



## **WHAT'S IN YOUR MESSENGER THIS MONTH?**

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June 2012

## **EDITORIAL**

In this issue we are very pleased to join in the congratulations to Viv Thorne and Karen Lucas on their marathon run and superb fund raising. No apologies that they feature on several pages.



One of our letters raises some important points about the anti-dog-fouling campaign. If any fingers are pointed, it must always be at actually guilty parties, not just at suspects. The letter-writer also suggests that the worst affected places should be identified: where do you find it worst?

Congratulations and thanks to David Foskett for taking over the Chair of the Parish Council, and thanks to the other Councillors who have agreed to continue to shoulder their various responsibilities. Council meetings are unspectacular and poorly attended by the public, but the work that the Council does on the minutiae of the village administration makes a subtle difference to the comfort and security of all of us. Not least is this true of the Highways and Lighting portfolio that Cllr. Bryant has given up after more than 20 years. Sincere thanks to Roger.

I have heard rumours that some people have concluded from the archaeological investigation behind the Village Hall that building development on the site must be imminent. That is not correct: please see the announcement on page 33 from the new Chair of the Parish Council.

In his Polehanger Diaries on page 20, Chris Foster comments on the run of totally contradictory weather that we experienced in April and May. I can only hope that it settles down to a warm early-summer in June for everyone's benefit and especially for the Great British Meppershall Summer Fair on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dick Bulley

## LETTERS

Letter from Fred Bucksey  
19, High Street Meppershall

### POPPY APPEAL 2012

Further to my letter in the February issue re Poppy Appeal, the Shefford & District branch of the Royal British Legion is now preparing for this year's appeal. Ideally, we would like to have a collector in each sector of Meppershall; Paula Waring will be covering Orchard Close.

If you are prepared to give some of your precious time to a worthy cause, it would be much appreciated. Victor King the Area Organiser on 01462 638675 would be only too pleased to give help and advice, and to issue collecting boxes and poppies. Last year we collected £10,716.00 and with your help we would like to surpass that sum.

Dear Editor,

Each month I receive the Meppershall Messenger and read the articles with interest. However this month I now feel that after living in the village for 12 years I would like to express my personal opinions on an article in the May issue.

I totally agree that dog walkers need to clean up after their dogs and dispose of this in an appropriate manner. However this month was just too much; the photo of the Springer spaniel proves nothing other than a dog standing on the grass with his back to the camera, this does not even show any form of detail to say the photo was actually taken in Meppershall and that the dog had fouled on the grass. I now feel that being a Springer spaniel owner, residents maybe be pointing the finger and maybe wonder if my dog was the one in the photo when I am out walking in the village. I am sure that if the photo was of a black Labrador then these owners would feel the same. I can assure any person in the village that I do clean up after my dog and dispose of it correctly. This also leaves me with a feeling that whilst out walking someone may be taking photos of dog walkers, just to try and catch them out. Is Meppershall joining the Big Brother state of you are being watched!

My only concern regarding dogs in the village that not all dogs are happy to mix with other dogs so I would like to ask other dog owners that if you see someone walking towards you with a dog on a lead then please could you do the same and prevent any awkward moments.

Also can you please name the areas that people are noticing the dog fouling as this may have more impact on dog walkers?

From a dog walker; happy to read the Messenger but fed up with dog fouling articles.

*In response to this lady, who telephoned me before writing in, I must say firstly that I know who took the picture that appeared last month, I know it was taken on the Crackle Hill path and I believe what I am told, that the dog shown had just fouled the path.*

*What must be emphasised is that the dog was not "being walked"; he was not on a lead nor was there anyone with him. So no one should confuse this dog with any similar dogs that are walked by responsible people who clear up after them. I hope that is clear. Ed*

### **Lavender House news:**

Sincere thanks for the generous donations of plants but, like all of you, we have not had much chance to enjoy being outside in sunshine; let's hope its better in June! We have enjoyed singing and dancing every week with David; Margaret came with her guitar and a kind lady in Shefford gave us the wonderful donation of an electric organ. Sadly, we have had to say a final farewell to three of our residents; we will miss them, but another of our residents celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday next weekend.

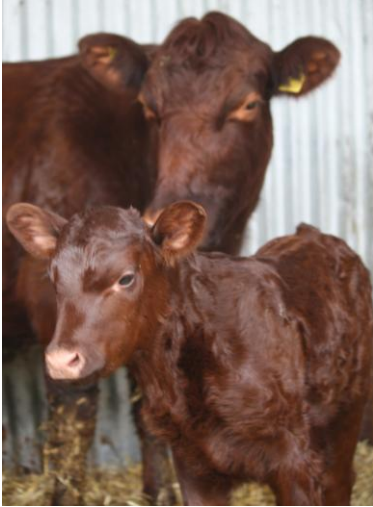
We are planning to mark the Queen's Jubilee with a joint celebration for both homes with a Garden Fete on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30. There will be cakes and other stalls, a raffle, coconut shies, skittles, The Shefford Majorettes, The Dancing Mutleys (dogs!), tea and cakes. You are very welcome to join us.

If ever you think that we might use something that you have finished with, please do ask.

Lesley Skerman, Activities Organiser. 01462 814372

## MEPPERSHALL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Spring Comes to Meppershall



The coming of Spring is usually accompanied by the firing up of lawnmower engines, daffodils or spring lambs. At Trundle Towers spring was heralded by the arrival of two Red Poll Heifer calves. In this picture by Lyn Smith are Mepshall Miriam and her dam Mepshall Meryl; her sire is Canute Orange Admiral and as I write he is away working his magic at Shuttleworth College. (Nice work if you can get it!) As heifers they will not end up on a plate but sold on to another Red Poll breeder.

*Report by Mick Trundle.*



### **Campton & Chicksands Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

The £3 programme gives entry to all the events for ALL the family with a host of competitions and fun and Games.

On Saturday at 12 noon the fun begins and events include: The Shefford Town Band, Dancing Troupe, Dancing Dogs, Mini Olympics, Welly Wanging, Penalty Shoot Out, Tug of War, Face Painting, Skittles, and Croquet. At All Saints' Church the Osborne Crypt will be open to the public and there will be an exhibition of local arts and crafts together with historical maps and photos of the village. Then on Sunday at 11am there will be a special service in the church followed in the afternoon at 3pm with a Campton's Got Talent Show and sing-a-long.



## WEDDING BELLS



Claire Smyth and Andrew Foote  
are getting married on  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 at 2pm.  
All friends are welcome at  
St Mary's Church, Meppershall.

## Henlow Clifton Scout Group has fantastic activity packed weekend!

Over the early May Bank Holiday weekend, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and their Leaders from Henlow Clifton Scout Group attended the Bedfordshire Scout County Camp, along with 2, 500 others at the home of Scouting, Gilwell Park in Chingford, Essex.

The 60 young people and adults took part in an activity packed three days, with some of the most popular activities including grass sledging, laserquest, go carts and archery. The activities didn't stop after dinner, as youngsters could go to a campfire, a disco and a film show. On the Sunday we were joined by 16 of our youngest members, the Beaver Scouts, who also took part in the activities and after a very busy day, there was many a sleepy but happy youngster going home on a coach!

Although the weather was a little chilly, thankfully we had very little rain and even a little sun shine on the Monday to dry our tents. Due to the weeks of rain beforehand, the grass very quickly turned into mud and very early on in the camp everyone was splattered with mud – some worse than others!

Many thanks go to the Leaders who transported kit, cooked and looked after everyone.

If you would like further information about our Scout Group, please contact Sarah on 08456 046848.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Meppershall Brownies**

We returned from the Easter break on St Georges Day, so we celebrated our saint's day by acting out the story of St George and the Dragon, which the Brownies did with a great deal of enthusiasm and laughing. We also decorated biscuits with the English flag and played some St Georges Day themed games. We were joined by two new starters this evening which was great: welcome to Rebecca and Jessie.

The next week we had our own version of Britain's Got Talent, aptly called Brownies Got Talent, and the girls proved to us they certainly have, with lots of excellent singing and dancing, reading, a puppet show complete with home made puppet theatre, yoga demonstration and a rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" which was so good it made us all cry! The Brownies had gone to a massive amount of effort in writing their own songs, making props and yummy fruit kebabs, and practising their dance routines. It was a really lovely and fun evening, which was great for the Leaders, as all we had to do was sit and watch all the great acts all evening. Only thing missing was a performing dog - may be something to think about for next time.

We also attended the Division Activity Day at Boyd Field, which was an amazing day. Amazing for two reasons, one being it was one of the only days this month when it hasn't rained, we even saw the sun from time to time and secondly because of all the fun activities the Brownies got to do in just one day, which included rafting (great fun, if a little cold (particularly for those who fell in), archery and climbing, bouncy castles, making a jungle puppet, making doughnuts and pancakes (which were very yummy) on the outdoor trangia stoves, and a treasure hunt with challenges in the woods. The day finished with a BBQ and fun sing song around a traditional camp fire in the evening. Oh and I nearly forgot to mention, rolling down the hills, which wasn't actually a planned activity but was greatly enjoyed by the Brownies.

Phew and that's just two and a bit weeks worth of activities!

We currently have spaces, so if your daughter is aged between 7 and 10 and would like to come along to try Brownies then please contact Suzanne Brightwell (Snowy Owl) on 01462 815752.



*Meppershall Village Hall*

**S U M M E R   S A L E**

**25% OFF** all bookings  
of the hall for the period  
**2<sup>nd</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (inclusive)**

Do you have a party or other event that you need to organise? Why not take advantage of our 25% discount on all bookings made during that period?

