



Arms of the de  
Meppershall Family

# *THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER*



**VOLUME 25 – Issue 7**  
***NOV 2009***

Meppershall Village Website: [www.meppershall.org](http://www.meppershall.org)

# THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The editor welcomes contributions to the Messenger, whether as letters, articles or notices. Contributions should preferably be as attachments to e-mail but hand written contributions may be sent by post, left at the Editor's address below or in the folder kept at the Village Stores. Contributions should run to not more than one A5 page (except by prior arrangement) and should be received by the Editor not later than the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication at the end of that month. Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

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## THE TEAM

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**EDITORIAL**

Last month's issue was a triumph: 52 pages full of really interesting content. But for those involved in producing it, it was also a series of disasters, and the editor must take some credit and most of the blame. My excuse is the summer, and the sense of relaxation that hung on longer than it should have done! For whatever reason, I did not finalise the copy until too late and the mid-year review of the adverts was also completed too late. As a result, our devoted printers, Phyl Kidger and Beverley Aberdeen were left with a race against time. And we were asking them to collate and staple the advert section, which is a much slower process than just printing it! And when the printing was finished in time, against all the odds, the gremlins struck with a vengeance on collating day. Our newest machine, that was supposed to fold and staple the whole issue, mangled copies rather than folding them, despite having been tested on 20 sheet bundles; eventually even the stapler jammed! The manual staplers were not much better, and the whole afternoon was a trial for all concerned. Sincere thanks to the gallant band who stuck it out, and they were fewer than usual – again, I blame the summer!

But this month it is different! The adverts and the covers are already printed as I write this, and the text is final by the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month: my sincere thanks to our regular contributors who delivered on time. The booklet making machine has been adjusted and is now claimed to work perfectly, so when you read this we will either have had a splendid 21<sup>st</sup> century collating experience, or.....!

In the "Ringmaster" feature on page 27 you will see that there have been 3 burglaries or attempted burglaries in the village recently. Please read the police advice in that feature about precautions you can take, and act on it!

You will already have seen the dramatic flowering of the long bed outside the Village Hall, despite the episode of the telegraph pole! May I express the thanks of the Village to the ladies of the Gardening Club for their creativity and their huge efforts in bringing this about. We really look forward to the maturing of that bed and, in due course, the winter display in the planters and some bulb planting. And they say they find time for social activity too!

Dick Bulley

## LETTERS

### ***Message from Councillor Anthony Brown***

We have now had confirmation that the following dates and times for councillors' surgeries have been approved and that they will take place in the school hall at Meppershall as follows,

Saturday 9th January from 10.00am until 11.30am

Saturday 10th April from 10.00am until 11.30am.

Lewis and I would be appreciate it if you could include this information into the appropriate issues of The Meppershall Messenger.

Dear Editor,

Being a regular reader of the Meppershall Messenger we would like to say how much we enjoy the messages printed and how useful it is! We have been lucky enough to live in the village for nearly 4 years and all our neighbours have been extremely welcoming.

We got married in St Mary's on Saturday 19th September and just wanted to say how amazing our day was and to thank a few contributors from the village:

Rev John & St Mary's - Thank you so much for making our day so perfect! We had an amazing day if emotional! Apologies for our international relatives with cameras as I don't believe they understood the NO photography rule! Thanks to the bell ringers, (especially our neighbour David) they were beautiful! Also to anyone who popped in and took time out to water the flowers - the church looked perfect as ever.

Also - the organist - apologies I can't remember the lady's name - You were great; hopefully we sang with enough voice to compliment your good work; Jo Sheppard the Florist (and Julie your helper!) - Thank you so much - the flowers were absolutely gorgeous (even under all the strain of diversions) you made it through - we were so chuffed! I would thoroughly recommend to anyone for those special occasions! (Commission please Jo!!!)

Christina, Amanda and Elaine at Spring House Beauty - thank you - We all looked amazing on the day thanks to you (even if I we do say so ourselves!)

Rogers Bakery - Thanks for the morning buffet - it was great - saved us a whole lot of stress before the big day! Food was lovely!

Bury Farm - Thanks for letting us park at the farm - you were so helpful when I called the other day and made life a whole lot easier!

Hopefully we haven't forgotten anyone - If so we apologise.

Best Wishes  
Paolo & Kirsten Rodia

To whoever!

What sad idiot stole the lights from the front of our house? How sad are you!

If you are that hard up I will give you the money to buy some **brand new ones!**

Haven't people got better things to do with life than going around stealing other people's belongings?

L. Savory

*To take up the "new lamps for old" offer, contact the Editor.*

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I would like to say how much we enjoyed the Harvest Supper - everyone worked so hard and the food was excellent. It really was great to see the event so well attended and it pleased me even further to see so many of our friends from Shefford Leisure Group. Personally, I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Harvest Festival service for the school last Friday at the Church - the children put their hearts and souls into the service, not forgetting the teachers of course. A really lovely time of the year.'

Enid Pamment - Shefford Leisure Group

*I understand from a quick count that evening that the total raised for the Bishops fund from the supper, the raffle, the auction and collections at the school and the Harvest Festival service came to more than £500. This will be going to a charity to bring clean water to some of the needy in Ethiopia Well done Meppershall!. **Ed.***

## **COVER COMPETITION**

And this month the winner again is John Chapman for a really distinctive picture, with all the fiery gold of autumn, when the evening comes earlier and earlier. Thank you John and congratulations to the lads in silhouette. (I learned after the judges had made their pick that this picture had also done very well for John in a national competition!)

Please challenge our judges with yet more pictures: only a small fraction of what we receive meet all the criteria for our cover, so we just need more and more to pick out the good ones. Remember that pictures must be recognisable as Meppershall, but the coming occasions of Halloween, Bonfire Night, the Panto and Christmas parties must surely provide some photo opportunities?

## **25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Any listeners to 3 Counties Radio may have heard my few seconds of plug on Tuesday morning; many thanks to Colette House for arranging that opportunity as a spin off from her piece on living in a blue house!

As I said on-air, what we mainly need are photographs, because this souvenir issue is intended to be more pictures than text. Ideally the pictures will relate to the period 1985 – 2010, but older pictures are interesting in their own right and we will happily find room for interesting pictures. Thanks to those who have already sent in pictures and to those who have promised them. Please root out those old albums and photo-wallets from the loft or the back of the drawer; I know that it will bring pleasure to those who remember “the old days” and be interesting to those who are seeing them for the first time.

And time is pressing: we aim to publish this special issue in January, so we have asked for all contributions to be in by the end of November. Please rally round, as Meppershall does so well!

