



MAISEY – SCRUFFS "BEST IN SHOW" 2014

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EDITORIAL

No apologies that this issue is dominated by reports from The Meppershall Summer Fair: it is one of the high points of our village year. On the day, there was some rain at but there was sunshine too, at the end. We have attempted to capture all the best bits in our picture supplement and we have deliberately looked on the bright side. On pages 4-7 I have assembled some pieces that look back on various aspects of the Fair, and the Bike Shed on page 50 is a retrospective of some of the vehicles on display. For the picture supplement itself, all credit must go to my Assistant Editor, David Turner, who had the unenviable job of selecting from the many available pictures and putting together a coherent picture of the day. I am sure you will agree that he has succeeded brilliantly, and I thank him very much.



As well as the Colour Supplement, with this issue of The Messenger you will also find the latest update to our reference work 'Who's Who and What's What' in Meppershall. We delayed this update so as to include the results of various AGMs, and it seems that July is a good point in the year to bring one out. So please keep this little booklet by your phone until this time next year: we hope you will find it really useful.

On page 16 we share a selection of comments given when I spoke to people at the Summer Fair; these included some suggestions for new content for The Messenger. The page also carries the promise from one reader of some future contributions. The Magazine Committee works very hard to try to keep The Messenger fresh and relevant to Meppershall but ultimately we depend on you to keep coming up with contributions. A review of the Contents page shows that we already do pretty well but we can always do better, and we know that we must not stagnate: unless we improve, we will deteriorate! So, over to you: keep coming up with ideas, letters and suggestions for publication. I am just waiting to hear from you.

There will be no issue of The Messenger in August, while contributors and production team alike take a very well earned break. We will be back with our October issue, for which the copy date will be 12th September.

I hope that you all have a wonderful summer.

Dick Bulley

LETTERS

Letter from Karen Long:

The members of the Evergreens would like to give a big thanks to the Good Neighbours of Meppershall Group for their assistance with our trip to Langford Garden Centre. It was a great success despite the weather and the members thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They had a lovely lunch, being well looked after by the staff and they really enjoyed a look around the shop assisted by the volunteers.

Due to work commitments I am now only able to assist with the club once a month, meeting on the first Thursday of the month. I wonder if there are any residents who may have a few hours free once a month who might be able to help out with collecting some of our members and assisting with the raffle. Jenny kindly is able to assist with the refreshments.

If there is anyone who may be interested in assisting, would they be kind enough to give me a call. My members do enjoy the club so much and it would be lovely if they could meet up more often.

Karen Long, 01462 850182

If there is anyone out there who could help just one day each month, please contact Karen to keep this very worthwhile project going.

Letter from Phil Gilbert & Zoe Cox:

We were very sorry to hear of the thefts from Mrs Staines described in her letter in the July Messenger, and strongly agree that we would like to see the end of this type of crime. However, in our view the use of domestic CCTV is likely to be of little help and its continued growth causes us great concern. At this end of the High Street, we now find ourselves under continuous surveillance by one of our neighbours from an industrial-style CCTV camera fitted to the outside of his house. It can record every move we make into and out of our properties, as well as every visitor to Roger's Bakery and all the pupils, staff and parents entering or leaving the school. We find this intrusive, deeply distressing, and a threat to our own security, but it appears we have no legal right to object to its presence. As Mrs Staines rightly points out this is a beautiful Bedfordshire village, not Bogota or Beirut, and a brief look at the crime statistics would suggest that we are lucky to live in one of the safest places on the planet. In our view, the installation of domestic CCTV is a wholly disproportionate response to the level of crime in Meppershall, and a relatively ineffective one. A good alarm system in home or car (take note BMW) is likely to be much more useful. So please remember, consider your neighbours. We value our privacy greatly, and think that we should all look out for each other, not put each other under 24 hour surveillance.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Gilbert, 94 High Street, & Zoe Cox, 84 High Street.

MEPPERSHALL NEWS IN BRIEF

AFTER THE FAIR

This month I am using this slot to pull together a number of items that hark back to the Meppershall Summer Fair. In our Colour Supplement you will find pictures that relate to these items. Ed.

Firstly, The Great Meppershall Bake-Off, from Allison Roberts:

Ready, Set...Bake!

I wanted to write by way of thanks to all those who entered, supported and helped in the first Great Meppershall Bake-Off.

I have been part of the Summer Fair Committee since inception and must admit to pondering for some time whether this sort of event within our Summer Fair would be received well. There is now no doubt in my mind that Meppershall (and its surrounding villages) is teeming with passionate and enthusiastic bakers...all willing to have a go and give it their best shot! In total, I had over 60 entries...truly overwhelming and certainly my two wonderful WI judges thought so too: *"I must...say congratulations on such a super first show...your competitors did not let you down"*

Most of the entries did come from the wonderful people of Meppershall, albeit there were entries from Biggleswade, Bedford, Luton and Sandy too! I have detailed below the winners for each category. Very well done to those people and to all those who entered...

Class	First Place Awarded to...
Banana Loaf	Georgia Nesbitt
Bedfordshire Clanger	Adam Palmer
Sweet Scones	Laura Jackson
Cheese Scones	Alexandra Day
Under 5's	Phoebe Brinkley
White Loaf	Martin Randall
Plaited Loaf	Alison Watson
Savoury Flan	Sarah Hickey
Bakewell Tart	Alan Jarvis
Jam Tarts	Zoe Lovell
Victoria Sponge	Paula Waring
Fruitcake	Granville Holloway
Show Stopper	Meppershall Pre-School

In readiness for next year(!) I thought it would be useful to pass on some comments from our judges and do hope you find these of use:

- *"In my cake classes it was cooling rack marks on the bottom of the cakes... use a clean tea towel or folded kitchen paper on the rack when turning the cake out of the tin."*
- *"Also a point to remember when doing cakes for competition is to line the tin with greaseproof paper or baking parchment rather than use a commercial grease proof paper tin liner."*
- *"One or two of the exhibitors in the Victoria Sandwich class used icing sugar rather than caster sugar."*
- *"The Bedfordshire Clanger was an interesting class. I worked in Bedfordshire School meals service for some years and never actually tasted one! They were rather good. The winner's pastry was delicious."*
- *"The show stoppers were really that; I did enjoy judging this class. There was great originality and skill put into play, which made for a very high standard of entry and the winners were outstanding."*
- *"The 2 white loaves were excellent and in many a show the standard of the second placed loaf would have been a winner – it was up against stiff competition!"*
- *"The plaited loaves all looked good but a couple were rather under-proved and under-baked. Bread is best made the day before the show."*

So...thank you again and well done to all of you.

I was genuinely overwhelmed by the number of entries and do hope that you and even more enter again next year!

Congratulations to all of the winners and to everyone who took the time and trouble to participate!

Keep Calm, and Bake-Off!