For more information, or to make a booking, please contact  
Sue Rafferty on 01462 816178

(Discount does not apply on bookings already taken)

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

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

Hi,

This should be the month we start extracting the spring crop of honey, but in early May I did not have any supers on until the 10<sup>th</sup> May. On 3rd May I was called to Shefford to a swarm which we hived that day in the rain. On the 10<sup>th</sup> May I checked the swarm to see if the queen was laying eggs and she was, so I hope we will have some oilseed rape honey for the show at the end of the month. Keep fingers crossed!

The bee inspector phoned me in April, to report that there was European foul brood in the area and asked to inspect my bees. (EFB is a notifiable disease, as foot and mouth is in livestock) My bees were given the all clear, but the two small colonies were found to have noseemia. This could be why they are small. Nosemia is a common protozoan disease that affects the intestinal tract of adult bees; it is similar to dysentery in humans. It can weaken a hive and reduce honey production by about 50%. It is most common in spring after the bees have been confined to the hive during the winter. One of the main causes is damp and cold conditions, which I think is what may have contributed to the infection in my hive. The inspector suggested I give them an antibiotic in sugar syrup; this has perked them up. May be we will get some honey in the summer months when they feel a little better - bless!

The two colonies I ordered from the bee supplier have not turned up yet as the weather has been too bad to go through the hives and check they are alright. They should have been with me by the end of April - beginning of May.

This is the wettest drought I have ever seen: perhaps some parts and people need the rain but the bees do not. Honey will be rare this year but look forward to seeing you all at the show at the end of the month.

p.s. The EFB, which came from another county, has now been sorted, as advised by the inspector.

Some honey available at Rogers Bakery- see you there.

## **Meppershall C of E VA Lower School**

*'An outstanding Church  
of England School'*

*June 2008 and December 2010*



### **School Report - June 2012**

This month I hand over the School Report to Eve Sale and Byron Vernon, both of Hazels Class. They are going to tell you about their educational visit at the end of last term. They will be writing both an account of their visit and the results of interviews held with their teachers and friends.

Key Stage 2 children went on a visit to the Eco Centre. It was extremely fun. We did all kinds of activities. First we watched a video clip all about energy sources; it was very interesting. Next we did a quiz with a lady called Pam. We also planted peppers. Before lunch we made mini wind turbine kits. Then we had some delicious lunch. After lunch was my favourite bit. It was climbing the wind turbine. IT WAS GREAT! It was really cool because it actually moved at the top. I loved the amazing view. The 2 hour coach trip there and back was definitely worth it.

Eve Sale

Eve then interviewed Mrs. Allen. Here are her findings...

Did you enjoy the trip and why?

*I enjoyed the trip because everyone was happy and learned lots and the children were well behaved.*

What was your favourite part of the trip?

*Climbing the wind turbine because of the amazing view.*

Did you like climbing the wind turbine and was it scary?

*I liked it and it wasn't scary at all because I don't mind heights.*

Our topic was recycling so the teachers arranged for us to go to the Eco Centre in Swaffham. We were all excited. It was very fun. We got to climb the highest wind turbine that you can climb up. We found out about different sources of energy. They are wind power, hydro electricity and solar energy. We all had a very fun time. I thought that we all loved the trip.

Byron Vernon

Byron then interviewed his friends Tarun and Rachel. Here are his findings...

Did you enjoy the trip and why?

*Tarun: Yes because of the coach trip and the film.*

How did you feel on the top of the wind turbine?

*Rachel: I was a bit scared and excited at the same time.*

What was your favourite part and why?

*Tarun: Making the wind turbines because it was fun watching the blades go round.*

As you can see the children really had great fun but also consolidated their learning about Reducing, Recycling and Reusing. Even though the costs of such visits are now rising, we cannot over-stress how important they are to make learning fun and valuable.

Lyn Fairweather  
Headteacher

## Meppershall Parish Council Report

Your Parish Council met on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 for the Annual Statutory Meeting which is held each year to elect the officers of the Council for the forthcoming year. At the meeting I was elected as Chairman, replacing Peter Chapman who has served for the maximum permitted three consecutive years. On behalf of the Council I would like to thank Peter for all his hard work during his term of office.

The officers of the Council for this year are:-

Chairman – David Foscett

Vice Chairman – Peter Chapman

Governor to Meppershall Lower School – Martin Morris

Representative to the Village Hall Management Committee – Martin Morris

Spokesman for Environment & Leisure – Paul Merryweather

Spokesman for Planning & Housing – Peter Chapman

Spokesman for Highways & Lighting – Dick Bulley

Spokesman for Finance Group – David Foscett

Spokesman for Health & Safety and Risk Management – Peter Chapman

After the completion of the Annual Meeting, the normal monthly meeting took place.

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

There was one new application considered by the meeting for a single story front extension to 50 Orchard Close. There were no objections to this application.

If you wish to view or follow any Planning Applications in the Central Beds area they are all available on their web site at this address <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov>.

### **Finance** (spokesman Cllr. David Foscett)

The annual accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 will be sent for audit next week.

### **Highways & Lighting** (spokesman Cllr. Dick Bulley)

I would like to thank Cllr. Roger Bryant who has been the spokesman for this group for over 20 years and has decided to step down this year. His vast experience will not be lost, as he has agreed to assist Cllr. Dick Bulley who has now accepted the post. If it had not been for Roger's persistence in chasing

our Highways Department over the years, many of the highway maintenance tasks in the village would have been conveniently ignored by the officers responsible for authorising the work. At the meeting he reported that recent repairs to the road outside the shop had not been successful and further work was required. He had spoken to Highways who told him more extensive work will be carried out. Unfortunately his local contact officer from Amey had been transferred to Sheffield and the post was once again vacant.

If you wish to report a pothole or broken street light, please do not contact Dick or Roger but fill in the form on the Central Beds website. You may also telephone them on 0300 300 8049 especially if it is an emergency (likely to cause damage or injury). Please request a Reference Number so that your report can be tracked.

**Please note** that if you have a bush or hedge that is overhanging or obstructing a footpath, which could cause a problem for a pedestrian, you must ensure that it is trimmed back. The Council has received complaints about some properties which have been referred to the Highways Dept. who will contact the land owner and request a resolution. Ultimately they have the power to trim the plants and charge the land owner for the work, but I am sure that won't be necessary in Meppershall.

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

Maintenance tasks in the village have been very difficult in the recent wet weather and will be carried out as soon as possible.

#### **Old Road Meadow**

The annual grass cut has been completed. The grass/wild flower seed mix planted recently on the old allotment area is growing well and we look forward to seeing the flowers next year.

#### **Wry Close Allotments**

The Clerk to the Council has received some applications for the empty plots, but there are still some vacancies if you are interested in 'growing your own'.

#### **Meppershall Festival 2012**

Following an application from the Festival Committee, the Parish Council were pleased to agree financial sponsorship for the event.

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 – 7:45 pm in Meppershall Village Hall

**Please remember that you are welcome to attend our meetings to speak about any subject during our open public session. Or you may just wish to come along and see what we do. Maybe you are thinking about becoming a Councillor at the next election. We look forward to seeing you.**

David Foscett – Chairman Meppershall Parish Council

## **YOUR SHOUT**

### **with Trevor Thorley**



#### **THE LONDON MARATHON 2012:**

Hearty congratulations are in order to Vivienne Thorne and Karen Lucas who successfully completed the London Marathon on April 22 in the commendable time of 5 hours 23 minutes. Both Vivienne and Karen were running to raise money for their own charities, Vivienne for Prostrate Cancer and Breast Cancer Care and Karen for the Cardiomyopathy Association. Vivienne and Karen are extremely grateful for the excellent support shown to them both.

#### **THE MILTON KEYNES MARATHON:**

It's congratulations too to Gillian Marshall-Davies who successfully completed the Milton Keynes Marathon on the following Sunday, April 29 in atrocious wind and rain, and in a commendable time of 5 hours 5 minutes - another fantastic achievement. Gillian was running to raise money and awareness for Diabetes UK. The daughter of a friend of Gillian's has this disease (Gillian does not have a daughter) and she was able to raise a fantastic sum of over £500.

#### **LITTER PICK:**

Hopefully when this issue of the Messenger is published, Meppershall will be a cleaner and tidier village as a result of the Litter Pick which will have taken place on May 19. It should not, though, be for just one day: we could all contribute to keeping our village tidy by thinking before irresponsibly dropping wrappers, cigarette stubs and other objects and instead depositing them where they should be, **IN THE BINS!**

#### **THE FRIENDS OF St. MARY's:**

Over the past twenty years, the Friends of St. Mary's have raised much needed money to support the fabric of St. Mary's Church. By organising Country Fairs, Quiz Nights and Concerts, they have been able to give money for the purchase of a new Electric Organ, money



towards the already installed Walker Organ, money towards the New Vestry, purchase of the new Sound System and other important needs.

The Parochial Church Council should, in the near future, receive the necessary clearance to commence work on the much-needed church Restoration work, and the Friends of St. Mary's are now pledged to give their support to this specific project.

To this end many concerts have been held in the church over the years. Brass Bands, Organ Recitals, Classic Guitars, and Choirs, some more famous than others, have entertained us, followed by scrumptious suppers laid on and prepared by the ladies; latterly these have had to be dropped due to the magnitude of the task as audiences have increased. With a move to the engagement of 'big names' such as Terry Lightfoot and His Jazz Orchestra and Kenny Ball and His Jazzmen (on two occasions), leading to sell-outs and full audiences, Meppershall has suddenly become a focus of attention from jazz fans in other parts of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and in some cases further afield.