## **SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP**

Our start to the month of October was a visit to Sulgrave Manor in Northamptonshire. We arrived at the Manor some 30 minutes before our estimated time of arrival. Never the less we were well received and they hastened to put the kettle on so that we could enjoy coffee and Banbury pastries. We were also treated to a very interesting performance given by junior school children on the re-enactment of the marriages and beheadings of Henry VIII's wives! After a tour of the Tudor style gardens, we returned to the restaurant for our pre-ordered lunch consisting of a choice of two homemade soups and rolls, followed by rhubarb crumble. Our very knowledgeable guide then took us on a tour around the manor house, explaining the Tudor architecture and way of living. Before wending our way back to Shefford, we enjoyed a last 'cuppa' accompanied by home made cake.

Friday Night is Music Night was another memorable performance given by the BBC concert orchestra which was recorded at The Mermaid Theatre in London. Always worth a visit.

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

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| The Lord Mayor's Show                                | Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> November    |
| Welney flood lit swan feeding                        | Wed. 2 <sup>nd</sup> December         |
| The Mighty Wurlitzer Christmas Concert               | Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December      |
| Brick Lane Music Hall                                | Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December      |
| The Olympic London                                   | Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2010     |
| "Get together", Shefford Memorial Hall               | Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2010  |
| Hampton Court Palace – Henry VIII (Heads and Hearts) | Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2010 |
| Tour of the Cotswolds                                | Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2010   |

We are at present organising some of our day trips for 2010, some of which are given above while some of our planned longer trips for next year are shown below:

**MYSTERY 3-NIGHT WEEKEND BREAK** - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010. 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.

**RIVER OF WINE** cruise has been organised departing the 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Highlights will include Cochem, Boppard, Moselle Valley and the Rhine Gorge. The prices vary according to the cabin you choose which includes excursions.

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

*Shefford Leisure Group is open to everyone in the local community who feels they would like to join us on our ventures. We are always happy to meet new friends. Raffles are held and the proceeds are for Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. For further information regarding dates, prices and availability or to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact Enid on 01462 851397 or e-mail [Enidpamment@aol.com](mailto:Enidpamment@aol.com).*

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|                              |                                   |            |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI</b> |                                   |            |
| <b>CATHOLIC CHURCH</b>       |                                   |            |
| <b>HIGH STREET, SHEFFORD</b> |                                   |            |
| <u><b>Sunday Masses</b></u>  |                                   |            |
| First Mass of Sunday         | 6pm                               | RAF Henlow |
| Saturday Evening             | 9am                               | Shefford   |
|                              | 5.15pm                            | Shefford   |
| Weekday Services             | See notice at Church or telephone |            |
| Parish Priest:               | Parish Secretary:                 |            |
| Fr. Bennie Noonan 813436     | Rose Boulton 811547               |            |

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## Meppershall Parish Council Report

The latest meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Meppershall Lower School.

**In the open part of the meeting PC Steve Busby reported that there had been four crimes in Meppershall during September: two actual or attempted burglaries from out-buildings, one of criminal damage and one routine stop of a vehicle in which drugs were found. Councillors again raised with PC Busby the matter of bad parking in various parts of the village.**

**There followed a presentation by Cliff Andrews from BRCC on the production of a Green Parish Infrastructure Plan. The Council are pleased to assist Mr. Andrews in producing the plan and parishioners will be able to have an input. Watch for an article in the Messenger which will give more details.**

**Councillor Lewis Birt from Central Beds reported that the combining of Mids and South Beds was progressing and taking up much of the Councils time. On planning, an enforcement case was progressing in the matter of the hedge in Shillington Road.**

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

The grass path behind the hedge on the right hand side in travel down Shefford Hill is now an official route. It starts/finishes at the posts with the yellow top. The matters of the puddle and path repair in Rectory Road, as raised by a Parishioner, along with the manhole cover in High Street which is broken again and other outstanding items, will be passed to the highway agency.

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

So that more control can be exerted in future on the Contractor undertaking the grass cutting, a detailed work scope was being produced and the Clerk was asked to provide some more information

The Council is looking into having the play equipment inspected by professional people 4 times a year instead of the present annual inspection.

Allotment holders should have received their renewal letters by the time they read this.

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

One planning application had been received this month for a bungalow in a back garden. While the Council were concerned that it may set a precedent, the plans were in line with planning regulations.

### **Other Matters.**

The Finance group are to meet this month to discuss the few minor comments received after this years' audit of the accounts.

A reply from our Solicitors has been received regarding the access to Wry Close Allotment Field and the implications will be discussed by a small group of Councillor during the month.

Peter Chapman

Chairman of Meppershall Parish Council

The next two Parish Council meetings will be held on Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Meppershall Lower School commencing at 7.45pm.

#### **Collating Dates for your diaries.**

##### **2009**

|          |    |              |
|----------|----|--------------|
| November | 30 | double issue |
| December | No |              |

|     |    |            |
|-----|----|------------|
| May | 24 | week early |
|-----|----|------------|

|      |    |  |
|------|----|--|
| June | 28 |  |
|------|----|--|

|      |    |              |
|------|----|--------------|
| July | 26 | double issue |
|------|----|--------------|

|        |    |  |
|--------|----|--|
| August | No |  |
|--------|----|--|

|           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| September | 27 |  |
|-----------|----|--|

|         |    |  |
|---------|----|--|
| October | 25 |  |
|---------|----|--|

|          |    |              |
|----------|----|--------------|
| November | 29 | double issue |
|----------|----|--------------|

|          |    |  |
|----------|----|--|
| December | No |  |
|----------|----|--|

##### **2010**

|         |    |  |
|---------|----|--|
| January | 25 |  |
|---------|----|--|

|          |    |  |
|----------|----|--|
| February | 22 |  |
|----------|----|--|

|       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| March | 29 |  |
|-------|----|--|

|       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| April | 26 |  |
|-------|----|--|

## YOUR SHOUT

As we go about our daily lives do you ever stop and think what a wonderful place we live in?

We don't have the sea, we don't have mountains, we do have beautiful walking country, but most importantly, we have wonderful community living.

For a small village there is so much to do and so much going on that it makes us the envy of our neighbours in areas around us; so many people working endlessly to entertain others that at times we are spoilt for choice?

The new landlords Andy & Jenny at the Sugar Loaf put on regular entertainment as they work to build their business and at the same time integrate into the village. Coincidentally, in a tribute to their efforts, I received an email a few days ago from John Chapman who says "On Saturday October 3, Chris and I went to the Sugar Loaf for the first time in an age for the Karaoke night. We had a great time. The atmosphere created by the new hosts was congenial with considerable merriment caused by the singing, which was mostly of a very high standard and very varied in choice of songs. The bar was expertly and pleasantly run with little waiting time. Altogether a most entertaining evening and as a bonus, no smoke" Well done Andy & Jenny!