Kindest regards,
Allison Roberts

And from a new favourite to a perennial - Scruffs:

Scruffs Class Winners

Class 1: Prettiest bitch: **Heidi** / Tony McGee

Class 2: Most Handsome Dog: **Hughie** - Chocolate Labrador/Iain Cameron

Class 3: Dog with the Waggiest Tail: **Bentley** - Working Cocker Spaniel/
Tracy de Vere White

Class 4: Veteran over 9 yrs/Dog or Bitch: **Finn** – Wheaten Terrier aged 13yrs/
Andrew Goodman

Class 5: Best Rescue Dog or Bitch: Maisey – Yellow Labrador/Gill Havers

Class 6: The dog the judge would most like to take home: Maisey – Golden
Retriever/Rachel Start

BEST IN SHOW: Maisey owned by Gill Havers

Thank you to Sandra and Owen who ran the Dog Scurry for being our fantastic Judges. We hope that you will be back next year. Marcia Bairstow

And finally, the people who made it all happen – The Summer Fair Committee:



Left to right from the top:

Steve Gibbs, Steve Ansell, Martin Randall, Mick Ridley, Graham Jones, James Read, Alli Roberts, Kim Tyler, Marcia Bairstow, Mike Till, Linda Primett, Wayne Allen & Ben the dog!

A huge **THANK YOU** to you all for supporting our Fair again this year. Regardless of the wet start to the afternoon attendance was high and a good time was had by all.

We had over sixty entries for the Bake-Off – a resounding success for this debut attraction. Many congratulations to all those who entered – Alli is already planning next year!

Our popular Scruffs and new Scurry were well attended and the vast array of stalls and attractions including Classic Cars & Motorbikes gave our Fair something for everyone!

Many thanks to our committee for the many hours they have given throughout the year to make this event happen.

Thank you to volunteers on the day who helped with everything from selling programmes and raffle tickets to transporting props and erecting gazebos.

Thank you to the Parish Council for their support and to Chris Foster for allowing us to use his field.

Thanks to the Messenger team - you will see much of the fair in pictures within the Summer Fair colour supplement in this edition of the Messenger.

If you would like to help out towards next year's Fair please do let us know- you do not need to join the committee, there are plenty of jobs you could do, *go on* - we don't bite - drop into the shop to tell Linda or give Kim a call 0795 255 7203 Remember, some of the profits from this year's Fair will be used to reinstate the Meppershall Firework Display on Saturday 1st November - the fireworks have already been ordered - see you there!

Kim Tyler

Which goes to show that the Summer Fair is more than the entertainment highlight of the season – it is a serious money-raising operation in aid of the Village Hall.

Steve Ansell, Chair of the Village Hall Committee says: "The Fair was a huge success despite the weather, and this was only because of the planning and preparation that went on for many months before. The Fair raised approximately £2,000 after all costs, with some match-funding still to come. We will use £1,000 to buy fireworks (the cost will be £2,000) and this will enable the fireworks display to happen on the 1st of November, and £1,000 will go towards the Village Hall Fund."

MEPPERSHALL BROWNIES



We have had another exciting month at Brownies celebrating the Big Brownie Birthday. Fifteen of our brownies went along to the district sleepover in June, which was attended by over 70 Brownies from Meppershall and our surrounding villages. We were lucky to have a lovely sunny warm weekend, which meant we could spend most of our time outside. The girls had a choice of activities over the weekend which included bouncy castles, zumba, crafts, outdoor games and African drumming. Amazingly all the girls were asleep by just before midnight (far better than we had thought and greatly appreciated!) and did not start stirring until just before 6.30 am. For many girls, it was their first ever night away from home, and they all did very well. The Happy Plaice fish and chip van came along and fed all 70 girls and 15 adults with very delicious food and Tawny Owl provided us all with jelly and ice cream. After dinner we had a campfire sing along and watched a movie. We all had a great time as you can see from the pictures below. My favourite part of the day was listening to over 70 girls all singing the songs from Frozen, which they all knew off by heart.



At our normal Brownie meetings we have also made use of the lighter evenings with a fun water themed games evening in the field which had a Commonwealth Games feel. We have also celebrated the start of the World Cup (England were still in it then!), with a South American themed evening, where we made fajitas, mardi gras masks and finished with a piñata.

Last week we had our own "Brownies Have Talent" evening. This was a fantastic evening, and one of Snowy Owls favourite events, as the girls are indeed very talented and we had lots of fabulous performances, which included singing, dancing, magic act, puppetry, majorettes, Irish dancing, violin and guitar, to name but a few.

This week we have been preparing for the church service which we are looking forward to taking part in on Sunday 20th July where we will be celebrating 100 years of Brownies.

We will finish off the term with our usual party night with lots of party games and food, before we have a few weeks off over the summer.

If you are interested in your daughter joining Brownies, then please contact Snowy Owl (Suzanne) on 07817 392325 or you can register online at www.girlguiding.org.uk



Love for God, Life, Learning and for Each Other

Meppershall Church of England Academy

'An outstanding Church of England School' June 2008 and December 2010

School Report – July 2014

It is hard to believe that the summer holidays will soon be upon us. The term has flown by – the summer term is always packed full of events and expectations. We have to say goodbye to our current Year 4's and feel really proud of them all. We are sad they are leaving but excited for them as they move to Middle School and all of the opportunities that will offer them.

We are also sad to say goodbye to Mrs Lester who has worked at the school for 25 years! She is retiring to spend more time with her husband, children and grandchildren and we wish her much happiness and a long and happy retirement.



Our Sports Day was a great success, even though the weather was a little inclement. Parents came and cheered and the children worked together in teams named after World Cup countries. Ironically, Brazil won (at least in Meppershall!). Parents were then able to stay with a picnic on our beautiful field. As always our PTA supported the event by providing excellent cream teas.

Our Reception children and Years 1 and 2 spent a busy day at Whipsnade Zoo looking at African animals. They had been doing a topic called 'Out of Africa' and were excited to see animals such as lions, giraffes, zebras and meerkats 'up close and personal'. Eating lunch away from school was a popular moment of the day. One child even asked if it was lunchtime as they got on the coach at 9.00am!

Our Year 3 children represented us brilliantly at a concert at the Bedford Corn Exchange. They were amongst 200 other school children and although it was very hot on stage they sang beautifully and confidently.

The Year 4's spent a night under canvas at the beginning of July. They learnt basic survival skills including how to light a fire without matches and how to make a den. One of the highlights was a giant assault course called The Terminator. I must confess, I ran the gauntlet once and couldn't speak for a good five minutes by the end of it! How the children kept running the course again and again without breaking into a sweat is beyond me...they were all asleep by 10.30pm though!

We are having a new school roof put on over the summer holidays and hope that it will be complete by the end of September.

May we wish you all a happy and safe Summer Holiday, with plenty of sunshine?

Nickie Moore
Head Teacher

Meppershall Parish Council

There is no August meeting of the Parish Council so, to minimise the gap between meetings, in July the Council meets at the end of the month. This year the July meeting is on Monday 28th, which comes too late for a report to be included in this issue. The meeting after that will be on September 8th but as there is no separate September issue, the October issue will include reports on all outstanding meetings. We apologise that the date of the July meeting was not given in the July issue of The Messenger. Ed.

YOUR SHOUT

with Trevor Thorley



LOOKING AHEAD: It's always rather sobering to think that when this August/September issue comes out we will all be enjoying the last weeks of summer with, dare I say it, Christmas in the not too distance future! I feel sure though, that there must yet be more sunny days to savour!

Nature played its mischievous part in trying to spoil the long planned Summer Fair but, to their credit, the organisers gritted their teeth and pulled together in their endeavours to make good what the weather was trying to spoil. The tea tent had a very good day with many people taking the opportunity of those delicious cakes, scones and sandwiches along with a hot cup of tea. It wasn't all disappointment though, with the fly past of the spitfire being a huge, huge hit. The organisers deserve a load of thanks for all the many months of planning both before and on the day.