We are now seriously debating bringing the only "Stranger on the Shore" **Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band** to Meppershall. We are greatly honoured that he too wants to come and entertain us but even with a small discount, his overheads and his fee are much greater than we have ever been asked to pay before. Bringing Acker Bilk to Meppershall would be the greatest coup of all but would necessitate us increasing the ticket price by a further £5. Even with this increase we would have to achieve a sell-out, or very close to it, to avoid possibly incurring a loss, which we cannot do! With all these facts, the big question is DO '**YOU**' WANT HIM TO COME and would '**YOU**' COME and SUPPORT US?

To give us a feel of what we should do, please email or telephone me. On this occasion it really is **YOUR SHOUT!**

**REMEMBER IT IS YOUR SHOUT**

**Call Trevor on 01462 813357 or email:**

**[trevor.thorley1@btinternet.com](mailto:trevor.thorley1@btinternet.com)**

## SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

By Enid Pamment



Although we experienced torrential rain on our way to Buckinghamshire, the rain had cleared when we met our Guide at Beaconsfield for the onward journey to the 'Hit & Miss' public house for morning coffee. Back on board our coach our guide took us through several villages and past the Prime Minister's country retreat 'Chequers' where we were able to catch just a glimpse of the property as we passed slowly by. Many of the rich and famous own property within the area and although we were not able to glimpse of any of them we did see the magnificent Red Kites. Our journey took us to a very interesting 13<sup>th</sup> Century Church with some rare wall paintings. On our return to 'The Hit & Miss', we all enjoyed a superb shepherds pie included in the price. We then returned to our coach to visit Jordan's Meeting House, built in 1688, the home of the Quaker Movement. Here we were given a very interesting talk by members of the Quaker family. Outside there are simple graves in the Quaker fashion including that of William Penn the founder of Pennsylvania and nearby is the Mayflower Barn said to be built from timbers of the Mayflower ship that took the Pilgrim Fathers to America. After partaking of tea and biscuits we returned to Shefford.

We finished the month with a visit to Milton Keynes theatre to see 'Wonderful Town'. This was a story of two sisters who left their home in Ohio to travel to New York, and their tale of trials and tribulations before the happy ending. With Connie Fisher as the leading lady it was certainly a lively performance, with talent. This production is on its way to London after touring the provinces.

### **Forthcoming Events 2012** (Kindly telephone for details)

National Memorial Arboretum, Staffs.	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June
Cambridge River Cruise with Lunch	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> July
Buckingham Palace + Kenwood House	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August
River Boat Cruise(inc lunch & cream tea)	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> August
Kelmarsh Hall & Gardens. Northants	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September

Calendar Girls - RAH (for Leukaemia)	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> October
Jeyes of Earls Barton	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
The Lord Mayor's Show	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> November
Thursford Christmas Spectacular	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Carols with the Stars – RAH (for Leukaemia)	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December

## Holidays

Images of Poland (Krakow). Flying from Stanstead	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> June
Chatsworth & The Peak District –Novotel Nottingham	10 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> August
Warners – Hayling Island (Hotel Accommodation)	1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> October
<i>Kindly telephone for more details of any of the above. Bookings now being taken</i>	

*For all holidays which include hotel accommodation, Shefford Leisure Group acts as an agent for the Tour Operator, their terms and conditions apply.*

London shows currently available (arranged by Stevenage Group Travel) are:

### **Matinees – Leaving Shefford at 11am – price includes coach:**

Singing in the Rain - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August. - Palace Theatre –

Wizard of Oz – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August

Thriller Live (the career of Michael Jackson) – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August

Sweeney Todd – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Billy Elliot – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September

### **Evening performances, leaving Shefford at 4.15 pm:**

Top Hat – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Wizard of Oz - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Matilda, The Musical – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July

War Horse – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Blood Brothers – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July

Singing in the Rain – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August

Let it Be (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beatles – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

The Bodyguard (based on film) Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November

*Shefford Leisure Group is open to everyone in the local community who feels they would like to join us on our ventures and see places they would not see under their own steam. We are always happy to meet new friends. Raffles are held and all the proceeds are for Keech Hospice Care for Children. 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).*

Enid Pamment

## **Financial News Update      with Jon Ingarfill**

Well spring has turned into a (very) damp squib, and so has the prospect that Europe might sort itself out. Greece has landed on that long snake that awaits you on the snakes and ladders board and slithered all the way back to the bottom again. Spain seems to unravelling at a rate of knots, and surprisingly the Dutch government fell apart because they couldn't agree on austerity measures. So what happens from here is anyone's guess.

This month I am returning to the subject of Inheritance Tax (IHT). I covered this in some of my earlier articles; however it is clear from recent meetings I've had that there is still widespread misunderstanding about this rather nasty tax. With proper planning it is possible to largely (often wholly) mitigate it.

Everyone is assessable to Inheritance Tax on their death. The first £325,000 of a person's estate is taxed at 0% (notice it isn't a tax free threshold), and the excess is then taxed at a flat rate of 40%. Assets that pass between spouses (and civil partners) are not taxed plus the Nil Rate Band can also be passed to the other. What this means is that in many cases, the first person in a couple to die passes their assets (and Nil Rate Band) to the survivor meaning that the tax manifests itself on second death. However there is double the Nil Rate Band i.e. £650,000 to offset against it.

But beware, there are numerous ways to unwittingly mess this up....for example if the deceased hadn't made a will, the survivor will not automatically inherit everything. The ability to pass the NRB between spouse's (and Civil Partners) was introduced in 2008, many older Wills frequently had a clause which 'carved out' the Nil Rate Band to children, leaving the survivor only their £325,000 to use on second death. So it is vital that people not only make a Will but review it regularly to make sure it is still up to date with current legislation.

Another area that often causes confusion is the issue of 'Domicile' or where you are from. This is what determines ones liability to IHT.

For UK domiciled people, their worldwide assets are subject to IHT, so that includes the foreign property, the offshore bank account etc., Those who are non-UK in origin, but then move to the UK become 'Deemed Domiciled' once they have lived here for 17 out of the last 20 years. Many people who regard themselves as non-UK domiciled fall foul of this rule once they have been here for the requisite number of years, and then their worldwide assets fall into the net!. Another increasingly common scenario is where only one of a couple is UK domiciled. In this situation only £55,000 can pass on first death as opposed to an unlimited amount if both were UK domiciled. Likewise, going to live abroad (even emigrating) doesn't change this – you remain UK domiciled!

Perhaps the most popular misconceptions stem from people trying to get property out of the IHT net. I've seen cases where people have split the ownership of their house between themselves and their children to bring the value of their share under £325,000 – the problem here is that if one of the children divorces, their estranged partner can claim their share of your house! This could mean you have to borrow against it or even sell up. Similar problems can occur if one of the co-owners is made bankrupt. Putting the house in children's names then continuing to live in it is also dangerous, unless you pay the full market rate of rent. If HMRC decide that you split the ownership in order to avoid paying tax, they can simply assume the full value is still in your estate and tax it accordingly.

Ultimately it is not you who have to sort out the mess - after all, you are dead! It is generally your children who are left with the task of selling properties and other assets to meet the bill – is this what you really want? If not start planning early.

Jon Ingarfill

Tel: 07870 564115 or email: [jon.ingarfill@pocockrutherford.com](mailto:jon.ingarfill@pocockrutherford.com)

## Polehanger: A Farming Diary

### Episode 33



#### **Weather . . . or not (a major subject recently!!)**

Quote from a National Farmer's Union email at the end of March. "March was the third warmest on record. The Environment Agency has described the situation as unprecedented, with groundwater at its lowest ever recorded level for this time of year. With the arrival of spring, the prospect of groundwater recharge has now passed, so the situation will only deteriorate further. The Agency is unsure how groundwater supplies necessary for public water supply will respond in these circumstances. Environmental impact is already being seen, with headwaters in groundwater fed streams rapidly retreating. The bottom line is that agriculture and the environment will be hit by the 2012 drought, with concern for public water supply focusing mainly on 2013."

Then we get April, apparently the wettest on record in some areas. We measured approximately 110mm (4.5 inches) which is 'plenty' but I still maintain we shouldn't be complaining when we were so short of rain so recently. At the beginning of May there were multiple flood warnings around the UK yet the drought is still officially in place in many areas.

Below is a quote from the Environment Agency in our area.

"After 9 months of below-average rainfall, this area saw its 2nd wettest April on record. Rain fell throughout the month resulting in many rivers experiencing sudden increases in flow as rainfall sheeted off ground already saturated by the recent weather. Soil Moisture Deficit reduced to Normal values for the time of year, allowing a limited amount of recharge. Due to increasing temperatures and vegetation growth, higher 'evapo-transpirative' losses are likely to hamper any further recharge until the autumn.

### **Rhino; a month in the life of an Oil Seed Rape plant**

Rhino is looking in almost perfect condition. The warm weather in March accelerated its development. The cool wet weather in April cancelled that out. We actually have 3 varieties on the farm with slightly varying commencement of flowering. Those interested may have noticed that. Rhino is a new hybrid variety which we are 'looking' at. However the seed is more expensive and as a hybrid we cannot keep seed from this harvest to plant for next year; the breeders have to return to the two genetic parent stocks. We now await the Rape harvest in late July.