The Meppershall Players have been performing on the stage for approximately 40 years now. Some original members are still there and most of us know Mick and Paul! Meppershall Players have developed enormously since the days of the two act plays of the early seventies and as you probably know, they are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Panto this year with their production of "Little Red Riding Hood". No, surely, Mick couldn't possibly be taking 'that' part; or could he? Performances from November 29 until December

12 will bring in audiences from afar as they mix with we village folk. A fitting tribute to the Players success.

There is always activity in the Village Hall as they work to build funds. The afternoon Tea Dances organised by Maurice Whalley are very popular and people in other villages watch for notices of these popular and extremely good value events as and when they come around.

The Phoenix Chorus are returning again to perform in St. Mary's Church on November 28. They find the acoustics in the church so accommodating that they recorded their latest CD in St Mary's during the summer. Tickets for their next visit are on sale now.

A world famous Jazz group will be coming to St. Mary's Church on March 20, 2010. Terry Lightfoot and his Jazzmen can still grace the likes of the West End and other top venues and Meppershall is a place far-flung from New York and Las Vegas venues of Terry's past. Why is he coming to Meppershall? Well, first of all, The Friends of St. Mary's Church invited him to come; more importantly though, he wants to come with his band to entertain us. Why? He simply wants to experience our acoustics, he is attracted by the experience and he wants to entertain you. A great evening is in prospect and you may even get the opportunity to meet the great man over a glass of wine; watch out for when the tickets go on sale in the Spring, there is bound to be a huge demand.

Finally, with love and affection we send our congratulations to Archie Russell who celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 1.

**Send me your comments, experiences etc. to  
[trevor.thorley1@btinternet.com](mailto:trevor.thorley1@btinternet.com) or telephone 01462 813357  
 Remember, it's Your Shout!**

## School Report

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

We have been making the most of the lovely autumn weather over the last few weeks. The Beeches class (Year1) enjoyed an autumn walk through the village and the Acorns class gathered damsons in our wild life area and made delicious jam. Thank you once again to Roger's Bakery who kindly helped the Acorns (our Foundation Stage) bake a wonderful Harvest loaf. The Willows class (Year2) have been looking carefully at autumn leaves and fruits (See below).

The Oaks class (Year 4) are already becoming proficient guitarists since they started their weekly lessons at the beginning of term. They are benefitting from specialist teaching and the loan of a guitar for each of them for the whole year. In a few weeks time The Hazels class (Year 3) will be representing us in a singing festival at Etonbury Middle School. What a musical lot!

Our Harvest Festival was held in St Mary's Church this month. Thank you to all the parents for preparing Harvest gifts. I am sure that there were many smiling faces when they were distributed to elderly people in our community following the service. Our collection was targeted towards the wider community and was sent to The Bishop's Appeal. This year 's appeal is supporting Water Action, a Christian Aid partner providing clean piped water to people in Ethiopia.

All our parents will be invited 'Back to School' in November as we open the doors in the evening. There will be opportunities to sample some of the exciting things the children experience every day. These will include using new ICT materials, mathematical challenges, musical activities and sampling the tasty school dinners prepared by our excellent cook.

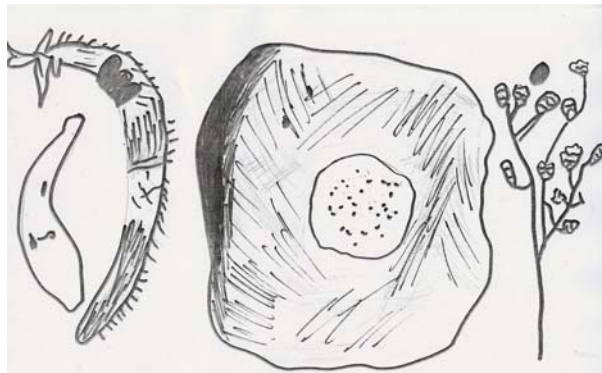
Don't forget to come to our School Association's Autumn Fayre on the 14th November 2-4 pm. It promises to be an action packed event with lots of craft and gift stalls where you can make a start on your Christmas shopping.

If your child's birth date falls between 1/9/05 and 31/8/06 you can now apply for a place in our 'Outstanding' Foundation Stage class for September 2010. Please contact the school office on 01462 813293. We do still have a few spaces in other classes for this year. You can read our excellent report on the OFSTED website.

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

#### Willows Class Great Seed Hunt!

Miss Hornsey asked us to collect some seeds for our homework. We found some in our gardens, and in all sorts of other places like Shefford Churchyard, on the Common in Letchworth, in the woods and in the nature reserve. Amazingly we found lots of brilliant seeds and took them to school. They included hazels, acorns, conkers, sweet william and poppy seeds, sunflower seeds and beans. Then we drew some careful observational sketches. We are going to plant the seeds and see what happens in the Spring!



## Financial News Update

Last month I talked about the pro's and con's of investing in property as opposed to pensions. To do that of course would mean buying a second (or third) property. However, for most of us that simply isn't possible, as we have neither the resources nor the time to make this a viable option. Having said that, some exposure to property in amongst other investments can be a valuable part of the 'Balance' or spread of risk that I have previously spoken of.

Why is this? Quite simply because the price/value of property doesn't move either as quickly, or as violently as other types of investment, nor does it necessarily move in reaction to what Stocks and shares are doing – so it provides a valuable foil to these other asset types. If we discount for the moment the correction that has taken place in values over the last year or so, property has previously provided a significant part of the overall return of 'Managed' funds. So how do you invest without buying actual bricks and mortar?

The answer is via property funds. These are huge property portfolios owned by major Insurance Companies. You are able to enjoy the benefits of their expertise and spread your exposure over many types of property. Being invested in a wide spread of properties reduces the risk associated with having only one or two of your own. Most 'Managed' or 'Balanced' funds available have some of their investment in property for this reason, but how do they work?

The first thing to understand is that they are not investing in residential houses (although there are couple of newish funds that do). Instead they are investing in commercial property. You may not realise this, but virtually every factory, retail park, shopping centre and industrial park in the country is owned by one of these property funds. Almost every commercial development you see

going on is by one of these funds. The occupants merely rent the premises from the property fund owner. To give you some idea of the scale of these funds, one of them owns the whole of Milton Keynes and Bluewater shopping centres plus many more properties, and retail parks! They make their money (which translates into investment growth for investors) not so much from the value of the buildings – that only comes into play if they sell it, but from the rent they charge. Having say, John Lewis and Marks and Spencer as long term tenants with contractual rental increases each year can be very profitable business indeed.

The returns on these funds have been both impressive and consistent, with some of them averaging nearly 10% p.a. up to a year and a half ago. The last year and a half has seen a sharp correction, but it was necessary to bring the values back to reality. However, many are now predicting that property funds are set to start producing gains once more. As the economy moves out of recession, and we start spending again, the demand for prime retail/industrial premises will rise.

