciated for display in Church and then for auction at the Supper. Donations of prizes for the Supper Draw are also welcomed via The Rectory. Tickets for the cooked Supper and Auction at the Village Hall (6.30 for 7p.m) are available from the Post Office, Bakery and Rectory : £6 adults; £3 under 12's.

TREEMENDOUS! A new musical by St Michael's Reader Jenny Dann: World Première Weekend. Join Rusty Redwood and the rest of the Forest gang as they get ready to meet the Lord of the Forest. Entry is FREE but space is limited, so please contact Jenny on 01462 817337 to obtain a ticket – Saturday October 3 and Sunday 4, 4p.m. at St Michael's Shefford

United Service of prayer for Healing and Wholeness – **Shefford Methodist Church - Tuesday October 20th, 7.30p.m.**

‘Special Memories’ – 9.45 a.m. Sunday Nov 1 at St Michael's Shefford. A service to give thanks for those whose lives have touched ours, and are now in God's nearer presence. If you would like names of loved ones remembered in prayer please add to list in church, or ring the Rectory. This is a united service for both parishes, to which all are warmly invited.

Shefford Deanery All Saints Choral Evensong - Sunday November 1, 6p.m. at All Saints Church, Campton, with the combined choirs of the Deanery. Preacher: Canon John Kiddle, Diocesan officer for Mission and Development. All welcome

Looking further ahead:

Saturday November 21st – St Mary's Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall – please look our for details

St Albans Cathedral Evening Pilgrimage.

We have the opportunity to visit our Cathedral Church on a Wednesday evening next year as a special Parish visit. This would include a light buffet, a prayer tour of the Cathedral, the evening service of Compline and a procession to St Albans Shrine. Cost about £5. Dates yet to be agreed but if interested please let me know – Rector John

JC

On the face of it, one could think that teaching Old Testament stories would be a challenging task as they date back so much longer, but today's JC session showed this, once more, not to be the case.

When dealing with the parting of the Red Sea we had great fun looking at the Bible, speed drawing the chapter on how the Israelites got ready for the Exodus and thinking about how frightening the situation must have been at the time: the Red Sea in front and the Egyptians in hot pursuit in the back. We all reflected on how we would have felt at the time and that trusting in God sometimes seems easier said than done. We agreed though, that it's the only way forward that will leave us happier and better off. On finishing we thought about our challenges in life and how trusting and believing in God will overcome them, a question we will think about this week.

Alex Sinfield

ST. MARY'S VILLAGE CHOIR

Initially the choir will be singing at St. Mary's Harvest Festival [Sun. 11th Oct 11.15] and 2 of our Christmas Services.

In the New Year the choir will then have the opportunity to sing at Festivals throughout 2010, including special services & events, weddings and occasional regular services e.g. Holy Communion.

PRACTICES: Tuesday evenings 8pm – 9 / 9.30pm in St. Mary's Church, Meppershall.

NEXT PRACTICE: Tuesday 29th Sept. 8pm

Following practices: Tues. 6th Oct. 8pm – 9.30pm
 Tues. 17th Nov. 8pm – 9.30pm
 Tues. 24th Nov. 8pm – 9.30pm
 Tues. 1st Dec. 8pm – 9.30pm
 Tues. 8th Dec. 8pm – 9.30pm
 Tues. 15th Dec. 8pm – 9.30pm
 Tues. 22nd Dec. 8pm – 9.30pm

- You do need to be able to sing in tune, but other than that no 'qualification' needed. Try it out and see if it's right for you.
- Questions?

Sandra Harper 01462 813334
 sandray.harper@yahoo.co.uk

Thoughts from St Mary's for October

As I gathered courgettes from my small garden and picked the first ripe tomato, my thoughts inevitably turned to harvest, which we shall be celebrating when you read this. I thought how lucky we are to live in a place where we can actually see the crops being gathered in and the ground prepared for the next sowing. It is much easier to appreciate the hard work, sleepless nights and anxiety of our farmers when we live amongst them. Before they can bring home the harvest they have had to wrestle with regulations, rising prices and the vagaries in the weather which may well be due to climate change. It is also easier to recognise the grace of God who has provided sunshine and rain at the right time to bring about the harvest, though we may not have appreciated the timing if the rain arrived as we were going on holiday!