### **Elsewhere on (and off) the Farm**

At the end of July our 5 year Entry Level Scheme, which I have mentioned in previous articles, finishes and we are in the process of re-applying to continue the scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> August. It is a good way to bring further environmental benefits on top of those we already pursue at Polehanger. We receive modest payments for doing this, from grants that are funded by automatic deductions from our annual Single Payment Scheme (SPS) payment from Europe. The SPS application for Harvest 2012 has to be lodged by May 15<sup>th</sup>: so that's another important piece of paperwork to be done now.

Herts and Beds Police are appealing for information following the illegal poisoning of two rare red kites less than a mile apart near Hexton. The RSPB is offering a reward of £1000 for information leading to a conviction. It is suspected both birds had been feeding on carrion placed in the countryside and illegally laced with pesticide. Kites are beautiful fork tailed birds of prey, successfully re-introduced to the UK several decades ago and just now moving into our area. Such a shame.

### **Michael Foster's Diary 1962**

4<sup>th</sup> June: Silage making. Lucerne (legume family) very wet. Adding treacle (sugars) to aid fermentation in silage clamp.

18<sup>th</sup>: Setting brussell sprout plants

26<sup>th</sup>: Irrigating and 'mending' (replacing dead) brussell plants.

30<sup>th</sup>: Village Hall Fete.

Chris Foster, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012





## LIFE ON THE WILD SIDE

By JEREMY HOLDEN

### *Amorphophallus titanum*

Last month I wrote about *Rafflesia*, the parasitic pirate flower of the Sumatran rainforest. This month I thought I would say something about its equally bizarre but lesser known congener *Amorphophallus titanum*. Although the two are not related, they are often associated with one another for a number of reasons. Among other things, they are both found in the rain forests of Indonesia, they are both super-sized, and they both smell putrid. In the 1880s, when the Italian Count Eduardo Beccari sent Joseph Hooker, Kew Garden's renowned botanist, a description of a huge aroid flower he had discovered in Sumatra, he was not believed. The plant Beccari described seemed too fantastic to possibly be true. A century and a half later, and *Amorphophallus titanum* is still astounding people, at least those lucky enough ever to have seen one. Like many obscure tropical plants, until recently it had only a Latin name. *Amorphophallus titanum* translates into 'titanic misshapen penis'. Sir David Attenborough felt nervous about using the name too often when he filmed the flower for *The Private Life of Plants*, and for the sake of propriety, he rechristened it 'Titan Arum'. (In their native Indonesia, both *Rafflesia* and *Amorphophallus* are known as *Bunga Bankai*, or 'corpse flower', due to their scent of rotting flesh). As the name Titan Arum suggests, *Amorphophallus* is related to our own British arum, the Cuckoo Pint, a familiar feature of Meppershall woodlands and hedgerows. Like Cuckoo Pint ('pint' is pronounced with a short 'i' as in 'pin' and means 'penis' in Anglo Saxon), the *Amorphophallus* has three stages: the leaf, the flower, and the fruiting body. With the Cuckoo Pint this takes place over a summer: the purple-spotted leaves appear in February; the flower

in June, and the orange fruits in late summer. With *Amorphophallus*, the same process can take up to ten years.

When a flower does finally appear, it opens for just one day, so finding a flowering *Amorphophallus* in full bloom is a rare thing. Despite its scarcity and ephemeral nature, I had more luck with these, and found a flower during my second year in Sumatra. Seeing the Titan Arum in bloom is a strange experience: the flower seems unreal. Standing at 3 metres on occasion, with a yellow missile-like appendix rising from and a dark, mysterious red spathe – which can be over a metre across - it appears as if it had fallen off a carnival float into the darkest depths of the rain forest. The observer will also be aware of an awful stench, emitted in nauseating wafts, as the flower attempts to attract its primary pollinators, corpse flies and carrion beetles. Descriptions of this overwhelming smell vary, but 'dead fish' and 'ammonia' are often cited.

If *Rafflesia* is the biggest flower in the world (which is true), the *Amorphophallus* is often tagged as the tallest (which is not true). The bloom is in fact a collection of many tiny flowers gathered together into what is known as an inflorescence. Luckily, unlike *Rafflesia*, *Amorphophallus* can be cultivated, and it is possible to see one without trekking in to the Indonesian rainforests. Seeds sent to Kew by Eduardo Beccari were brought to flower in ten years, and Kew continues to produce flowers on an intermittent basis. In 1995 a flowering Titan Arum drew 15,000 visitors, all eager to catch a whiff of the infamous smell. If you ever get the chance, don't miss this one.

In the meantime I can give you a glimpse of the how the flower looks here:

[www.flickr.com/photos/jeremy\\_holden/6837854684/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/jeremy_holden/6837854684/in/photostream) To get an idea of the smell, put three dead herrings and a table spoon of ammonia in an old bin, cover and leave. After four to five days, lift the lid off quickly and inhale deeply.

## Our day at the 2012 London Marathon!

After more than 4 months of training in all weathers - well, very little rain actually - the day of the marathon arrived. After a lot of rain in the preceding days, we were fortunate to get a lovely sunny day for our race.

It was an early start leaving home at 6.45am, and after a crowded train journey we had quite a walk to the 'Red Start' on Blackheath Common (there are 3 starts, red, blue and green). Even after the early start, we only just made it in time, having had to drop our bags off and make a final visit to the loo before joining the thousands of other runners for the 9.45 am start.

The atmosphere at the start and throughout the race was absolutely fantastic; there were so many different charity vests and some amazing costumes. Virtually all the way round, people were cheering and often calling out to us in support (we had our names on our vests). Live music at many of the pubs on the route and other bands also kept the atmosphere buzzing. When we saw our families and our charity cheering points, it really lifted our spirits and gave us the strength to keep going; so did seeing and talking to other runners from our charities. As we were approaching the final couple of miles, things did get tough as we were both feeling a bit sick and just wanted to get to the end!

Fortunately the final half mile is broken down into 200 metre sections and the relief of passing each one was enormous, but the feeling of crossing the finish line hand in hand was just amazing and quite emotional.

Our finisher's medal was placed around our neck a few steps past the finish line, followed by having our shoe chip removed (gives your official time). Next we had a



'Finishers' official photo taken and were then given our goody bag. The foil wrap was the first thing to be used as we were quickly getting cold. Finally, before meeting our families at the 'Meet and Greet', we collected our bags and quickly got our jackets on as the rain had started to fall very heavily.

We loved returning to hear that friends and family had been glued to their tellies for a possible sighting of us and that you were rooting for us. We were also saddened by the death of a fellow runner and our thoughts go to her family.

All in all, it was a truly inspiring day and one we will never ever forget. In completing the Marathon, we've managed to raise a lot of money for two very worthwhile charities, Team PB and CMA which will each be receiving over £3000 and still counting.

Thank you all very much for your support!

Karen and Viv

*Viv has one last message:*

Thank you to everyone who took part in our number quiz to raise funds for our charities. We sold over 80 sheets and had most of them returned. Of those who had all the correct answers, our winner was Jose Lane, of High Street, Meppershall, and she very kindly donated her winnings back to our charities.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012, Meppershall Social Club held a Quiz night which was well attended and we would like to thank all those who participated; we believe that everyone had a good night. Special thanks to Gemma Chapman for providing an excellent ploughman's, Pete Chapman for being the quiz master and all those that helped behind the scenes.

The winners of the quiz won £100.00, and unfortunately we did not get all the names of the team, however they kindly donated this back to the social club. At our monthly committee meeting we discussed how this £100.00 should be distributed, and the committee decided that as a couple of ladies from the village had taken part in the London Marathon we would split the £100.00 between the two charities of their choice. Viv is raising money for The Prostate Cancer Charity, and Breast Cancer Care. While Karen is supporting CMA (Cardiomyopathy Association)



We would like to congratulate Karen Lucas and Viv Thorne for completing the London Marathon and raising funds for the charities of their choice and the Social Club would like to say a very big congratulations and well done.

*Nikki Sutton, Secretary  
on behalf of Meppershall Social Club*

*Viv & Karen receiving the donation from Graham Walker at the Social Club*

*The Messenger joins the rest of Meppershall in saying:*

***Very Well Done to Viv and Karen***

*Ed.*

**THE LUCY PAGES****By Lucy Standbridge****Aged 10**

For my pages this month, I have interviewed Karen Mitchell about her time at the Meppershall Players.

**How long have you been a member of the Meppershall Players?**

I joined the Players in March 1984 and my first pantomime was 'The Late Christopher Bean'.

**How long has the Meppershall Players been running for?**

It started in the 1960's as the MADS (Meppershall Amateur Dramatic Society) and in the early 1970's they changed to the Meppershall Players.

**What is your favourite play/pantomime that you've been part of?**

That's a difficult question! I loved directing Ali Baba which was the first pantomime I directed. I must admit I loved Snow White and A Christmas Carol. But my overall favourite is A Christmas Carol.

**What is your favourite part you've played in a play/pantomime?**

I enjoyed playing the Wicked Queen in Snow White in 1988. I also enjoyed playing the Wicked Witch in Hansel and Gretel and playing Chuckles in Snow White in 2008.

**What do you enjoy about performing?**

The audience reaction, the acting (that's why I joined!) and the wonderful cast!

**What is your least favourite thing about performing?**

Worrying that I'm going to let the cast down.

**What pantomime are The Meppershall Players going to perform this year?**

It will either be Aladdin or Sleeping Beauty.

**Are there any other plans for The Players that are going on this year?**

Yes, we are performing a piece in the arena and having a stall at the Summer Fair which will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> June.