I mentioned earlier that if your pension or other investments are in a 'Balanced' or 'Managed' fund you may already have some exposure to property (check with the fund provider); if not you may like to consider including a property fund as a part of your investment strategy. As ever, it's about getting professional advice, and spreading your risk. However property as an asset class can be a very valuable part of the overall mix.

Jon Ingarfill

Mob. Tel: 07870 564115 or email: [jon@rutherfordfinancial.co.uk](mailto:jon@rutherfordfinancial.co.uk)

Polehanger: A Farming Diary - Episode 8



One bright and breezy day, right at the end of September, someone remarked to me that it was “another beautiful day”; not hot, not cool just a lovely sunny early autumn day . . . but there was no rain. I got to thinking what about was said and what was meant.

In our weather conscious culture in this part of England we usually associate sunny and dry with beautiful, and wet and windy with miserable. But for Meppershall gardeners and arable farmers, after a full month with no measurable rain, a beautiful day would probably have been one of steady rain. It’s a subjective business; and we would have wanted some sunshine soon afterwards of course!

Friends of ours spent two weeks in Sardinia at the beginning of the summer holiday period and the daily maximum temperature never dropped below 40 degrees the whole time they were there. That was too hot and forest fires were evident in many places along the Mediterranean coast. They were pleased to return to a more moderate temperature and a ‘bit of damp’.

I make no apologies for returning to the subject of weather. We are so fortunate in this country not to experience serious drought causing several years of failed harvests leading to death and dislocation. Once again this seems to be the situation developing in northern Kenya and Ethiopia: Remember Live Aid in the 1980’s?

One of the charities we support is called Farm Africa [www.farmafrica.org](http://www.farmafrica.org). It works in these two countries as well as others in the region. If you don’t already support such a charity working on the ground on sustainable and empowering projects take a look at the web site and consider whether you could support in some way; buy a goat perhaps.

Hilary Benn is the current Cabinet Minister responsible for DEFRA (Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). Recently he, along with many others, has reminded us of the big global challenges of feeding a world population that is projected to grow from the current 6.8 billion to 9 billion by the year 2050, whilst

constrained by the effects of climate change and water shortages. That is some challenge and one that farmers and scientists across the globe must be prepared to take up. (I may stick my head above the parapet in a future episode and discuss GM crops)

I began writing this right at the start of October before we had the half inch of rain on a ' beautiful day ' that broke our dry spell. The oil seed rape was drilled in late August and had enough rain to get going. However, we held off drilling the wheat for a few days longer than usual until late September as it was so dry. Getting a good enough seed bed was extremely difficult on our heavy clay soil. Although we will need more rain to 'catch up', there will have been enough to germinate the wheat seed and get it started. It will also have brought the slugs up to the surface where they enjoy eating the germ of the seed. Slug pellets are applied where the slugs are seen to be, or likely to be active. Great care must and will be taken to ensure the pellets do not enter any water courses.

Just a quick update on the much awaited footpath from Shefford to Meppershall. Those of you with sharp eyesight will have noticed a yellow tipped waymark post in the field edge at either end of the grass path. The permissive path is just about to be formalized between ourselves and Central Beds. However this is an interim measure. The fully fledged footpath awaits funding from the Council and is not yet programmed for construction as far as we know. Until such time as it is, please make use of the permissive path and tell others about it. Dark winter nights are hazardous for pedestrians on the road.

Chris Foster

### **Meppershall Bakery Bees by *Roger***

As our bees are less active we can take time to review our equipment needs. Now is the time to examine all our spare equipment. Dry frames, containing either drawn comb or foundation, should be inserted into either supers or brood chambers as appropriate and then stacked outside. I wrap cling film around the boxes. Outside storage is recommended because the lower the temperature the frames are stored, the less likely they will suffer from wax moth damage. Wax moth larvae can take from one to five months to grow when hatched from an egg, dependant on the ambient temperature. Each stack should be stored off the ground to minimise any problems associated with damp, mice, shrews or other small animals entering and living there. I place queen excluders on top and bottom of the stack for the same reason.

The Meppershall hives are now six, having lost an old queen. She was coming up to about three years old and a very good queen. Her two off-spring are doing well and have plenty of stores to see them through the cold winter. As the temperature falls below 18c, the bees start to cluster by gathering closer together. The cluster is fully formed into a tight ball at around 14c and maintains a temperature of 35c in the brood area. Most of the bees are now the longer lived winter bees. Many will survive through to early April. As the cold nights start, mice will look for a warm dry corner to hibernate. A hive is ideal with the added bonus of plenty of food to hand. When the bees are in a cluster, a mouse can simply walk into an unprotected hive. It can destroy the combs and frames and the smell is objectionable to bees as well as to humans. Usually the cluster will be disturbed throughout the winter and the colony will be seriously weakened and some times die out. We can easily prevent a mouse entering the hive by maintaining a narrow entrance or fitting mouseguards.

Woodpeckers can cause considerable damage to hives. When there is a frost and the woodpecker can no longer dig for ants, they find that hives are a soft target. Last year I had three large holes to a roof. I replaced the roof with a tin one, which stopped the attacks. I have also seen muddy claw marks on the hives; probably caused by badgers. They rarely cause damage in this country. It may be that the weight of the hive in the winter and its being raised off the ground provide enough protection from the badger.

Honey available at Rogers Bakery – see you there. .

## Computer Tips:

### **Dangerous emails**

Our esteemed Editor (Dick Bulley) received an unsolicited email recently, ostensibly from Microsoft, which exhorted him to click on a provided link to establish certain criteria of which he was unaware. These emails, often purporting to be from banks and other well known institutions but which are false and dangerous are known as “phishing emails”.

With the former type, above, if you clicked on the link it would take you to a website that would immediately try to send a malicious piece of software into your computer which, if successful, may do considerable harm to it or send the initiator information stored on your machine such as passwords, credit card details or your keystrokes when you type. Other malicious software can take over your webcam and watch you or your keyboard if it is in shot, so turn it off when not in use. Your browser protection and anti-virus software should stop this malicious code being deployed but if it is a new threat they may be unprepared.

With the latter type, you may well be directed to a site that emulates the bank (or whichever) site and asks you for private details about yourself and your account.

**ON NO ACCOUNT OPEN ANY SUCH LINK FROM YOUR EMAIL  
UNLESS YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF ITS ORIGIN.**

The easiest way to check its authenticity is in the link address. Any website from a well known company will begin with its name such as *www.boots.com/index.htm*. A Phishing email may have something like *www.account.boots.com/index.htm* so you can instantly see the difference. Many of these link addresses are deliberately complicated to try and confuse you.