But we should not forget that there is another harvest which delights the heart of God. That is the harvest of people who turn to Him, and the Bible tells us that not only God Himself but the angels rejoice whenever any one turns about and enters the Kingdom of God. As the harvest of the crops is easier to appreciate in the country than in the towns, so we can see the harvest of people more clearly in places like Africa and China where the Christian Church is growing rapidly, than here in England - but the Kingdom is growing here too. This Autumn 2 or 3 adults from St Mary's will be confirmed and we rejoice with them. We would love you all to join us for our Harvest Thanksgiving in Church or at the Harvest Supper but if you don't, then at least as you visit the Supermarket and see the abundance, give thanks to God and to the farmers who have worked so hard and to all who have processed the food, transported it and sold it to us.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Pam Halliwell

SPARKS CHILL OUT

9 – 14 yr olds
6pm -9pm 31st Oct
Russell Park Baptist Church
£1 [entrance + transport]
money for food / drink

THE SPARKS TEAM [St. Mary's church] hope to take Meppershall young people aged 9 – 14 years to this alternative Halloween event.

How about it?

What will be there? X-Factor karaoke, mini hair salon, 'beat the stig' racing, chill zone, timed assault course, bouncy castle, food and a non-alcoholic cocktail bar.

Please email / phone Sandra to book your seat in a car.
Sandray.harper@yahoo.co.uk 01462 813334



A sizzling, christian holiday club for:
7 -13+ yrs.

SAT 31st OCT 2009
10am - 3.30pm
St. Mary's Church, Meppershall

JOSEPH



DRAMA & DANCE & SONG
extracts from the JOSEPH musical
PERFORMANCE for everyone 3pm

Your child will need: **£2 [bring on the day]**
 A PACKED LUNCH [NO GLASS]
 TO WEAR OLD CLOTHES

 **PLEASE KEEP THE ABOVE FOR YOUR REFERENCE**

REGISTRATION FORM

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

NAME[s]

Date of Birth **Age on OCT 31st**

Address

Tel No

Regular medication or medical problem

Please number your 1st, 2nd & 3rd choices.

DANCE ☐ **DRAMA** ☐ **SONG** ☐

Please TICK if you WILL BE watching the performance. ☐

Please TICK if you DO NOT want your child to be in any photographs. ☐

Parental signature **Date**

RECIPE CORNER**OCTOBER 2009**

MOUSSAKA

2 medium aubergines
 Salt and freshly ground pepper
 75g (3oz) butter
 30ml (2tbsp) oil
 2 large onions, sliced
 450g (1lb) minced lamb or beef
 150ml (1/4 pint) water
 15ml (1tbsp) tomato puree
 1 egg, beaten
 Cheese coating sauce made with 300ml (1/2 pint) fresh milk
 50g (2oz) English Cheddar, grated

METHOD

- 1) Basic white pouring sauce. 15g (1/2oz) butter. 15g (1/2oz) flour. 300ml (1/2 pint) fresh milk. Salt and freshly ground pepper.
- 2) Melt butter in a saucepan. Add flour and cook over low heat, stirring, for 2 minutes. Do not allow mixture (roux) to brown.
- 3) Gradually blend in milk. Cook, stirring, until sauce thickens, for 3-4 minutes mixing to keep the sauce smooth, add seasoning and cheese to taste and put to one side.
- 4) Cut aubergine into 0.5cm (1/4 inch) thick slices. Sprinkle with salt and leave for 30 minutes.
- 5) Rinse and drain thoroughly. Fry quickly in butter and oil until golden on both sides.
- 6) Remove from pan and leave on one side.
- 7) Fry onions in remaining butter and oil until pale gold.
- 8) Add meat and cook until browned. Add water and tomato puree. Season to taste.
- 9) Line base of an oblong or square ovenproof dish with half the aubergine slices.
- 10) Cover with meat mixture and onions. Arrange remaining aubergine slices on top.
- 11) Gradually beat egg into cheese sauce. Pour over aubergine slices.
- 12) Sprinkle with cheese.
- 13) Bake at 180 c (350 f) Mark 4 for 45 minutes-1 hour.