CONCERT: On October 25 The Friends of St. Mary's hope to be able to welcome The Vauxhall Male Voice Choir. They have been a great success on their two previous visit to St. Mary's Church and this too will be a great evening of music with lots of old numbers to listen and sing along to. Also, those who are familiar with St. Mary's Church may have noted that that there is an old Walker Organ there that very rarely gets played, simply because there are few who can master it. If the Vauxhall Male Voice Choir do come, and there is no reason to think that they won't, James Banville, a well-established organist in the locality will be performing an organ recital for our audience; this really is a coup and is something that will be enthusiastically looked forward to. Tickets could be priced at £10 but there will also be a family ticket available so that those who have children can bring them along too for a family night out. Watch out for posters and press announcements on the run up to this date with details of where tickets can be obtained from, early enquiries to myself and other trustees.

SECOND SUNDAY WALKS: James Read introduced these monthly strolls which are proving to be very popular. They usually start at the church and are in the region of four miles or less. The last one was on Sunday July 13 covering the Polehanger woods. The weather, though, tried to spoil that day as well, with heavy downpours. Drenched and weary, but spirits high, everyone was entertained in the home of one of the ladies from the church. On behalf of the walkers, thank you very much for your hospitality, you know who you are, it was very much appreciated and was very kind of you.

WHERE ARE YOUR TRAVEL/ HOLIDAY STORIES?

Remember IT'S **'YOUR'** SHOUT!

Contact me on 01462 813357 or email: trevor.thorley1@btinternet.com

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

By Enid Pamment



The City Cruises Luncheon Special took us down the River Thames from Tower Pier and during the cruise waiters and waitresses served us with a 2-course luncheon and coffee. They could not have been more helpful and pleasant and everybody enjoyed an excellent meal. We then returned to Tower Pier where we disembarked to make our way to The Tower of London. We were able to explore at our own pace this, the most famous fortified building in the World, with its fascinating 900-year history as a Royal Palace, Prison, Mint, Arsenal, Menagerie and Jewel House where the Queen's Crown is on display along with other treasures. The Bloody Tower was one of the main attractions, together with Traitors' Gate. The Beefeaters were most pleasant and helpful. We left the Tower in time to meet our coach for our homeward journey.

At the start of July we went to the evening performance at Milton Keynes Theatre of 'Singing in the Rain', which tells the story of the first Hollywood Musical when the silver screen found its voice and left silent movies, and some of its stars, behind. This show was packed full of charm, romance, comedy and Tinseltown glamour, with such songs as 'Make them Laugh' and the classic 'Singing in the Rain' where many of the audience sitting in the front rows of the auditorium got a little wet!

Forthcoming Events 2014 (kindly telephone for more details):

Hunstanton and Norfolk Lavender Fields	Wed 20 th August
Twinwood Festival (Glen Miller)	Sun 24 th August
Top Hat at MK Theatre (Evening Performance)	Wed 3 rd September
"Sing Along" with Billy Keys (Amphthill Lions)	Tue 16 th September
Lord of the Dance (Michael Flatley's last show)	Tue 23 rd September
Flower Festival at St Albans Cathedral	Sat 27 th September
Waverley Paddle Steamer	Sun 12 th October
Highgrove House Garden Tour	Fri 17 th October
Brick Lane Music Hall	Thur 6 th November
The Lord Mayor's Show & Fireworks	Sat 8 th November
Thursford Christmas Spectacular (Matinee)	Wed 26 th November
Waddesdon Manor Christmas Lights	Wed 3 rd December

Holidays 2014 (kindly telephone for more details):

Scarborough – Hotel Esplanade – inc 2 day-excursions <i>(This holiday is very reasonably priced and there are still a few places available).</i>	September 8 th -12 th
Tinsel & Turkey at the Claremont Hotel, Eastbourne	Thursday 11 th to Monday 15 th December

London Shows currently available (arranged by Stevenage Group Travel) are: Matinee – Leaving Shefford at 9.45am

Phantom of the Opera – Stall Seats. This includes a Fish & Chip Lunch.	Thursday 4 th September
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Evening Shows – Leaving Shefford at 4.15pm – price includes coach:

Miss Saigon – Prince Edward Theatre – Stalls Seats	Monday 1 st September
Memphis – Shaftsbury Theatre – Royal Circle Seats	Thursday 16 th October

Please telephone for availability and prices of any outings or shows above.

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 all in the local community who feel 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 enid.pamment@gmail.com

Enid Pamment – Shefford Leisure Group



11th to 14th August 2014

St Mary's Church — 10am till 2pm

The fun Christian Holiday club

for those aged 5-12

Stuff you should know!

We really look forward to meeting all our new astronauts in August.

Please read the following to ensure a smooth takeoff!

Please book your child's place in advance by returning the booking form and payment (preferably cheque) to one of the locations on the form.

Please wear old clothes and trainers or other closed shoes as our training ground is uneven and prickly. Remember to bring a packed lunch and, depending on the weather, a hat and sun cream or coat and wellies!

This year we are introducing a new booking system so please wait for confirmation of your child's place by e-mail or telephone.

If you have not received confirmation by Tuesday 5th August please contact Dawn on 01462 816962.

Booking forms are available in The Messenger or at the back of St Mary's Church

Please understand that while we do try to put Astronauts with their friends, this is not always possible; we rely on having groups which are a mixture of ages so the older children are encouraged to help the younger ones.

Please remind your child that EVERYONE at Sparks is friendly and that we will spend plenty of time all together as well as in groups.



New recruits wanted

Do you have what it takes to join Space Academy?

Join us as we blast off into space for an
adventure that is out of this world!

Taking off Monday 11th – Thursday 14th August 10-am – 2pm

Tick the days you wish to attend:

Mon 11th	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tues 12th	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weds 13th	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thurs 14th	<input type="checkbox"/>

To secure your place, please return form and payment
by Monday 4th August to

Dawn Abbatt, 28 Brookmead, Meppershall or
Morag Deluca, 26 Eisenhower Rd, Shefford

£3 per day

Cheques preferable (made payable to **Meppershall PCC**)

**Please provide an e-mail address
or phone number so we can confirm your child's place.**

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, and on a first come basis, but we are all very friendly!)

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

E-mail (for confirmation and future events):

Places are limited, booking and pre-payment essential, sorry no admissions on the day!

Please wear old clothes, trainers/closed shoes and bring a packed lunch.

Contact Dawn (816962) or Morag (643387) for any further info.

Bring your parents and please join us for our graduation service on Sunday 17th August and come and hear all about our adventures! 11am-12noon

Comments on the Meppershall Messenger collected at Meppershall Summer Fair on 28/06/14

All the people I spoke to were complimentary about The Messenger (well, they would be, wouldn't they?!). Most claimed to read it from cover to cover, but then admitted that they skipped bits that they did not feel were relevant to them eg. St Mary's (quite a few!), the Brownies, and the School Report. Several people commented that they kept it for reference, and one couple said that they had found it especially useful as newcomers to the village. Picked out as features that were liked were 'Where My Caravan Has Rested', 'Recipe', 'The Lucy Page' and 'Financial Update'. One other compliment was that we had done a good job in providing information concerning the plans for the new Village Hall and associated housing.

Among suggestions for new content were:

- Computer tips
- Local history
- Children's art

I did not get to talk to that many people, so I should be very interested to hear from people who agree or disagree with the above comments.

I think interesting articles or series could be based on these suggestions for new content, but that depends completely on someone being ready to have a go at writing them.