Take care. John Chapman [www.ceekay.co.uk](http://www.ceekay.co.uk)  
(Fortunately, I checked with John first! - Ed)



Ivel Valley Walkers, Lea & Icknield, Leighton Buzzard, North Beds Saturday Ramblers, Ouse Valley Group.

### Bedfordshire Walking Festival 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Great weather, Great walks, and terrific turnout for the recent Bedfordshire Walking Festival.

With almost 70 walks on the programme and 40 provided by Bedfordshire Rambler Groups the festival proved that people really wanted to get out into the attractive Bedfordshire countryside and join in organised walks. Not only did the festival attract Bedfordshire people it attracted visitors from neighbouring counties and from as far away as Bristol, Kent and Norfolk all bringing valuable income to businesses in these times of recession.

The couple from Kent said "We saw the festival advertised and having never been to Bedfordshire and wanting a walking holiday decided to come. The B&B accommodation is really good and the walks interesting and well led. We've really enjoyed our week".

The Festival was organised by The Ramblers 5 Bedfordshire Groups and supported by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity & The Greensand Ridge Path Trust.

The programme catered for all ages and abilities and dogs with responsible owners were welcome too.

Although the festival was mainly for walkers wanting 5 miles and above, specialist walks from Tourist Information Centres in Bedford & Sandy, Priory Country Park, RSPB Sandy, Marston Vale Forest Centre, The Marston Vale Rail Users Association and Aspley Guise P3 were included along with over 20 walks4health and a 3 day 40 mile walk along the Greensand Ridge Path. Plus a special walk for Wheelchair Users and an official opening of a kissing gate to make the event truly special.

Event organiser Barry Ingram said "Everyone put in a tremendous amount of time and effort and with an average of over 90 people per day on walks and enjoying themselves all the effort proved worthwhile".

## **Calendar of Forthcoming Events**

### ***November 2009***

|   |                |                                    |
|---|----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</u></b>   |                |                                    |
| Baby & Toddler Halloween Party                  | 1.45 – 3.15 PM | Meppershall Village Hall           |
| <b><u>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November</u></b> |                |                                    |
| Meeting of Parish Council                       | 7.45.PM        | Meppershall Lower School           |
| <b><u>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>  |                |                                    |
| Bonfire & Fireworks                             | 7.00 PM        | Meppershall Village Hall           |
| <b><u>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>    |                |                                    |
| Brownies Fundraising                            | 6.15 – 7.30 PM | Meppershall Village Hall           |
| <b><u>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November</u></b> |                |                                    |
| School Autumn Fayre                             | 2 PM – 4 PM    | Meppershall Lower School           |
| <b><u>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November</u></b> |                |                                    |
| Back to School (for parents!)                   | 7.30 PM        | Meppershall Lower School           |
| <b><u>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November</u></b> |                |                                    |
| St Mary's Christmas Fayre                       |                | Meppershall Village Hall           |
| <b><u>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November</u></b> |                |                                    |
| St Francis of Assisi RC Church Christmas Bazaar | From 10.00 AM  | Methodist Church Hall<br>Sheffield |
| <b><u>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November</u></b> |                |                                    |
| The Phoenix Chorus                              | 7.30 PM        | St Mary's Church                   |
| <b><u>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>   |                |                                    |
| Opening of Panto                                | 2.45 PM        | Meppershall Village Hall           |

### ***December 2009***

|  |         |                          |
|--|---------|--------------------------|
| <b><u>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</u></b>                      |         |                          |
| Meeting of Parish Council  | 7.45.PM | Meppershall Lower School |
| <b><u>Fri 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sat 5<sup>th</sup> December</u></b>   |         |                          |
| Pantomime  | 7.45 PM | Village Hall             |
| <b><u>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November</u></b>                         |         |                          |
| Pantomime matinee  | 2.45 PM | Village Hall             |
| <b><u>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December</u></b>                      |         |                          |
| Pantomime Charity Night  | 7.45 PM | Village hall             |
| <b><u>Fri 11<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sat 12<sup>th</sup> December</u></b> |         |                          |
| Pantomime  | 7.45 PM | Village hall             |

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

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### 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. D. Haseldine, 79 Amphill Road, Shefford | 813284 |
|-----------|--|--------|

#### Roman Catholic Church

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

### SCHOOLS

|                                    |                      |                |        |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------|
| Meppershall Lower School           | Interim Head Teacher | Mrs. Smith     | 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 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month, in Meppershall Lower School at 7.45pm                 |  |              |
| Clerk:  | Mr. C. Waghorn, 15 Church Lane, Letchworth   | 637531       |
|   | Email: <a href="mailto:waggers.uk@ntlworld.com">waggers.uk@ntlworld.com</a>                            |              |
| Central Beds Councillors:   | Tony Brown 11 Clifton Road, Shefford. Beds   | 816254       |
|   | <a href="mailto:anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a> |              |
|   | Lewis Birt 165 Clifton Road, Shefford Beds   | 819948       |
|   | <a href="mailto:lewis.birt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">lewis.birt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>       |              |
| Surgery/Advice Centre: 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--------|

**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 Club**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 |





**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 |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--------|

**Tennis (at Langford)**

|  |               |  |        |
|--|---------------|--|--------|
|  | Neil Franklin |  | 815735 |
|--|---------------|--|--------|

**Womens Institute**

|            |   |              |        |
|------------|---|--------------|--------|
|            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in month 7.30pm | Village Hall |        |
| President: | Gillian Thomas                            |              | 815979 |

**AMENITIES**

|  |   |                              |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Banks</b>                             | Barclays, 6 North Bridge Street, Shefford<br>Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm                                      | 0845 7555 555                |
| <b>B&amp;B</b>                           | Old Joe's   | 815585                       |
| <b>Dentist</b>                           | Mr. Lakhani, High Street, Shefford  | 814020                       |
| <b>Fishmonger</b>                        | Les Braithwaite (Mobile Van) – Thursday's approx 11.45am  |                              |
| <b>Flower Workshops</b>                  | Joanne Sheppard, 74 High Street. Booking essential.<br>Children: Saturday 10.30-12.00; adults Tue & Wed 7.30-9.00 | 816849                       |
| <b>Greengrocer</b>                       | Nigel Mann (Mobile Van) – Fridays 12.30pm – 2.30pm  | 711802                       |
| <b>Hedgehog Rescue</b>                   | Hedgehog Trust<br>St. Tiggywinkles  | 01584 890801<br>01844 292292 |
| <b>Henlow Bowls Club</b>                 | Denis Neilson   | 851208                       |
| <b>Kennels/Cattery</b>                   | Wayside, Chapel Road  | 813261                       |
| <b>Library</b>                           | High Street, Shefford   | 639070                       |
| <b>Livery Yard &amp; Training Centre</b> | Caroline Carter, Fildyke Road   | 07747 686118                 |
| <b>Mobile Library</b> (alternate Wed)    | High Street/School 1.55pm – 2.10pm<br>Village Hall 2.15pm – 2.30pm<br>Fildyke Road 2.35pm – 2.50pm                |                              |
| <b>Newspapers</b>                        | Meppershall Village Stores & PO   | 811252                       |
| <b>Police</b>                            | Emergencies/Police attendance required<br>Shefford Police Post (non emergencies)                                  | 999<br>01234 841212          |
| <b>School of Dance</b>                   | Positive Moves Saturday Mornings<br>Emma Scott, 29, Fildyke Road  | Village Hall<br>07914 063892 |
| <b>Whitbread Wanderbus</b>               |   | 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> November  
2009  
Same Time, Same Place**