## Calendar of Meppershall Events

### June 2012

<b>Saturday 2nd</b>		
Campton Jubilee Celebrations	12.00 Noon	Campton
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>		
Campton's Got Talent	3.00 pm	Campton Church
Jubilee BBQ	5 pm 'til late	Meppershall Social Club
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>		
Queen's Jubilee Thanksgiving	7.00 pm	St Mary's Church
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>		
Rod Stewart Tribute Night	8.00 pm - midnight	Village hall
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>		
Parish Council Meeting	7.45 pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday/Sunday 16/17<sup>th</sup></b>		
Letchworth Fest: Farmers market	All Day	The Wynd/Arcade
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June</b>		
Lavender House Garden Fete	2.30 pm	Mepp Nursing Home
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b>		
UKIP Public Meeting	7.00 pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>		
Steam & Vintage Vehicle Rally	Passing thro Mepp	Pause at Sugarloaf
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>		
Meppershall Players AGM	7.30 pm	Village hall
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b>		
The Great British Meppershall Summer fair	1.00 – 5.00 pm	Fosters Field (behind Village Hall)
Lee's Disco & Karaoke	8.00 pm 'til late	Village Hall

### July 2012

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>		
Juke Rhythm & Blues Band	8.00pm 'til late	Village hall
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>		
Players Panto Read-through	7.30 pm	Village hall
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>		
Players Panto Auditions	7.30 pm	Village hall
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>		
Parish Council Meeting	7.45 pm	Village Hall
<b>Monday-Thursday 23-26<sup>th</sup></b>		



Sparks Holiday Club	10.00 – 2.00 pm	St Mary's Church
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# Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group

Meppershall Baby and Toddler Group meet on Tuesday afternoons during term time between 1:30 and 3pm at the village hall.

It doesn't matter if you are a parent, grandparent or child-minder of a child under five - Meppershall Toddlers welcomes everyone from birth upwards with their carer.

We offer a wide variety of activities to stimulate the children in a friendly and lively atmosphere. From a separate baby area to a creative craft table - we encourage the social development of children through play.

For carers there is the opportunity to chat with other adults and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee.

It is Meppershall Toddler Group's aim to make new members feel welcome when joining.

The first visit is FREE - you can enjoy a variety of toys and refreshments for the children are provided. So come and see what we're about!

**CAN YOU HELP?** We are looking for donations and children's books for the stall which we will be running (with Meppershall Pre-School) at the Summer Fair. If you have any soft toys or children's books in good condition to donate you can drop them off at the village hall on a Tuesday afternoon (1:30 – 3pm) or call Angela on 07947949695 to arrange collection.

# PUZZLE PAGES

## SUDOKU PUZZLE – Hard No 3

				6			8	
3	4	2				9		
1				4				
4			6				5	3
	7		1	2				
6					4			7
	1			5				
	2	5	7	9				6

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9

Paul Smith 07715-572362

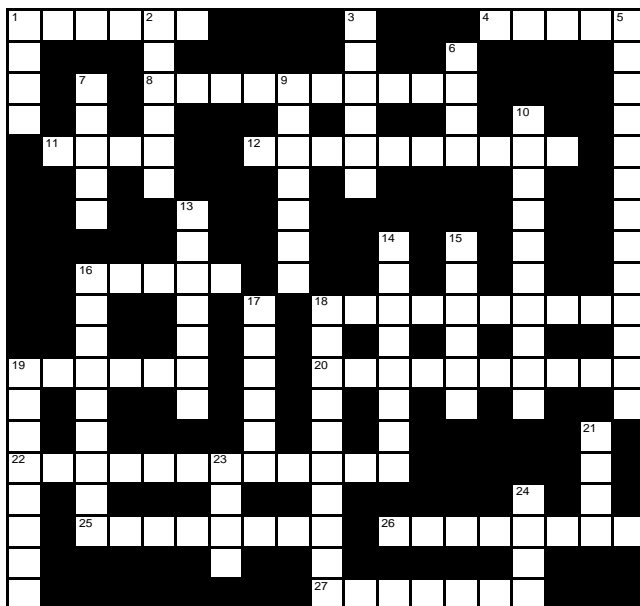
*The Crossword opposite is a **PRIZE CROSSWORD!***

*Cut out that page, add your name and phone number and take your completed crossword to the PO/Stores. Closing date **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June**. Paul himself will collect them and choose the winning entry from a hat!*

*See Page 39 for the winner of our latest prize.*

Solution to the Sudoku on page 39. Crossword solution next month.

## PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 3



### Across

- 1 Bingo in the village hall, it must be..... (6)
- 4 Garage with lots of power units (5)
- 8 Farm for suspending an Eastern European? (10)
- 11 You wear this colour to support Bedford RFC (4)
- 12 Window cleaner who used to run the pub (3,7)
- 16 Spreading juniper nursery (5)
- 18 Could be a tugboat (5,5)
- 19 Deep orange edible root (6)
- 20 Newly refurbished citrus pub in Baldock (6,4)
- 22 Prickly picks in the autumn (12)
- 25 Farmland not for growing crops (3,5)
- 26 Fresh approach to business cards in the High Street (8)
- 27 Now incorporates George Squires (7)

### Down

- 1 After it loses its wick it meets the River Ivel at Langford (4)
- 2 Joins with the pears on the stairs (6)
- 3 Oil seed rape or Canadian oil, low acid (6)
- 5 Small wood round the bend? (7,6)
- 6 sandwich you would eat in Cromer Norfolk (4)
- 7 Burr Brothers in Hitchin used to sell cars of this make (5)
- 9 a maze yourself and get lost here (7)
- 10 home of the first roundabout (10)
- 13 over 10 years service at the shop and a carpenter, what a partnership (7)
- 14 Hitchin jewellers since 1760 (8)
- 15 town farm is a ..... (6)
- 16 local estate agents run by an American tank (9)
- 17 hospital for those not on an even keel (6)
- 18 make a great pie (4,6)
- 19 do I hear 15, 2..15,4? (8)
- 21 the full A in APM (4)
- 23 stop here for fuel and every little helps food (4)



This is a Ringmaster message from Bedfordshire Police. Please pass the details of this message on to any friends and neighbours.

## **Drivers are Warned or Penalised for Using Illegal Number Plates**

In a three-Force, month-long campaign, 278 drivers were given a formal penalty for using a misrepresented number plate on their vehicle. Depending on the circumstances, they received a fixed penalty ticket, a vehicle defect rectification notice or a police warning. Officers from the ANPR Intercept Teams (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) and Road Policing Units of Hertfordshire Constabulary, Bedfordshire Police and Cambridgeshire Constabulary joined forces for the campaign, called Operation Dragon, which ran throughout March.

Regional results were:

Bedfordshire 60 vehicles; Cambridgeshire 62 vehicles; Hertfordshire 156 vehicles  
Number plates that are difficult to read correctly are illegal and make it difficult to identify vehicles that are involved in crime, for example, tracing a stolen car or a vehicle used in a getaway after a robbery.

As part of Operation Dragon, ANPR officers looked out for motorists with number plates that:

- displayed adjusted fixings or bolts which alter spaces or obscure characters to appear as something else
- used any font that is not the standard DVLA approved 'Charles Wright' font
- used offensive wording
- were not easily readable or recognised by the naked eye.

Number plates should correctly be made from a reflective material. Front number plates must display black characters on a white background and rear number plate must display black characters on a yellow background.

Further information on how a number plate should be correctly displayed can be found on the DVLA website:

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/PersonalisedRegAndNumberPlates/DG\\_181503](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/PersonalisedRegAndNumberPlates/DG_181503)

Inspector Andy Piper, ANPR Manager in the joint Beds & Herts Road Policing Unit, said: "ANPR teams across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire work hard to keep their counties safe and tackle criminals coming into these areas to commit crime. Addressing misrepresented registrations is a very important part of this on-going work. The month long crack-down across the three counties, when we specifically targeted this particular offence, will be repeated in the summer but is something we look out for on a daily basis. If you are displaying a number plate which is illegal, you will be pulled over and could face a fine of up to £1,000. I would therefore urge anyone using a misrepresented plate, or who is not aware of the permitted layout, to familiarise themselves with the correct format and change it as soon as possible."

### **How does ANPR work?**

The devices are used by police around the UK to detect and remove from the roads serious criminals (including burglars, robbers, drug dealers and fraudsters) unsafe vehicles and unsafe drivers. ANPR instantly highlights suspicious vehicles to officers so the vehicles can be stopped and the 'flagged' issues investigated. The camera can read a number plate every second, and compares it against several local and national databases. It offers a more targeted approach than traditional methods, meaning fewer law-abiding motorists have their journeys interrupted and more criminals and unsafe vehicles are taken off the road.

### **Development of the land behind the High Street**

As you may have seen, archaeological trenching work has been carried out in this area to identify any items of historic interest but none were found. This legally required investigation was carried out because the land has been identified for future development under the Local Development Framework.

Any possible future development is still at a consultation phase and no formal Planning Application process has been started and I understand that this is still some way off. Should matters move forward, there will be a consultation process, where you will be able to let your views be known to the developers, the Village Hall Trustees and the Parish Council. However, if and when an application is made you should let Central Beds Council know your views if you are either against or in favour of the plans.

The Council will keep you updated with any published information when we can.