Recipes are kindly supplied each month by Brenda Putwain

GARDEN TIPS FOR OCTOBER

With acknowledgements to the RHS

- Rake up fallen leaves and pile them up to make leafmould
- Continue clearing up the garden, and burn or bin any debris that show signs of fungal infection
- Dig over empty areas of soil
- Finish planting evergreen shrubs
- Take hardwood cuttings from shrubs and fruit bushes
- Collect berries from seeds and shrubs for seed-sowing
- Give conifer hedges a last trim if necessary
- Plant new climbers and perennials
- Divide overgrown perennials
- Protect alpine from winter wet
- Lift and store dahlias, gladioli and summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant lily and tulip bulbs
- Tidy ponds and remove pumps for the winter
- Make new lawns from turf
- Cut down the dying tops of perennial vegetables
- Lift and divide rhubarb
- Fix grease bands to apple and pear tree trunks to catch pests that crawl up them
- Insulate the greenhouse and check that heaters are in good order

LAST CHANCE

- Sow grass seed
- Finish planting spring bedding
- Harvest apples and pears before they are damaged
- Lift and store tender perennials
- Lift potatoes and carrots and store them

GET AHEAD

- Prepare the ground for planting bare-rooted stock next month
- Make early sowings of broad beans for next year
- Sow sweet peas for next year under cover

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 Shefford – Meppershall – Barton - Luton

Shefford, High Street,				1533	1740	1840
Meppershall, Sugar Loaf				1538	1745	1845
Meppershall, Rectory Road				1540	1747	1847
Meppershall, opp Sugar Loaf	0728	0928	1118			
Shefford, High Street,	0730	0930	1120	1328		
Barton, Windsor Parade	0735	0935	1125	1330		
Luton, Silver St	0801	1003	1153	1335		
Luton, Galaxy Centre	0838	1031	1221	1403	1759	1859
				1554	1825	1925
				1622		

Route 79 to Luton – Barton – Meppershall - Shefford

Luton, Galaxy Centre,					1630	1750
Barton, Windsor Parade					1656	1812
Shefford, High Street,	0712	0912	1102	1230	1740p	1840
Meppershall Loaf, Sugar				1320	1745	1845
Meppershall, Rectory Road	0728	0928	1118	1328	1747	1847
Meppershall opp, Sugar Loaf	0730	0930	1120	1330		
Shefford, High Street,	0735	0935	1125	1335		

Route 89 to Henlow Camp – Meppershall - Hitchin			
	NSch	Sch	
Shefford, High Street			
Meppershall, Sugar Loaf	07.45	07.45	10:15 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			
	Sch	NSch	
Train arrives from London			17:05
Hitchin, Wilbury Way			17:12
Hitchin Station	15.54B	15:57	17:15
Hitchin, Bancroft,	12:35	16:00	17:56
Henlow Camp,		16:41	
Meppershall Sugar Loaf,	13.12		
Shefford, High Street	13.17		
<i>*New bus timetables are now available at your village stores.</i>			

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

Katie Johnson who will be 9 on the 1st
Samuel Derrick who will be 7 on the 2nd
Caitlin Saunders who will be 8 on the 3rd
Matthew Geneux who will be 9 on the 3rd
Chloe Brightwell who will be 10 on the 8th
Hannah West who will be 10 on the 8th
James Aberdein who will be 13 on the 8th
James Nesbitt who will be 12 on the 16th
Isabel Savuto who will be 4 on the 17th
Georgia Nesbitt who will be 7 on the 18th
Luke Merryweather who will be 5 on the 19th
Daisy Clark who will be 13 on the 19th
Dylan Woodcock who will be 7 on the 27th
Beth Edwards who will be 14 on the 27th
Alexander Davies who will be 7 on the 28th

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