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



A Garage Burglary took place in Shefford Road, in Meppershall, between the 20th and the 23rd of September. The offender has forced open a garage door, and the building was searched. It appears that no property was taken.

An attempted Burglary took place in Church Road, Meppershall, Shefford, at 4:00 in the afternoon, on the 24th of September. Offenders have forced the lock with an implement. Once inside the garden, the security lights have activated and the offenders have made off.

A Burglary took place in Hoo Road, in Meppershall, on Tuesday the 6th of October, between 7:30 in the morning, and 5:00 in the afternoon.

The offender has gained access to the rear of the property, and forced open a kitchen door. A set of vehicle keys, a flat screen TV and some jewellery were taken. The offender used the stolen keys to remove the owners vehicle.

The clocks go back and the nights are drawing in - don't let yourself and your property become vulnerable. [http://www.safer-beds.org/rmwebportal/rm\\_desktop/files/Crime%20Reduction%20-%20Seasonal%20Autumn.html](http://www.safer-beds.org/rmwebportal/rm_desktop/files/Crime%20Reduction%20-%20Seasonal%20Autumn.html) to find out more. }

Many Burglaries can be prevented.

Your boundaries are your first line of defence against criminals. Always secure garden gates, keep fences and wall 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, where they might be used to climb onto a roof, access a first floor window or access 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.

If you have any information about any of these crimes, please call the Police Control Centre on (01234) 841212, for North and Mid Beds.

## **ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI R.C. CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Saturday 28 November

at the Shefford, Methodist church hall from 10 am. Prizes include:  
£250 cash; Meal for two at the Black Horse, Ireland Beds;  
Christmas Hamper; Four tickets for Aladdin at the Gordon Craig  
Theatre in 2010; many more seasonal prizes.

Full Festive Bazaar Stalls

Hot snacks, lunches and refreshments are served from 10 am

Draw to take place at 1.00pm

## **1<sup>st</sup> MEPPERSHALL BROWNIES**

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

As in previous years Meppershall Brownies will be filling and sending shoe boxes to children around the world who are less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas. Each box costs us £2 to send and we therefore need to raise money to cover this cost. The Brownies are therefore holding a fund raising event on **Monday 9th November from 6.15 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall**. There will be a bring and buy sale (so please bring along any unwanted items for us to sell), a cake stall, refreshments and the Brownies will be organising some fun games. Please put this date in your diaries and come along and support this cause and help us send as many boxes as possible. The boxes are sent to children in such need that it is very often the only gift they receive. We will also be collecting items for the shoe boxes, so please bring these along or you can hand them in at the Post Office or Bakery.

Suzanne Brightwell  
Meppershall Brownies

### **URGENTLY WANTED**

Leaders and Helpers for a thriving village Scout Group.

We are in desperate need for additional helpers. The Shillington Scout Group is ever increasing in numbers and as such more help is required. If you can spare 1-2 hours a week in school term time please contact Pauline Goodman on 01462 711943 for more information.



are pleased to announce that their **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Panto** is



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.

Tickets for this panto will be available from 19<sup>th</sup> October at  
 Rogers Bakery.

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

**News from Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group**

We are looking forward to our Halloween Party on  
**Tuesday, 3rd November.**

There will be a fancy dress competition, Halloween activities, bouncy castle, raffle and much more! It will take place at 1:45pm in the village hall. Tickets are £2 (£1 for under 1s).

We would like to thank Jane West for all her hard work in the kitchen over the last months. We are now looking for a new helper to join us on a Tuesday afternoon and prepare the children's snack and adults' drinks. If you can spare the time and would like to help this friendly group, please call a number below.

Thank you also for the donations of new toys for our group, which were gratefully received. The children have already had a lot of fun playing with their new toys.

The group is open to anyone caring for a child/children under 5 and we always welcome new members. We meet in the village hall from 1:45 - 3:15pm during term time.

For further information please call:  
Catherine 812134  
Jo 813146  
Sam 07590290078

Thank You!



# *Autumn Fayre*

*Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November*

*From 2pm until 4pm*

*At Meppershall Lower School*



*Jewellery*



*Craft Stalls*



*Refreshments*



Usborne Books



Phoenix  
TRADING



Welcome to  
Fairy Corner



THE BODY SHOP



Craft activities



My NHW



Neighbourhood  
and Home Watch  
Looking out for the  
community

*Plus .... Raffle, Tombola, Games, Activities and more!*



**Meppershall  
Lower School  
Association**

**Meppershall Pre-school Ponderings**



As autumn is well and truly here, Meppershall Pre-school are looking forward to our seasonal fundraising events. We will be selling toffee apples again at the Village Hall Fireworks night on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Please do support us by buying a toffee or chocolate apple from one of our sellers on the night!

We also have a BIG Christmas Raffle this year, when we will be selling tickets to our friends and neighbours. Please do support us in this, for a chance to win one of many wonderful prizes!

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

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### **1<sup>st</sup> 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.

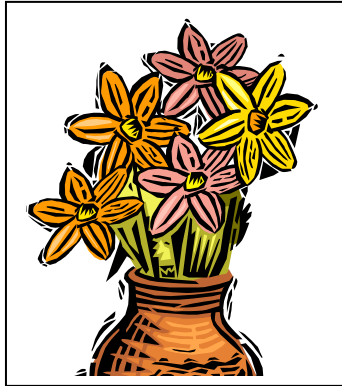
Christine Elbourne, Brown Owl. Telephone: 01462 817409

### **COMING EVENTS AT THE SUGAR LOAF**

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Friday 30th October:               | The Soul Man   |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> November   | Singapore Kiss |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December | Karaoke Night  |

## **THE MEPPERSHALL GARDEN CLUB**

### **(The MGC)**



Autumn's here and time to get down to some 'real' gardening. As you may have seen the border in front of the Village Hall has now been planted up with a selection of small shrubs which we hope in time will grow to give us an all year round display of colour. The next job is the replacement of the summer bedding in the planters with an Autumn/Winter display and the planting of Spring bulbs around the village.