David Foskett – Chair, Meppershall Parish Council

## **Wanderbus switches Shefford Health Centre Service to Friday Mornings**

From Duncan Thomas

Following last year's outcry over the lack of Public Transport to the new Shefford Health Centre the Wanderbus team stepped in to provide a dedicated 'shuttle service', operating on Tuesday afternoons. Following a publicity drive the service commenced in July to a steady flow of passengers, peaking around the 'flu jab' season. Sadly numbers have since dwindled and last month the decision was taken to end the service – freeing up Tuesday afternoons for what will hopefully be a more popular new service, details of which have yet to be announced. The last service will be on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May (maybe the day you are reading this!) but a service to Shefford Health Centre will continue as the Wanderbus is changing the Friday Morning "Morrisons" route to incorporate stops at the Surgery. For Meppershall this has required small changes to the timetable as set out below:

<b>Meppershall – Sugar Loaf</b>	<b>0920</b>
<b>Shefford Health Centre</b>	<b>0930</b>
-	
<b>Shefford Health Centre</b>	<b>1005</b>
<b>Morrisons</b>	<b>1008 arr.</b>
-	
<b>Shefford Health Centre</b>	<b>1040</b>
<b>Morrisons</b>	<b>1105 dep.</b>
<b>Meppershall – Sugar Loaf</b>	<b>1115</b>
<b>- Fildyke Road</b>	<b>1120</b>

A pleasing feature of the new arrangements for Meppershall passengers is that those visiting the Surgery to drop off/pick up their prescriptions can do so between 0930 and 1005 and still arrive at Morrisons to enjoy(!) their shopping before departing at the usual time of 1105. Passengers/ Patients requiring a doctor's appointment can of course book these between 0935 and 1025 (remember that you can book up to 4 weeks in advance at the Surgery).

Please remember that the Wanderbus is a Public Service **open to all**. The fares are very reasonable and of course **free to bus pass holders**.

*The Who's Who supplement which accompanies this issue of the Messenger still shows the Tuesday afternoon Wanderbus service to the Health Centre. Unfortunately the supplement was printed before the above was known. This will be corrected in the next edition. Ed.*



**8 – 24 June 2012**

This year's Letchworth Festival is the biggest so far, with nearly 100 events already in the programme and counting! It will again spread over three weekends from 8 to 24 June.

The main event of Saturday 9 June will be the popular Streetfest; the middle weekend will include an extended farmers' market, a craft market and activities in The Wynd, Station Road, & The Arcade; the final weekend will be taken up with stalls, displays and dancing, "Celebrating Letchworth Life" (Saturday 23) and Proms in the Park (Sunday 24) which will include music from all four Letchworth Secondary Schools, North Herts College and many other local music organisations.

In between there are many other walks, talks and displays, including the biennial Open Gardens display which always gives so much pleasure to many and the annual Wine Festival put on by local wine groups. Running throughout the Festival will be a series of film shows at the Broadway Cinema and a children's art competition. There will be drama from the Settlement players and music from the Sinfonia and the Chorale.

Look out for the programme from 12 May: you can download a copy from [www.lethworthfestival.org](http://www.lethworthfestival.org) or pick one up from Letchworth town centre (David's Bookshop, the Tourist Information Centre and many other locations). Booking for ticketed events begins on 19 May and the programme will indicate where to buy these. Don't miss out!

## **HARRY POTTER STUDIO TOURS**

By Enid Pamment

Recently I was lucky enough to be invited to Warner Bros. Studio Tour at Leavesden to see the studios where the Harry Potter films were made. The tour opened to the public on 31st March. The studio itself is situated on the old Dehavilland aerodrome near Watford. Warner Bros. Studio Tour London is a behind the scenes walking tour which immerses visitors into the exciting world of film making. The tour features authentic sets, costumes and props from the Harry Potter film series and showcases the British artistry, technology and talent that go in to producing world renowned movies. The Studio Tour will initially focus on the Harry Potter film series, incorporating some of its most iconic sets, including the Great Hall of Hogwarts, Dumbledore's office, Diagon Alley and the Gryffindor common room. The average time for this tour is approximately 3 hours, but people can stay as long as they like. There is a Studio Cafe or you can indulge in a coffee at Starbucks.

If any readers would be interested in a tour of this nature, I would be only too pleased to arrange one in the coming months. I might add that although I have not been a Harry Potter fan I was really taken with what I saw and am so pleased that J. K. Rowling insisted that it should remain British!!! Well done.

Contact: Enid on 01462 851397



# **The Great British Meppershall Summer Fair Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**On the field behind the Village Hall SG17 5LX**

**Grand opening with an 'Olympic Torch' at 1pm**

**Free Entry!**

**Ark Mobile Farm**

**Model Railway**

**Traditional Fun & Games**

**Scrufts**

**Arts, Crafts & Gifts**

**Clay with Carol**

**Tug of War**

**Catering For All**

**Grand Village Photo at 3pm**

**Have you displayed the poster yet?**

**Prize for most interesting position**

**Further info please contact Linda Primett 01462 815629**

**Meppershall village hall registered charity number 300052**

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

SATURDAY MASS                      6pm RAF HENLOW  
SUNDAY MASSES                      9am & 5.15pm AT SHEFFORD

For weekday services and confessions please see notices in the church or telephone:

Parish Priest Canon Noonan on 813436 or

Parish Secretary Rose Boulton on 811547 or email [rosedene@talktalk.net](mailto:rosedene@talktalk.net)

**St Mary's Church Meppershall tea towels and mugs for sale!**

Did you know that the Village Stores sells mugs and tea towels commemorating our beautiful church of St Mary's? Please have a look! The quality Linen Union tea towels also show other important village institutions (village hall and the school, to name a couple) drawn by a local artist. Both mugs and tea towels have the attractive traditional blue colour of St Mary.

Prices are as follows:

Linen Union St Mary's Tea Towels: 1 for £4.50, 2 for £8.00, 3 for £12.00, 4 for £15.00. St Mary's mugs: £3.50 each or 3 for £10.

Rest assured that all proceeds from the sale of these items go towards church funds. With thanks for your valued support.

## SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE FROM PAGE 30

### SUDOKU

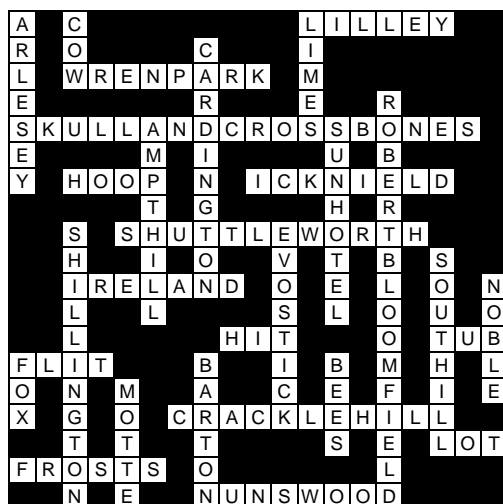
9	5	7	3	6	1	4	8	2
3	4	2	5	8	7	9	6	1
1	6	8	9	4	2	3	7	5
4	8	1	6	7	9	2	5	3
5	7	3	1	2	8	6	9	4
2	9	6	4	3	5	7	1	8
6	3	9	8	1	4	5	2	7
7	1	4	2	5	6	8	3	9
8	2	5	7	9	3	1	4	6

*The winner of last month's £10 prize was Mrs J. Lane of High Street Meppershall. Congratulations to Mrs. Lane who has received her prize.*

*It is encouraging that puzzle entries keep coming in, but do remember that all the answers relate to Meppershall or around, so although Iceland is a country a long way from home, Ireland was the right answer.*

### CROSSWORD

*Solution to last month's Prize crossword No 2*



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# The Meppershall Players



Well, it won't be long before we perform our piece in the arena at the Summer Fair on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. We all have our fingers crossed for a lovely sunny day. Remember those picture boards you stuck your face through at the seaside and had your picture taken costing you a small fortune? Well the Players (with the help of Mr Ted Putwain) have made their own picture boards, and if you bring your own camera we will only charge you 50p for you taking your own picture commemorating the London 2012 Olympics, or the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (50p per board per person; as many shots of that one person as you want whether it be one or ten). We also have a small tombola: 20p a ticket or six tickets for a £1. We look forward to seeing you.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY/CALENDER:**

**The Players A.G.M** – Wed 27<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm.

**Players Stall & Arena performance at The Summer Fair** – Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**Pantomime Read Through** – Wed 4<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm.

**Pantomime Auditions** – Wed 11<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm.

**Aladdin** – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Nov, 7.45pm.

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, 3pm & 7.45pm.

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7.45pm.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, 3pm & 7.45pm.

Colette House has kindly volunteered to draw up a rota for the front of house activities at our shows, so if you are interested in making teas, selling raffle tickets/programmes etc, please contact Colette.

**PIANIST WANTED!** If you are interested please contact the Players!

The players meet every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Membership is free and we welcome anyone from the age of 9 years to 90+. To indulge in acting, singing, directing, choreographing, sound, lighting, set building, scenery painting, front of house, backstage, stage managing, make up, costumes, etc.

If you are interested in any of the above we look forward to meeting you.

Karen Mitchell (Players Chairman) 01462 816336



UK INDEPENDENCE  
PARTY  
BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH

## ***PUBLIC MEETING***

***Guest Speaker to be confirmed***

**Meppershall Village Hall,  
7.00pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012**

The Bedfordshire branch of UKIP will hold its June meeting in Meppershall! So come along to your local village hall to find out what the Party stands for, and what plans it has for the future.