I have already appealed for pieces on skills or hobbies that can be found in the village. I have had one response to this from Kim Tyler:

"Following the editor's request for new articles in the Messenger I have offered to write a couple of pieces over the next few months on arranging flowers etc." She continues: *"If you have a skill or craft that you are willing to share please do write a short piece for the Messenger – I would love to read more on all sorts of things from making fondant icing figures and hand crafted Christmas cards to making a bird box and building a simple BBQ. **Go on share your knowledge and help make a new regular 'skills slot' in the Messenger.**"*

Hear! Hear! No money changed hands in soliciting these comments – honest! Ed.



MEPPERSHALL



WORLD WAR 1 CENTENARY WALK

& AFTERNOON OF COMMEMORATION

3RD AUGUST

IN AID OF

3RD AUGUST



HELP *for* HEROES

Support For Our Wounded

ALL WELCOME — PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT!

Church open offering refreshments and fundraising merchandise – all raising money for this vital cause, honoring the The Great War Centenary at the Meppershall war memorial in the churchyard.

Donate and complete one or more loops of the 1km Memorial Walk around the Manor House – **prizes** for the most loops completed – or **get sponsored**. Receive your Souvenir Memorial Walk certificate. A great day on your own, as a family, with friends.

More information and sponsorship forms from James:
01462 857836 / meppershall.pcc@gmail.com



SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST 2014

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, MEPPERSHALL, SG17 5NA
STARTS 2.00PM ENDS 7.00PM COME ANYTIME.

WHERE MY CARAVAN HAS RESTED

By Denis Neilson

The second three-month timeshare of a Winnebago in the USA, as recalled by Ruth & Denis

Part 1: Mechanical Trials and Tribulations

Our second session of 3 months with Winnie started in October, a month earlier than previously planned because Derek and Trish, who had taken over from us, could only have a couple of months so everyone moved forward a month. This suited us fine as it allowed us to go north for a change before winter started to bite. We were met at Orlando airport by Eric and Judy, who had had the van for the last summer period, and spent a couple of days with them before they left for the UK. We had, throughout the year, been in touch with everyone through Pocketmail and had heard reports of everyone's problems, so it was nice to have a chat with them before they left. The first year had been easy: niggly leaks and faulty fuses, but other than that, quite uneventful. We should have known that it could not last.

Derek and Trish experienced the only tyre blow-out of the entire 2 years of ownership - the inner of the twin wheels on the back axle. As Derek reported, taking off the outer wheel was heavy work and involved Trish on the outside kind of hugging the wheel and Derek lying underneath Winnie pushing with his feet on the back of the wheel. He said it was very uncomfortable and awkward since the inner wheel was in his way but eventually, between them, they got the wheel to fall off the end of the axle. The inner wheel had much more stub axle to go before it too dropped to the ground! The procedure had to be repeated in reverse to put the spare wheel on, but fortunately, when they had the tyre replaced the fitter, without being asked, put the repaired wheel back on the rear axle saving them a lot of hard work, much to their relief.

John and Jen, in their second 3 months, had a waste tap seizure and a fuel pump problem. Winnie was equipped with a 3 inch diameter drain hose for the waste tank and loo. You simply took out an expandable hose from a cavity inside the rear tow bar frame and connected the van's waste outlet to the sewer, pulled open a small lever which controlled the flow from the loo and a larger lever which released the waste tank's contents. With both levers open the waste water ran down to the sewer. We all did this periodically and always when connected to a full service point on a campsite. Unbeknown to John and Jen, although the lever for the loo moved in and out, the blade inside the pipe did not, so the contents of the loo did not empty. This caused a messy problem

when one flush too many created a flow back which was far from pleasant. They also had a fuel supply problem. The engine kept cutting out but each time they had it checked all was well. The problem persisted but the fault could not be found. This became very frustrating for them until one bright mechanic, when faced with the problem, checked not only the fuel flow from the main pump to the carburettor but also from the secondary (pusher pump) at the rear to the fuel pump in the engine compartment. Bingo! Clever man solved the problem immediately by replacing the faulty pusher pump with a new one. Incidentally, not one of us was aware that the old girl sported 2 pumps!

Eric and Judy did not go unscathed. During their stint they had water heater problems and Eric was convinced that the problem lay with the gas jet thermal coupling. This coupling keeps the pilot light burning so that the main burner fires up when water heating is switched on. His enquiries at RV spares suppliers told him that the unit was an integral part of the sealed gas heating component and that the only solution was to replace the complete unit at a cost of a couple of hundred dollars. Eric, being a welder by trade (as well as a local magistrate and Justice of the Peace), was not afraid of a little DIY and considered that Winnie was old enough to have enough sisters lying peacefully in wreckers yards somewhere, willing to surrender this piece to them. It was with delight that he came across just such a place, crammed full of motor homes, trucks, cars and even a tank or two! When told by the owner to "look see what you can find" he was in seventh heaven, his equivalent of paradise. Eric went scavenging and found exactly what he was looking for, came back to Winnie to pick up the toolbox and tell Judy that they were in luck. He dismantled the heater to get at the part he wanted and took the thermal coupling to the office to pay. When he got there the office was locked and he could not see anybody about. He and Judy discussed their alternatives and decided that they would go to a local campground for the night and come back in the morning to pay. They drove towards the gate only to find it chained and padlocked and the only option was to bed down for the night in the compound. Eric commented that Winnie looked quite at home in her surroundings and could easily have been taken for a resident. He declined to make any comment about Judy! What we do know is that he spent a very happy evening amongst the wrecks. The problems we encountered will come to light as we continue with our journey.

To be continued in next issue

LIFE ON THE WILD SIDE by JEREMY HOLDEN

Photo Story



Caption: Sumatran serow, *Capricornis sumatraensis*, Kerinci Seblat National Park, Sumatra.
Technical details: Nikon F5, Nikkor 300mm F4, Provia 100 ASA.

It is a rare occurrence for wildlife photographers to try and photograph large terrestrial rainforest mammals in their natural environment. The terrain is too difficult, the light generally poor, and the animals themselves scarce and unpredictable. These ingredients add up to create an almost impossible task. There are two options: either a long and probably fruitless wait in a hide (Frans Lanting spent two weeks in a jungle hide waiting for peccaries that never came) or being in the right place at the right time, with the right equipment. A further caveat to this is that the equipment also has to be ready. It was only because I was given a lucky break twice in one day that I managed to get this image of Sumatran serow.

The Sumatran serow is now an increasingly scarce animal. The IUCN class it as Vulnerable because, although living in remote and vertiginous habitat, it is a species actively targeted by hunters. Not only is the meat sought after, it also suffers the unfortunate distinction of being an animal with a perceived medicinal value. Both

the short horns and the bones are used in traditional remedies, sometimes for setting broken bones.

During six years in Sumatra I had seen only one serow, a huge male animal that dashed across the road in front of my Land Rover. And despite hundreds of thousands of hours camera trapping, we had only photo-trapped serow once, at 2700 metres on a volcanic peak. That animal had two ropes snare around its neck!