I'm sure that you will appreciate this all takes time and energy and the MGC would really welcome **YOUR** help with these tasks. Having said that the MGC is not all about work and in the next couple of months we are managing to fit in a floristry workshop and a social evening.

If you are interested in joining the group in any of these activities or for more information on the bulb planting project gives us a call on:

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

*The Friends of St. Mary's,  
Meppershall are delighted to  
welcome for the second time*

## THE PHOENIX



## *CHORUS*

*Join us for a night of fabulous musical  
entertainment on Saturday 28 November at*

**St. Mary's Church, Meppershall  
at 7.30 p.m.**

**Tickets £12 to include**

*Buffet Supper; red or white wine.*

**Tickets available from:**

**Trevor Thorley 01462 813357**



**Margaret Evesham 01462 814291**

**The Rectory 01462 813334**

**The Bakery**

**The Post Office**

## THE TREASURER'S CHARITY


home  
news/ev  
our dogs  
contact  
special  
homes  
needed

The Albery Dog Rescue was started 1st October 2004. Rescue dogs have played a big part in the life of Beryl Griffiths who runs the rescue. Unlike many other dog rescues in the county, Albery does not have bespoke kennels where it looks after its rescue dogs, but instead uses a network of "Foster Homes" closely monitored by Beryl. The Meppershall Messenger asked Beryl to tell us a bit about what she and her team of "doggie foster carers" do through Albery Dog Rescue:

*"It is just me at home with people who foster for me. It never fails to amaze me how we have managed to home in excess of 800 dogs since we began, but a lovely feeling. We do not take dogs knowingly from Ireland, I feel very strongly about this, as whilst these dogs are being given a space in a rescue our dogs here cannot have a space and do not have a chance of finding a forever home. The majority of dogs we have are from private homes, or some from Pounds or Kennels. It is a lovely feeling when a dog comes in rather the worse for wear and within a short time with lots of love, TLC and good food is ready for re-homing, the difference is wonderful. People never fail to amaze me with their generosity."*

Albery Dog Rescue is run entirely on donations. Beryl has acknowledged that things are tight for everyone at the moment in the current economic climate, but is determined to keep the rescue running.

If you would like more information on the Albery Dog Rescue, it can be found at <http://www.alberdogrescue.co.uk/>. There is a picture gallery of the lovely dogs waiting to be re-homed along with contact details for Beryl.



The Treasurer

## Beat the (credit) freeze this winter

If you are getting poor returns on your investments, why not try energy saving? One of the biggest savers, cavity wall insulation, is very likely to cost nothing if you are 70 or over. Energy Saving Trust estimates that simple changes could save most households £300 a year. Try the on-line home energy check at [www.est.org.uk/check](http://www.est.org.uk/check) see if this applies to you, or call **0800 512 012**.

| Estimated yearly savings from energy saving improvements | £s  |
|--|-----|
| Loft insulation when none                                | 150 |
| Cavity wall insulation                                   | 115 |
| Thermostat turned down 1°C *                             | 55  |
| Loft insulation top up to 270mm                          | 45  |
| A/A+ fridge freezer                                      | 36  |
| Hot water tank jacket                                    | 35  |
| Appliances taken off standby                             | 33  |
| Tumble drying stopped in summer                          | 15  |
| A/A+ dishwasher  | 12  |
| Clothes washed at 30°C                                   | 10  |
| Energy saving bulb                                       | 2.5 |
| Source: Energy Saving Trust, Oct 2009                    |     |
| * Older persons should keep their sitting room at 21°C   |     |

*Insulation reduces winter fuel bills.*  
**Photo credit: Age Concern**

**This article was produced by United Sustainable Energy Agency (USEA). Contact: Gordon Glass, Marketing Co-ordinator.**



***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 November**

**Sun 1 November    All Saints Day**

11.15 a.m. Parish Communion &  
'JC' – in Rectory. (See also Special  
Memories at St Michaels and Deanery  
Evensong, both overleaf)

**Sun 8                Remembrance Sunday**

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

10.50 a.m. Remembrance Service with act of  
Remembrance at War Memorial 11 a.m.

**Sun 15             2<sup>nd</sup> before Advent**

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 6p.m. Evensong

**Sun 22             Christ the King**

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

11.15 a.m. Family Communion & 'JC'

**Sun 29             Advent Sunday**

9.45 a.m. United Benefice Family  
Communion at St Michael's, Shefford



Breakfast (Feast on Five) from 9 a.m.

### **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**

**‘Special Memories’** – 9.45 a.m. Sunday Nov 1 at St Michael’s Shefford.

A Benefice service to give thanks for those who 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 beforehand, 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

**Deanery Confirmation Service** – Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm , All Saints Clifton with candidates from St Mary’s

**St Mary’s Christmas Fayre**

Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Village Hall –12 – 4.30p.m.

Christmas goods, seasonal refreshments; stalls and games

More details coming soon. Details from Pat Bass – 851609

### **St Mary’s Junior Church**

As you read this we have just enjoyed another great Mini-Sparks event based around Joseph the musical, including drama, dance and song. This was a great activity for our older children. Look out for more events to be advertised in the future. Lots of fun for the children and adults involved.



As we head into November our minds turn towards Christmas. At JC we are also preparing to bring across to the children the true meaning of Christmas. On the 6<sup>th</sup> December JC is in the Rectory at 11.15am. We will be creating a collage banner showing the story of the Shepherds to place on display in church and will also be preparing and making the Christingle's for the Family Christingle service that evening at 6pm. Always a lovely event for the children to learn about the meaning of the orange, candle, fruit sweets etc and to take one home to enjoy.

The Crib service is also a great Christmas family service for children young and old to enjoy. This service really gets you in the Christmas spirit. So please join us on Christmas Eve at 2.30pm. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Morag De Luca

### **St. Mary's Village Choir**

If you live in or near Meppershall and enjoy singing why not come and join us and/or tell others about the joys of singing.? When we sing it lifts our spirits, expands our lungs and makes us feel good. The more people there are singing together the more uplifting is the experience: like football matches or Songs of Praise! And the more singers we have, the more varied 'gigs' we can do. We have great ideas and plans for the future. As well as singing for St. Mary's Festivals & special services it would be great to sing at local venues and even aim for a spring concert in the heart of our village. How about it....singing isn't just for the shower!!!