**The meeting is free and all are welcome**

**For further information please contact Roger  
Smith  
14 High Street, Meppershall,  
or Phone 815992**

# Meppershall Garden Club

Last month I talked about the glorious weather we had had, and how it had helped us get to work in our gardens. I also mentioned the lack of rainfall..... well, that's one thing that has changed!

As you will have noticed one of our members, Viv Harvey, has kindly agreed to write 'Top Gardening Tasks' for each month - I'm sure that this will be a great help to us all. I particularly like the Beauties and the Beasts. Thank you, Viv.

Our evening talk 'Decorative and Delicious' with Keith Hichisson from Langford Garden Centre was well supported. We were given many ideas for planting fruits and vegetables in our gardens in unusual ways and learnt a lot of interesting facts about what can and cannot be eaten!

In keeping with this year's celebrations we have chosen a patriotic theme for the large planters at the village hall. Plants have already been purchased and are now 'growing on' ready for planting up. Later in the month a number of us met up to work on maintaining the borders.

I cannot believe that the Bluebells are still flowering - such a welcome sight. Enjoy!

Until next time  
Kim Lee Tyler



For more information on the Garden Club, call:

Linda Parker                      01462 815114 or

Kim Lee Tyler                      01462 811750 or

Sarah Till                              01462 817176 or

e-mail at: [meppershallgardenclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:meppershallgardenclub@hotmail.co.uk)

## 10 Top Gardening Tasks for June

- If your spring bulbs did not flower well, lift clumps and re-plant the largest bulbs
- Plant out tender plants eg dahlias, & move pots and baskets of borderline-hardy plants outside - but keep some horticultural fleece handy in case of late frosts
- Feed tomatoes with tomato food, which will also benefit all flowering plants in pots
- Shade and ventilate your greenhouse to stop overheating
- Continue to support taller perennials before they flop
- Mow your lawn weekly - our wet April and May (as I write) means that grass is growing strongly just now
- Pick cut-and-come-again salad leaves every few days, and sow a few more seeds every 10 days to keep the supply going
- As strawberries ripen, the birds will be up before you are to 'harvest' them, so net the plants, and keep them well-watered and weeded
- Prune early summer shrubs such as Weigela and Philadelphus (mock orange) after flowering. Cut flowered stems to a healthy pair of buds
- Remove dead flowers from annuals and cut back spring and early summer perennials; they may flower again.

### **BEASTS:** Watch out for:

- Lily beetle and vine weevil are still around - see last month's tips
- Raspberry beetle - avoid fruit with grey patches at the stalk end
- Black spot and other fungal diseases attack roses. Pick off all infected leaves but do NOT compost them as the spores will survive
- Greenfly and other aphids are best controlled by ladybirds and hoverflies - so I avoid using insecticides and it seems to work!

### **BEAUTIES:** Enjoy in flower:

- Bulbs and Perennials: Lilies, Alliums, Delphiniums, Foxgloves, Alstroemeria, Osteospermum,
- Shrubs: Clematis, Lavatera, Philadelphus, Choisya.. and towards the end of the month....GLORIOUS ROSES!

*Garden Tips are kindly provided by Viv Harvey of the Meppershall Garden Club.*



## NOTICE BOARD

### MEPPERSHALL SOCIAL CLUB

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Jubilee BBQ** – 5pm till late.

We hope you will join us to celebrate the Jubilee.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Lee's Disco Karaoke**

Lee has proved to be very popular in the past.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Juke**

A live group that play Rhythm and Blues who have proved popular on the music circuit. Ticket Entry is £5.00 to include a Ploughman's supper, available from the bar or call Gemma on 07968 529282

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** – Back by popular demand a **Quiz Nite** hosted by Mr Pete Chapman with a Ploughman's supper. Cost £3.00 per person for teams of up to 6 people. Call Gemma on 07968 529282

Other events that the club organises will be in an updated advert in the Messenger, to follow in July. Keep your diary clear to avoid disappointment!

See a member of the bar staff for a membership form.

We also have two full size snooker tables open to members only, so why not become a member and come and enjoy yourself?

### **'Rod Stewart tribute night' @ Meppershall Village Hall**

Sponsored by the Ancient Order of Foresters

Saturday 9th June 2012: 8.00 pm - midnight

Tickets £5 including buffet, strictly on a first come first served basis

Available now; Contact Helen on 07989 914941 for details

### FOR SALE

LEC small larder fridge. 50cm wide. Self-defrosting

Surplus to requirements

Contact: 01462 812025



## Meppershall Pre-school Ponderings

We would like to start by welcoming all our new starters this month.

Looking ahead to the Summer Fair on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, we are now preparing to run a teddy tombola, and sell children's toys and books along with Meppershall Tots. To celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics, children will also be able to come along and make a commemorative plate for the occasion. If you have any children's teddies, books or toys in good condition you would like to donate, please ring Debbie on 01462 851130, and I will be happy to collect them. Meppershall Pre-School are currently looking for a relief assistant to work on a Tuesday and Thursday mornings 10 till 11, and cover holidays etc until the end of term. You do not need any qualifications, but should be keen to work as part of a team, and enjoy caring for children. Please ring Joy if you are interested on 01462 817359.

With the finer weather tantalising us for the months ahead, the children have been able to visit the allotment to start planting out their sweetcorn and sunflower seedlings. They all enjoy being outdoors and digging in or watering the plants, and at the same time they learn a lot about nature and where their food comes from.

If you have a child who will soon be two and a half, and you feel they may like to try something new, please let us know if you would be interested in trying our Pre-school. Looking forward to September the older children will be missed dearly, and we will have many spaces to fill with eager new faces. **If you are interested please ring Joy on 01462 817359 in session time to arrange a visit or add your child to our waiting list.**

At Meppershall Pre-school we are dedicated to providing a safe, happy and stimulating environment, where children can learn and develop through play, whilst being encouraged and cared for by our friendly experienced staff.

### **Session times (term time only):**

Monday to Friday	9.30am – 12.00pm
Monday to Friday LUNCH CLUB	12.00pm – 12.30pm
Monday, Wednesday and Friday	12.30pm – 3.00pm

**If you are interested please contact Joy and come along for a visit!**

Meppershall Village Hall, High Street, Meppershall, Beds, SG17 5LX  
01462 817359 (in session time), or [www.meppershall-ps.co.uk](http://www.meppershall-ps.co.uk)

Registered Charity: 1031913

## THE BIKE SHED

### SUZUKI HISTORY

By Wayne Allen

The Suzuki Motor Company was founded by Michio Suzuki, a son to a Japanese cotton farmer. He was born in Hamamatsu, a small town 200 km from Tokyo, in 1887. As Michio grew up he became a carpenter and an enterprising young man. In 1909, at the age of 22, he constructed a pedal-driven wooden loom, and started to sell his product: the Suzuki Loom Works was founded. The business went well, the order stock was growing and Michio Suzuki further developed his machine for the silk industry. New, much more sophisticated machines were developed and the business was blooming.

Eleven years later, in 1920, Michio Suzuki decided to introduce his business to the stock exchange. The days of a small family business were long gone; Michio Suzuki needed the capital to be able to expand the business to meet the demands of the growing market. The founding of Suzuki Loom Manufacturing Company (Suzuki Jidosha Kogyo) in March of 1920 is regarded as the start of the Suzuki Motor Company as we know it today. The company has recently celebrated its 92 years in business. Suzuki is now the third largest motorcycle manufacturer in Japan and fifth largest worldwide.

Within my collection I have restored a 1979 Suzuki GT250X7. The bike has been completely rebuilt and uses original period aftermarket parts to complete the retro look. It has recently been published in a book by Dorling and Kindersley called The Motor Bike Book. The X7 was one of the first production 250cc motorcycles to be capable of achieving 100 MPH. My first time of ownership of an X7 was when I was 17 years old. It was a very light, fast bike and amazingly, back in the late 1970s it could be ridden on 'L' plates!

The demise of the 250cc class came in the early 1980s with the introduction of new laws restricting learners to 125 cc machines. As we move on, more complex restrictions are being introduced for those wanting to get on the motorcycling ladder. Happy days, the 70s!



For further information on the Suzuki X7 please visit the dedicated website:  
[www.suzuki-gt.co.uk](http://www.suzuki-gt.co.uk)

## COVERS BY REQUEST

By this point in the magazine you will hardly need to be told that our cover features Karen Lucas and Viv Thorne who ran (and finished) in the London Marathon and each raised over £3,000 for their chosen charities.

The cover picture was taken by Colette House, who also took the one of Viv and Karen with Graham on page 24.

*If you would like to see a specific picture on our cover, please get in touch in time for us to arrange with one of our in-house "paparazzi" to do the business.*  
Ed.

---

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Kathleen Foster will be 87 on 4<sup>th</sup> June

Peggy Parsons will be 91 on 11<sup>th</sup> June

Harold Calver will be 94 on 14<sup>th</sup> June

Joan Wood will be 82 on 28<sup>th</sup> June

Congratulations to all of the above

### **St Mary's Parish Registers:**

No new entries

# St Mary The Virgin

Meppershall Parish Church (Church of England)

Church Road, off Campton Road

## Contact information during interregnum

Churchwardens:

Brian Bellamy 01462 815944 (Pastoral Assistant);

Brenda Wright 01462 816446.