My lucky break came one sunny day in the east of Kerinci Seblat National Park. I was leading two ornithologists from BirdLife International looking for some of Sumatra's endemic birds. While they were trying to locate Salvadori's pheasants, I took a walk alone to a large salt lick nearby. Usually I would approach this area preparedly. It is a volcanic phenomenon, with hot sulphurous water rising from a vent in the river. The mineral-rich water and soil attracts large mammals, and over the centuries they have created an open grassy area, probably the size of a football field in an English village. This spot was popular with sambar deer, and occasionally, elephants. I had recently spent five days sitting in a hide overlooking the saltlick, and in that time got a few shots of sambar deer. It was because of this that I didn't creep quietly up on the saltlick with my camera ready. I knew I couldn't get any better pictures of the deer than I already had. I arrived there quietly, nonetheless, and sat down beneath a tree to write up my notes. My camera and lenses were in my backpack beside me, everything wrapped in double plastic bags to keep out the humid rainforest air.

Twenty minutes later, while engrossed in my writing, I heard a snort. Looking up I saw a family of bearded pig 25 metres in front of me, completely out in the open: two huge adults, a sub adult, and eight stripy piglets. Bearded pigs are an impressive animal, twice the size of the average wild pig, and sprouting a wild thicket of hair from their snouts. There are few pictures of this species from the wild and this was a magical opportunity.

I was clearly downwind, for although the animals were close, they had no idea I was there, despite being in full view. The moment I reached for my bag they sensed something, and one of the adults raised its head. Its myopia was comical as it gazed my way. Seeing no movement (I was frozen like a rabbit in headlights) it went back to grazing. I made another furtive move to open my bag, knowing it was pointless. There was no way I could get the camera out, open two plastic bags to retrieve my telephoto lens, and attach it to the camera. That second movement was enough to alert the largest of the pigs. It raised its snout and came towards me. It was only then that I realized I might be in danger. An adult bearded pig weighs in at up to 150 kgs and has tusks like the sharp end of a pickaxe. When I had bumped in to bearded pigs in the forest they had always ran away shrieking. But this animal had piglets to defend. With snout raised it approached to within about 10 metres, its porcine eyes straining. I turned to stone and tried desperately not to blink. I understood now why some animals freeze when they think they have been discovered. It works. The pig ambled back to its comrades and slowly they traversed the open saltlick while I sat frozen and cursing.

Wildlife photographers live for these moments. I hadn't been ready, and I had lost a fantastic shot: a family of bearded pigs in plain sight. I sat there immobile until the pigs disappeared behind a tree. Once they were out of sight I wildly scrabbled for the camera and unwieldy telephoto lens. *I should have approached the saltlick prepared; I should have set everything up before I started writing notes...* The agony of hindsight. Instead I sat cursing my luck. Of course I *had* been lucky to see the pigs, and for anyone but an unprepared photographer this would have been a fantastic sighting. It was my carelessness that was at fault.

I sat for half an hour hoping the pigs might come back. They didn't. I carefully stalked them, but they had gone.

My plan that morning was to head to a spectacular waterfall above the saltlick area. At least I could salvage something from the day. Normally I wouldn't walk with a long telephoto lens on the camera. It isn't good for the camera, for a start, but it also makes progress difficult. However, this morning I left the lens on and the camera attached to the tripod as I trekked, still berating myself, towards the waterfall. At one point, stumbling through a meadow beside the river, I trod in a hidden elephant footprint and went sprawling. The camera fell forward and the long lens dunked perfectly into another water-filled elephant footprint, like a sponge finger into a cup of tea. At this point I really did begin to feel victimized by the Universe, and I continued to the waterfall wondering what was the point of anything.

By the time I reached the falls, a spectacular sight in itself, the light was poor and I knew I was not going to be making any award-winning landscapes either. I parked the camera and tripod and walked to the edge of the open crater beneath the falls. Suddenly, from the corner of my eye, I saw movement. A serow came out of the forest edge and trundled down the open crater. Once again I was in full view and I had to freeze like a surprised owl. The serow leapt the river in one neat jump and came towards me. Fortunately, there was a huge rock between my position and the falls. The moment the serow disappeared behind it I scurried to grab the camera. In moments I was in position and the second the animal emerged I was focused on it. Amazingly it stopped and raised its head. I could see the smoky mist of the falls in the background, some pink Impatiens flowers in the grass, and this majestic animal looking almost heraldic with its yellow mane. I fired off thirteen frames in quick succession. The swirling air currents in the crater must have taken my scent to the serow, for suddenly it bolted, leaping the river again and blundering up the slope back the way it had come.

The little tears of frustration that had tried to squeeze out earlier transformed themselves into tears of joy. I had done what wildlife photographers were supposed to do – made the most of a lucky moment and got the shot.

THE LUCY PAGES

By Lucy Standbridge

Aged 12



For this month's Messenger I went up to the Meppershall Summer Fair to do some interviews with some of the stall holders and fair-goers.

Firstly, I interviewed some of the visitors to the fair. I talked to Lynne Hearnden (from Shefford), Lewis Caddick (Age 11), Lucian Sinfield (Age 11), Angie Jones, Rebecca Myers (Age 9), Jess Myers (Age 7), Megan Myers (age 10), Alison Watson (age 10) and Grace Hendry (age 10), all from Meppershall.

The first question I asked was "Why did you come to the Fair?". Alison and Grace came because they always come and they really enjoy it. Lynne came because she has been every year, and Angie said "I came because I have friends from the village and it sounds like a good idea and a fun afternoon". Lewis and Lucian said they came to "buy and go on stuff", and Rebecca told me that she likes to come to fairs because she likes the bright colours you see when you approach the field.

Angie's favourite stall was The Meppershall Players because she liked their something-for-everyone tombola and, despite the rain, they put on two performances in the arena. Lewis and Lucian liked the 'hook a duck' stall, while Lynne's favourites were the greyhounds and bees. Rebecca, Jess and Megan liked the candyfloss, the Brownies' stall and Scruffs. Alison and Grace both liked the Greyhounds and also the Bake-Off (Alison did get first place for her plaited loaf!). I also asked them if there was anything they *would have* liked to see. Rebecca, Jess, Alison, Lewis and Lucian said there wasn't anything else they would have liked to see, but Megan would have liked some Zorbings (They look like inflatable human hamster balls). Lynne said "I would have liked it if the 3D ruler etc. stall was here. It was last year, and I like that sort of thing".



I have also interviewed some of the stall holders. The first stall-holder I interviewed was Trish Fitzmaurice, who was selling fairy themed pocket money toys. Trish sells her fairy things as a hobby and she is from Wilstead. She has

sold at the Meppershall Summer Fair for 3 years now and she loves coming because there is always a friendly atmosphere. Other stalls she liked at the fair were the handbag stall and the books. She would have liked to see a shoe stall. I also interviewed Gemma Chapman (Tawny Owl) from the Meppershall Brownies who have had a stall at the fair for 4 or 5 years and this year they held a tombola to raise money for the group. The only thing they would have liked to see at the fair was the sun! Another interview I did was with a lady called Laura who runs her own business called Mello Mallo. Mello Mallo is based in Luton and Laura makes and sells her own marshmallows in a variety of flavours, of which she was giving away free samples at the fair, which of course I tried and enjoyed. She has never been to our Summer Fair before and she came this year because she is looking for new places to sell them and also new people to sell them to. Her favourite thing at the fair other than her own stall was the ferret racing. The last stallholder I interviewed was Jackie Darnell of the Simple Stitch Knitting Company, who comes from Bedford. Jackie has never sold at the Meppershall Summer Fair and they came this year because they saw it advertised. Jackie said "My favourite stall here is the hat stall because I think they are very pretty and the fascinators are fascinating!"