### **PRACTICES FOR CHRISTMAS**

*[at church – if too cold in The Rectory]*

Tues. 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. 8pm – 9.30pm

Tues. 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. 8pm – 9.30pm

Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8pm – 9.30pm

Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8pm – 9.30pm

Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 8pm – 9.30pm

Sandra Harper [sandray.harper@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sandray.harper@yahoo.co.uk) 813334

Dear friends,

Every Sunday, and at other times, St Mary's provides opportunity to worship, as it has done for the past seven hundred years. And the same goes of course for countless other churches. But what is worship all about – what is it designed to achieve? We worship on very different occasions – to celebrate a marriage and to pay tribute to a loved one; this month we recall those who've given their lives in war; last month we gave thanks for the riches of the Harvest. And every week we worship the Lord who said to his friends 'Do this in remembrance of me' as we share in Communion. The style and the mood can vary enormously. Sometimes with a Choir (as has just started); sometimes said. But in each case the purpose is the same – we worship to build on our relationship with God, to bring honour to the source and ground of our being.

Since I was ordained I've witnessed a wide array of approaches to worship; all kinds of music and use of language and degrees of formality and informality. Invariably I've found some styles more helpful to me than others. Likewise people have told me what speaks to them, and what doesn't! We are all different, and in terms of how we worship there's no one size that fits all. Invariably there is a need for compromise.

It's important that each Church tries to offer a variety of approaches, bearing in mind the need to provide for different ages and preferences. Ultimately though, worship is not designed mainly for our pleasure or satisfaction. The worship of the God revealed in Jesus is primarily to do with what we offer to Him.

The word 'worship' derives from – 'worth-ship' – i.e. how we express the worth, the value we place on our Maker and Redeemer. The Psalmist writes:

'Worship the Lord with reverence'. (Ps2. v11) He knew that his life was undergirded by the honour he brought to his God, especially through those times when he focussed with others, through prayer, praise and thankfulness, on the sovereignty of the God he had come to know. One main purpose of the Church is to provide that opportunity. Whether we regard ourselves as traditionalist or modern, charismatic or contemplative, worship is for God first and foremost. It cannot be driven by personal preferences. And then, having given Him priority, we find that God speaks to us, He reminds us of the worth he gives to us as his people, and we rediscover, as St Augustine once wrote, that 'You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you'.

With good wishes, John Harper

**PS** *You may remember the time when many worshippers had their own prayer book which they used at home and would also bring to Church – the Book of Common Prayer. There is now opportunity to obtain equivalent hard bound service books that contain most of the material in the style of language that is used in Sunday services and at other times. If you would like to order a copy as follows I will be pleased to obtain for you (or show you a copy):*

*'Prayer Book for Lay People' published by SPCK £12.99, with Sunday services and also the Wedding, Funeral and Baptism services. For a limited time and at more modest cost, an offer is available for copies of the main Common Worship Service book, which contains Sunday services, (including traditional Morning and Evening Prayer) weekly readings, Collects and the Psalms. £5 (normally £17.50) & post – offer expires 31 Dec.*

### **Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust** Sponsored Bike 'n Hike Saturday 12th Sept 2009 10am - 6pm St Mary's C of E- Meppershall

No, it didn't rain and I believe a great time was had by all who took part both in the riding and looking after the monitoring at St Mary's, especially as a wedding took place during the day. Thank you all very much for lending your support. It seems a long time ago now and it is always the collecting of sponsorship that takes the time. Last year we did very well and raised £700, of which half went direct to St Mary's and half to the Trust. That was £200 more than in 2007 but only 4 cyclists took part. This year we raised around £600 but again only 4 cyclists took part. I know none of us is getting any younger and I might suggest next year we see if any younger enthusiasts can try and beat John Nye and his total this year, of an astounding 64 churches. Thanks go also to Anne and Alan Rowland who gave it a try and I am sure will be having another go in 2010. My standard is not improving but I am pleased with the 42 churches I managed and thank you for your sponsorship. Every year we try and see if we can raise more than St Francis' does in Shefford and although I am not yet fully up to date with both final figures, I must acknowledge the input from Ian Cousins in Meppershall and my wife Jacqui towards the St Francis RC result.

Trevor Wilkinson Church organiser

# Candlelit Christingle



Sun. 6th Dec.  
6pm



Start preparations for Christmas with an  
**EXPERIENCE FOR ALL THE FAMILY**  
**at St. Mary's, Meppershall**

You may like to bring a torch or lantern.

Collecting candles will be available by  
end of Nov. from Meppershall  
school and The Rectory.



Donations made are for The Children's Society.



# **St. Mary the Virgin**

## **Meppershall**

### **DECEMBER**

### **Family Service**

**SUNDAY**  
**December 13th**  
**11.15 – 12 noon.**

**A service for all**  
**people of all ages**  
**Refreshments at 12**

**RECTOR JOHN & SANDRA HARPER**  
**REVJOHNHARPER@TALKTALK.NET 01462**  
**813334 SANDRAY.HARPER@YAHOO.CO.UK**

- ♦ **A time to be together**
- ♦ **A time to be with God.**
- ♦ **A time to grow**

**RICH STICKY BLACK GINGERBREAD.****Ingredients**

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 12oz plain flour                | 4oz golden syrup            |
| 2 level tsp ground ginger       | 4oz black treacle           |
| ½ pint milk (warm)              | 2 level tsp ground cinnamon |
| 2 level tsp bicarbonate of soda | 8oz butter                  |
| 2 eggs (beaten)                 | 8oz soft brown sugar        |

**Method**

Grease and line a deep tin (ie roasting pan type) measuring 7 ½ x 11 inches, or 2 bread tins of 2lb capacity.

Sieve flour and spices together onto a plate. In a large saucepan melt the sugar, syrup, butter and treacle. Remove from heat and stir in the flour.

Mix the warm milk with the bicarbonate of soda and stir into the flour mixture, using a wooden spoon. Finally stir in the beaten eggs.

Pour into your chosen prepared tin and bake in centre of oven at 325 F 160 C or gas Mk 3 for one hour.

Cool. Cut into about 20 portions when cold if roasting tin is used, or leave as a loaf and cut as required. Second loaf can be frozen.

Keeps for a long time in an air tight container and improves with keeping.

Recipes are kindly supplied each month by Brenda Putwain

## GARDEN TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

With acknowledgements to the RHS

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

### LAST CHANCE

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

### GET AHEAD

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

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

In developing the Meppershall Village Plan it was clear that there was a lack of knowledge about the buses serving Meppershall. The following information has been taken from 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 November**

Alice Geneux who will be 7 on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Ben Halford who will be 5 on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Elliot Cooper Hughes who will be 11 on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Freddie Hefford who will be 4 on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Emily Crowson who will be 13 on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
Abbie Saunders who will be 10 on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Lucy Wallace who will be 6 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Keane Dickman who will be 12 on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Alex Thorne who will be 10 on the 28<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto:louhuts@btconnect.com)