Lay Reader (Licensed Lay Minister):

Pam Halliwell 01462 817069 [pamhalliwell@talktalk.net](mailto:pamhalliwell@talktalk.net)

(usual day off – Monday)

PCC Secretary:

Anne Parsons 01462 813333 [annie10639@gmail.com](mailto:annie10639@gmail.com)

PCC contributions to The Messenger, Parish Records CD etc:

James Read 01462 857836 [meppershall.pcc@gmail.com](mailto:meppershall.pcc@gmail.com)

## SERVICES – DIAMOND JUBILEE AND JUNE 2012

Date	Time	Service
Sunday June 3 <sup>rd</sup> Trinity Sunday	11.00am 10.30am	Parish Communion Junior Church at the School
Tuesday June 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II Service of Thanksgiving
Sunday June 10 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> after Trinity	8.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday June 17 <sup>th</sup> 2nd after Trinity	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion All Age Service with Pam Halliwell
Sunday June 24 <sup>th</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> after Trinity Birth of John the Baptist	11.00am	Family Communion and Junior Church
Sunday July 1 <sup>st</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	11.00am 10.30am	Parish Communion Junior Church at the School

## St Mary's Weekday Service:

A Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer), each Wednesday at 10am.

### **A message from St Mary's...**

One of my favourite quotations runs "Two men looked out through prison bars, one saw mud, the other saw stars." Writing this in the midst of a time when the footpaths have turned to mud and my dog swam across a pool in the nature reserve, it seemed very appropriate! The flowers that were blooming in the garden have enjoyed the rain and are more colourful than ever. I find myself rejoicing that we have such an amazingly versatile creator. On my birthday, which was a dull, overcast and rainy day, there was a rainbow in the late afternoon which lifted my spirits and reminded me to rejoice in the spirit of Easter.

By the time you read this the roses will be out and we may well be basking in dryer and warmer weather and looking forward to summer holidays. We may also have a new Rector – and those of us who have been carrying extra responsibilities are hoping that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Watch this space!

The rain has delayed some of our projects, such as the erection of our new noticeboard in the churchyard and the transformation of the mower shed into a new lavatory facility. Those who helped with our litter pick may have noticed that there are fewer draughts in the church. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our Jubilee Service and to serving you in the tea tent at the Village Fair on 30<sup>th</sup> June. We hope the new kitchen will be up and running for the summer teas project – for which we aim to serve tea and cakes at the church on Sundays throughout July and August.

Christ rose from the dead to give us the hope of everlasting life and we are a people of hope. Shortly, three members of the choir will be confirmed at Henlow, and this is a real cause for thanksgiving. So despite the rain our spirits have not been dampened and we are singing hymns of praise.

With every blessing,

Pam Halliwell, Reader.

**\*\*SPARKS NEWSFLASH\*\***

Two Christian holiday clubs are happening this year, both with an Olympic theme, telling the story of King David. They will both be providing craft, sport, music and other fun activities for children aged 5-12.

Meppershall Sparks is happening at St Mary's Church in the first week of the holidays, July 23rd-26<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm each day. The contact is Dawn Abbatt (816962).

Sheffield holiday club is taking place at Sheffield Lower School, from 28th-31st August 10-1pm each day. The contact is Fran Rolfe (850115).

Posters and registration forms can be found on the following pages of this issue of the Messenger and will also be sent out through the schools.

Helpers and Sashes would still be appreciated for both events, please contact Dawn or Fran.

Your prayers for both events would be very much appreciated!

Shefford and Meppershall Churches Present

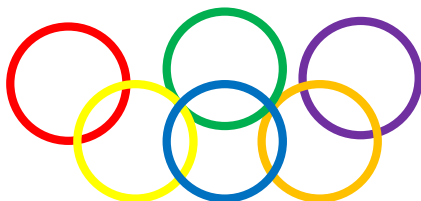
# **The Olympic Holiday Clubs**

Featuring David - "From Shepherd to King"

Meppershall: 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> July 10-2pm - St Mary's Church

Shefford : 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> August 10-1pm - Shefford Lower School

Come and join us at Meppershall or Shefford for a Christian holiday club full of arts, crafts, sports and fun for children aged 5 to 12 years.



Registration forms available through the messenger, local schools or email [dawn.abbatt@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.abbatt@gmail.com)

## Meppershall

Dawn 816 962

Morag 643 387

## Shefford

Fran 850 115

Elsbeth 817 199



# The Olympic Holiday Clubs

## Meppershall

St Mary's Church

23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July

**10 - 2pm**

Meppershall only - Bring a packed lunch!



## Shefford

Shefford Lower School

28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August

**10 – 1pm**

	23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Cheques for £2.50 / day made payable to <b>Meppershall PCC</b> return to Meppershall Lower School or 28 Brookmead		28 <sup>th</sup> August	Cheques for £2 / day made payable to <b>Shefford Baptist Church</b> return to Shefford Baptist Church (The Manse) or Shefford Lower School
	24 <sup>th</sup> July			29 <sup>th</sup> August	
	25 <sup>th</sup> July			30 <sup>th</sup> August	
	26 <sup>th</sup> July			31 <sup>st</sup> August	

**Please tick the days your child would like to attend**

Name of Child .....

Age .....

Address .....

Parent's Name .....

Home phone number .....

Mobile (Emergency Contact) .....

Allergies, Medical conditions .....

If possible could I be with my friend .....

(We can only attempt to satisfy requests where possible)

I give permission for my child to join in with all the activities.

I give my consent for medical treatment or first aid arising out of illness or accident.

I understand that this takes place on an open site. I give/do not give permission for my child to be photographed.

Signed ..... Date .....

**Places are limited, booking and pre-payment essential, no admissions on the day.**

Please wear old clothes. Contact Dawn (816962) or Fran (850115) for any further information.

## **MINI GOAT'S CHEESE, PEAR AND WALNUT QUICHE.**

### **JUNE 2012**

#### **The pastry**

100g (4ozs) self-raising flour  
50g (2ozs) light suet  
2-3 tbsp cold water

#### **Filling**

1 medium egg, beaten  
6 tbsp milk  
4 pears, peeled, cored and sliced.  
200g (8ozs) goat's cheese, sliced.  
2 walnuts, shelled and chopped.  
Add salt and pepper to taste.

**You will also need 4 non-stick Yorkshire pudding tins or tart tins.**

- 1) Preheat oven to 200°C. 400°F. Gas Mark 6. For fan assisted ovens, refer to your manufacturer's instructions. Lightly grease your pudding tins or cases.
- 2) Make the pastry by mixing together the flour, suet, salt and pepper. Stir in enough water to make a firm but not sticky dough. Divide into 4 pieces, roll out and use to line your pudding tins/cases.
- 3) To make the filling, mix together the egg and milk and then season. Pour the mixture evenly into the tins. Decorate with the pear slices and bake for 10 minutes.
- 4) Top with the goat's cheese and chopped walnuts and bake for a further 5 to 10 minutes or until golden brown.

*Recipes are kindly supplied each month by Brenda Putwain.*

## A Jubilee Verse

*To be sung to the tune of "Jerusalem"*

Not fifty miles from Palace Gates,  
Here midst an English hill and field,  
A gem of British life awaits -  
Which not by words can be revealed.  
Come feel the breeze 'neath summer sky;  
School playground children's happy cry;  
Night carries owl's long lonely call -  
Your welcome here in Meppershall.

So what's on offer, that might thrill?  
Ansell's Stores to post your mail;  
See Campton from on Crackle Hill,  
See Gravenhurst from Bunyan Trail.  
But if you're hungry then instead  
Stop for a loaf of Roger's bread;  
Or, if its latest news you need,  
The Messenger's a damn fine read.

Look deeper still, the faces here,  
Show every part of life today:  
Blithe joy of youth, and dreams, and fear,  
And pride and hope in England's way -  
We came from many places past,  
A many-coloured village cast,  
To wish our Queen, most happily,  
A joyous Diamond Jubilee.

Anon, May 2012.

*With thanks and congratulations to "Anon" - Ed*

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

*Chloe Marshall who will be 12 on the 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*Vinnie Simpkins who will be 7 on the 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*Yasmine Vara who will be 13 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*Abbie Bradshaw who will be 9 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*Niamh Fairweather who will be 10 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*Francesca Gavin who will be 15 on the 4<sup>th</sup>*  
*Abigail Lougher who will be 10 on the 4<sup>th</sup>*  
*Aliyah Vara who will be 11 on the 5<sup>th</sup>*  
*Hannah Stock who will be 15 on the 5<sup>th</sup>*  
*Lewis Savuto who will be 10 on the 10<sup>th</sup>*  
*Alison Watson who will be 8 on the 14<sup>th</sup>*  
*Maya Cox who will be 12 on the 15<sup>th</sup>*  
*Louis Fairy who will be 11 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Adelle Gainsford who will be 15 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Liberty Simpkins who will be 11 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Tayla Woodcock who will be 6 on the 25<sup>th</sup>*  
*Monica Steeley who will be 9 on the 26<sup>th</sup>*  
*Naomi Crowson who will be 14 on the 27<sup>th</sup>*  
*William Lambley who will be 6 on the 28<sup>th</sup>*  
*Maya Derrick who will be 13 on the 28<sup>th</sup>*  
*Finn Rose who will be 7 on the 30<sup>th</sup>*

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

## THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER

### CONTRIBUTIONS

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

### DISCLAIMER

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

### THE TEAM

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		Email: jthompson244@btinternet.com	

Collating Dates for your diaries					
	<u>2012</u>			<u>2013</u>	
June	25		January	28	
July	30	<b>Double</b>	February	25	
August	No		March	25	
September	24		April	29	
October	29		May	28	<b>Tue</b>
November	26	<b>Double</b>	June	24	
December	No		July	29	<b>Double</b>