I think the Summer Fair went down very well although it was raining. There was a variety of stalls and I thought that the Bake-Off was a very good idea. I went to the Fair for the Bake-Off and to help out with the Meppershall Players' stall and pieces in the arena. I liked the Spitfire Fly-Past and the Scruffs. Other than the Great British weather, I think that it was a very enjoyable day.

**ENGINEERING SOCIETY
SUMMERFIELD MINIATURE RAILWAY
(Off A600 just past Haynes bend)
PUBLIC RUNNING DAYS IN 2014
From 11.00 am to 4.00 pm**

<u>August</u>		<u>October</u>	
Wednesday	6 th & 13 th	Sunday 19 th	
Bank Hol Sun & Mon	24 th & 25 th	<u>December</u>	
Sunday	31 st	Saturday & Sunday	6 th & 7 th
<u>September</u>		Santa Specials. Pre-booking essential	
Sunday	21 st		

Incident Type:	Vehicle Fuel Theft.
Location:	Church Road, Meppershall.
Date and Time:	Between 4:00 p.m. on the 18th and 9:05 a.m. on the 19th June.
Incident Details:	<p>The vehicle was a white '63-registered Volkswagen Polo.</p> <p>The offender gained access to the underside of the vehicle, drilling a hole in the fuel tank.</p> <p>Petrol was syphoned from the tank.</p>
Crime Reference:	J D / 2 3 7 4 3 / 2014.
Crime Reduction Advice:	<p>Park in well-lit and public areas, if you have a garage please use it.</p> <p>Be aware of any suspicious activity around parked vehicles.</p> <p>Always check that it is correctly locked and that all valuables are removed before leaving the vehicle.</p> <p>We are particularly keen to hear about suspicious persons seen under vehicles, or with containers and syphoning equipment.</p>
<p>Have You Thought of Joining a Community Watch Group?</p> <p>Find out more http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/tackling_crime/watch_schemes.aspx</p>	
<p>If you have information about any crime or suspicious activity please call the Control Room on 1 0 1</p> <p>Text your message to 07786 200011</p> <p>Alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org</p> <p>No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.</p>	
<div> Reply Online Reply by email Unsubscribe </div> <div>   </div>	

FINANCIAL UPDATE by PAUL SAVUTO

23 WAYS TO HELP YOU SAVE TAX.....

Tax codes, allowances and deadlines

1. Tax Code

Check your tax code each year (the numbers and letters on your payslip). If you're on the wrong code, you may be paying too much tax.

2. Capital Gains Tax Allowance

Remember that capital gains in 2014-15 under £11,000 are tax-free. Married couples and civil partners who own assets jointly can claim a double allowance of £22,000. CGT is charged at 18% if you are a standard rate tax-payer, and 28% if you pay tax at a higher rate.

3. Tax Return Deadlines

Don't miss the 31 October deadline if you want to make a paper tax return. You can do your tax on-line up to 31 January, but paper tax returns need to be in three months earlier than online tax returns to avoid a £100 fine.

How to pay less tax if you're self-employed

4. Tax-Deductible Expenses

If you're self-employed don't forget to claim all your tax-deductible expenses, including cash expenditure where eligible.

5. Self-Employed Car Costs

If you're self-employed you can claim the running costs of a car, but not the cost of buying one. If you use the same car privately, you can claim a proportion of the total costs. See our page on tax allowances for the self-employed for more.

6. Cash-Flow Boost for Self-Employed

If you are setting up as self-employed you may be able to improve your cashflow by choosing an accounting year that ends early in the tax year. This maximises the delay between earning your profits and your final tax demand.

7. Annual Losses

If you are self-employed, you can carry forward losses from one year and offset them against profits from the next. See our page on when the self-employed pay tax for more.

8. Payments on Account

If you are self-employed and expect to earn less in 2013-14 than you did the year before, apply to reduce any payments on account that HMRC ask you to make.

Saving tax on property income

9. Rent a Room

Rent a room relief is an optional scheme that lets you receive up to £4,250 in rent each year from a lodger, tax-free. This only applies if you rent out furnished accommodation in your own home.

10. Landlord's Energy-Saving Allowance

If you rent out property you can claim special tax allowance of up to £1,500 for insulation, draught proofing and installing a hot water system.

11. Landlord's Expenses

If you rent out property, you can deduct a range of costs before declaring your taxable income. These include the wages of gardeners and cleaners, and letting agency fees.

12. Tax Relief on Your Mortgage

You can claim tax relief on the interest on a mortgage you take out to buy a rental property – even if the rental property is abroad.

13. Reduce Capital Gains Tax (CGT) on a Rental Property

Landlords are normally liable for CGT when they sell a rental property. If it has been your main home at some time in the past, you can claim tax relief for the last eighteen months of ownership.

Pay less tax on savings and investments

14. Isa Allowance

Use your tax-free Isa allowance. From 1 July 2014 the annual limit will be increased to £15,000. This can all be put in a cash ISA, all in a stocks and shares ISA or split between both cash and stocks and shares.

15. No CGT on Shares Held in an ISA

There is no Capital Gains Tax to pay when you sell shares or units held in an ISA.

16. Junior ISAs

Use Junior ISAs or Children's Bonus Bonds to avoid being taxed on gifts you make to your own children.

17. Transfer Assets

Transfer savings and investments to your husband, wife or civil partner if they pay a lower rate of tax than you do. See our guide to tax and your partner for more information.

18. Children's Savings

Stop children being taxed at source on their savings by completing a simple form (R85) on their behalf.

Tax savings for older people

19. Age-Related Allowance

If you were born before 6 April 1948, you may be eligible for an increased personal allowance. This means you pay a lower income tax rate. See Tax in retirement.

20. National Insurance

Make sure you stop making National Insurance contributions if you carry on working beyond state retirement age (currently 62 for women and 65 for men).

21. Gift Aid

If you are over 65 making donations to charity through Gift Aid can reduce your taxable income to below the threshold at which you start to lose out on age-related allowances.

22. Tax Relief on Gifts

If you are in a higher tax bracket you can claim back the difference between the basic and higher rate of income tax on any Gift Aid donations.

23. Inheritance Tax

Lifetime gifts are not normally counted as part of your estate for inheritance tax purposes if you live for a further seven years after making them. Known as potentially exempt transfers (PETs) they can reduce your residual estate significantly.

SPORTS PAGE

We hope to run a regular sports page and thank Wayne Woodcock again for the piece below, but Wayne cannot sustain the page on his own, and football is not the only sport. If you play a sport locally or belong to a local club, please use this page to publicise your events, fixtures and results. Come on you cricketers, golfers, tennis players etc: we are waiting to hear from you! - Ed



Although the league games have finished it is now "tournament season" for the Shefford Saints teams. Managers have been busy finishing off this season, preparing their teams for tournaments, whilst planning ahead for the forthcoming season. So, although the 2013-2014 season has ended it is still a busy time for all the volunteers involved in running the club and teams at Shefford Saints.

SAINTS AT THE MEPPERSHALL SUMMER FAIR

As always the club is keen to be involved in events going on in the local community and the Meppershall Summer Fair was no different. Shefford Saints had a stall at the fair which was manned by a number of the squad managers and included a raffle and a fastest penalty shootout competition. A fantastic day resulted in over £200 raised for the club and half a dozen enquiries from potential new players wishing to join the club.

BEDS FA CHOOSE SAINTS TO HOST THE 2014 FAIR PLAY TOURNAMENT

Saturday 5th July saw the Bedfordshire FA Fair Play Festival held at Shefford Saints new ground. The teams ranged from Under 7s to Under 11s from all over Bedfordshire.

The Fair Play Festival is held every year for younger players to play football and learn more about the Respect Programme. The players, parents and managers were all marked on how they behaved, rather than the amount of goals the players scored. To win at the Fair Play Festival means that the team may not be the best side out there, but are a joy to play with. The event this year was proudly sponsored by HugoFox.com, official Beds FA sponsor 2013-2015. Also Shefford Saints kept the players going with a range of food and a barbeque all day, with mums and coaches helping out to raise money for their clubs.

Read more at <http://www.bedfordshirefa.com/news/2014/jul/fair-play-festival-2014#iVZWqvfsOfiro6KJ.99>

Wayne Woodcock

Shefford Saints U11 Reds

07720 397 057

www.sheffordsaints.co.uk

Beer Review: The Orkney Brewery - Northern Light



Time to try the next in Tesco's batch of Scottish beers. And, this time, it is a beer from The Orkney Brewery. This one is called Northern Light and here is a picture of the 500 millilitre bottle.

The front label does a lot of good things. The '5000 years in the making' tagline and a graphic of the sea lashing a shore do a fair job of conjuring up images of the Orkney Isles and their long past. This it enhances by saying, with pride, that it hails from Quoyloo, which is north of Stromness on the main Orkney Island. Another thing I like about the label is the text "Hand crafted in small batches". Knowing that you're drinking something exclusive is normally a bonus with



ale. Around a circle giving the volume, (a low/light 4%) we are also told that this will be a pale ale. Another good addition to the front label is 'stamp' and 'signature' proving the Orcadian authenticity of the ale. There is something similar on the Innis & Gunn Oak Aged Beer. It's a good addition to Scottish ales. Something that differentiates it from ales produced elsewhere in Britain.



Rather helpfully the 'stamp' also describes the drink: "A pale citrus-character beer with a subtle malt backbone and zesty hop flavour." The rear label doesn't disappoint either. There is an exceptionally large amount of information and advice crammed in here. Fortunately, not overdone or cramped. They get away with it by laying it out smartly. Another very nice touch is describing the smell and flavour under two headings; "On the nose" and "On the palate". In-between the marketing babble, you can even make out some useful information about it. Also on there is what reads like a Tourist Board advertisement for Orkney. Probably aimed at overseas

drinkers who have this imported; but maybe that's because I'm from another ancient, rural corner of the British Isles myself and look out for this sort of thing. One thing is for sure, you're not short of reading material with this bottle.

Poured into a glass, it is dark gold in colour with a thin but level head. The bottle described it as "straw-coloured". According to the bottle, it should smell of fruits and hops. It may remind seasoned beer-drinkers a little of Badger Golden Glory, but toned down a lot. Whatever it smells of, it certainly smells appealing and complex. Always a good sign.

After the first gulp, the drinker may think - "That was strong! And not what I was expecting". The flavours in there are mostly the malt and hops plus the fruit which is a well tried and tested combination. It is slightly bitter, but after the first couple of glugs, it passes and you no longer notice it. You can't accuse it of not being easily drinkable. This is yet another full-bodied ale that disappears all too soon. That said, the taste does take getting used to, but it is worth a try.

Abridged from the first publication on [Hywel's Big Log](#) 2008 by John Thompson.

Northern Light is available from Tesco, Baldock

CALENDAR OF MEPPERSHALL EVENTS

August 2014

<i>Saturday 2nd</i>		
Karen's Karaoke		Village Social Club
<i>Sunday 3rd</i>		
WW1 Centenary	2.00 pm	Meppershall War Memorial
<i>Thursday 7th</i>		
Evergreens	2.15 – 4.00 pm	The Sugar Loaf
<i>Sat 9th</i>		
Rage Dance		Stondon Village Hall
<i>Mon 11th – Thursday 14th</i>		
Sparks Holiday Club	10.00 am – 2.00 pm	St Mary's Church
<i>Sat 16th</i>		
Kerry Bernard	8.00 pm	Village Hall
<i>Sat 23rd</i>		
Rage Dance		Stondon Village Hall

September 2014

<i>Thursday 4th</i>		
Evergreens	2.15 – 4.00 pm	The Sugar Loaf
<i>Sat 13th</i>		
Bike and Hike		
Karen's Karaoke		Village Social Club
<i>Sat 20th</i>		
The Wilsons	8.00 pm	Village hall

PUZZLE PAGES

Su Doku 125 - Hard

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

Su Doku 126 - Medium

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

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

(Solutions on page 35 – with thanks to Paul Smith)

Paul Smith has branched out into fiendish word searches. Can you find the names of the 77 UK towns below? Solution next month.



Aberystwyth
Aboyne
Acre
Auchen
Balloch
Bere
Blair
Builth
Burgh
Campbell
Carew
Cilgerran
Clare
Coity
Conwy
Corfe

Crawford
Croft
Deal
Donne
Doon
Dote
Dover
Drum
Dryslwyn
Duart
Dundee
Duns
Dynevour
Elcho
Ewloe
Fast

Finlarig
Flint
Floors
Fyvie
Gordon
Gwydir
Hawen
Hay
Herstmonc-
eux
Hever
Huntly
Keldy
Knock
Leeds
Leod

Lymne
Maol
Maud
May
Mey
Moy
Mylor
Nunney
Odo
Oer
Piel
Plymouth
Pool
Powis
raby
Rait

Red
Riber
Ring
Roch
Spynie
Star
Strame
Sween
Tenby
Tower
Udny
Uisdein
York

MEPPERSHALL SOCIAL CLUB

FRIDAYS

Cash Bingo, eyes down 7.15pm, open to all, £1.00 entry for non-members.

Meat & Fish raffle during the bingo interval (£1 per square).

SATURDAYS

Karen's Karaoke, one Saturday per month, open to all, (see notice boards for dates).

SUNDAYS

Paul Carne's Quiz Night, 2nd Sunday of each month, open to all, £1 to play, starts 7,30pm sharp, cash prize.

We currently have a Crib (summer) and Domino (winter) team that play on a Thursday night in the Shefford & District league, we wish to invite new players to join the team(s). We currently have no Darts team; if there are any players in the village that wish to play, please Email the address below.

ENTERTAINMENT

We strive to provide regular entertainment to cater for all tastes, but we do need **YOUR** support to continue to do so. We have a soloist all round entertainer in August and a Duo in September, please see the notice boards for further details or Email, these are OPEN TO ALL, MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.

OUR OPENING TIMES: Mon to Sat 8pm till 11pm & Sun 12 till 4pm & 8 till 11pm.

Fresh filled rolls available Sunday lunchtime.

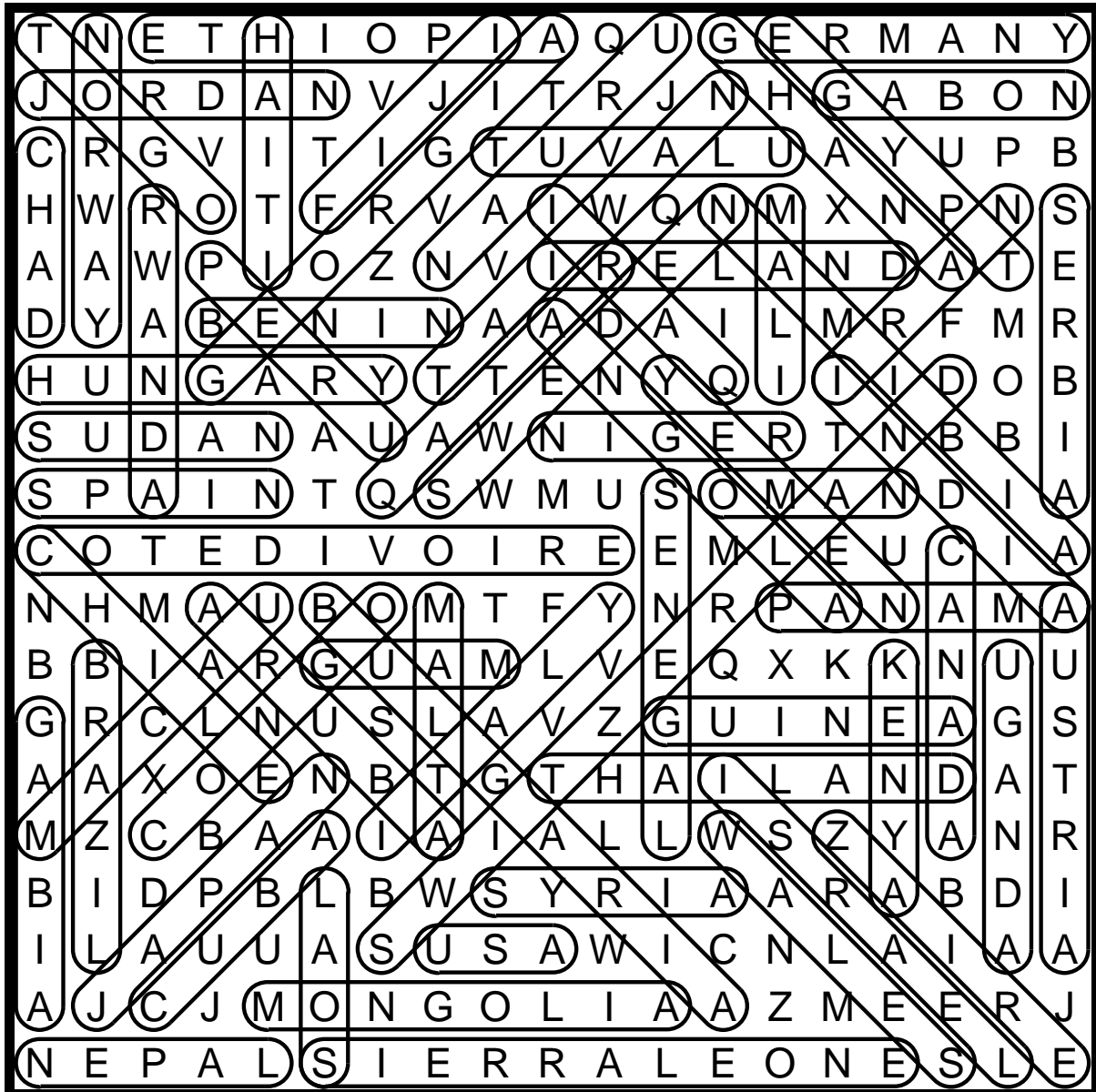
Children welcome (with an adult) and your dog is welcome too.

Membership is currently **HALF PRICE**.

Email- sharon1805@hotmail.co.uk

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Solution to last Month's Wordsearch



Solution to Su Doku 125

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

Solution to Su Doku 126

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

FILM REVIEW

By Carlie Newman

Most of *BELLE* (cert. 12A 1 hr. 44 mins) takes place at Kenwood House, which is on Hampstead Heath, London.

After her mother's death Dido Belle (Gugu Mbatha-Raw), the daughter of a Royal Navy officer and an African woman, who was a former slave, is left by her father with her great uncle, Lord Mansfield (Tom Wilkinson) and his wife (Emily Watson) at Kenwood House which in 1769 is on the edge of London. She is brought up to be a companion to her cousin Elizabeth (Sarah Gadon). While the family accept her they are so fearful of other people's opinions that Dido eats separately when there is company.



Gugu Mbatha-Raw
&
Sam Reid

The girls are pursued by fortune hunters but Dido develops an interest in the case concerning the wrongful deaths of a large number of slaves on a ship that her great-uncle is dealing with in his role as Lord Chief Justice. She also falls in love with a lawyer, John Davinier (Sam Reid) the son of a poor parish priest. Based on the true story of Dido Belle - a portrait of the two cousins was, until recently, hung in Kenwood House - Lord Mansfield is influenced in his decision, which helped to end slavery in England, by caring for the intelligent and very beautiful Dido. Ably directed by Amma Asante, Tom Wilkinson gives another of his fine performances, but Gugu Mbatha-Raw is the real star.



The Meppershall Players



Gosh, this year is going fast! Back in June the Players had their AGM and the following committee was elected: Claire Piller (Chairman), Thomas Mitchell (Vice-Chairman), Alison Heath (Treasurer), Karen Mitchell (Secretary), Lucy Standbridge (Junior Players representative), Louise Savory, Joan Vernon, Angie Jones, and Charlotte Goddard.

The Players attended the Summer Fair and in spite of the light showers (it stops when it gets to the skin) had a great afternoon. Well done to all those who organised it; they get better each year (looking forward to see what you do next year). For those of you who missed it, our arena display is on You Tube under "Toby & Lucy Being Sheep" kindly taken and displayed by Toby and Lucy's dad (well done Phil) A big thank you to everyone for their support of the Players Stall; our 'Something for Everyone Tombola' went well as did our 'Bags of Sweets for 50p' and we sold some Pantomime Tickets - all in all a good day, despite a few spots of rain.

The 2014 Pantomime "Beauty & the Beast" has now been cast. The auditions were great fun, and so many wonderful and diverse interpretations of the characters made casting a difficult task because everyone was so good. Tickets for 'Beauty & the Beast' will be on sale at Roger's Bakery from Monday 15th September 2014. Tickets can also be purchased from the Players on Wednesday evenings at the Village Hall from Wednesday 2nd July from 7.30pm-10pm (No Tickets on sale 13th & 20th August due to Players Summer Break).

The Pantomime Dates and Prices are as follows:

Fri 28th & Sat 29th November & Fri 5th & Sat 6th December.

Prices: Sat Matinee's £6 - Con £5; Evenings £8 - Con £7; Last night £9 - No Concessions.

The Player's will be taking a two-week Summer Break to recharge batteries before Pantomime rehearsals start in September, so there will be no Players meeting on Wednesday 13th & 20th August 2014.

Are you handy with needle and thread? Do you like to Paint? Are you good with make-up? The Players are making Costumes, making and painting Scenery,

and practising facial make-up designs on Wednesday 23rd & 30th July, Wednesday 6th & 27th August, & Wednesday 3rd September from 7.30pm-10pm at Meppershall Village Hall. We would be grateful for any assistance, as there is a lot to do. And we really are a friendly lot!

Future Productions: VE/VJ celebration/commemoration production (title still to be decided)

Read through: Wed 7th January 2015, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Auditions: Wed 14th January 2015, at the Village Hall, 7.30pm VE/VJ

Production: Fri 8th & Sat 9th May 2015 7.45pm at the Village Hall. Tickets £10 - No Concessions (Includes Food).

Pantomime 2015- 27th & 28th Nov & Fri 4th & 5th Dec: Robin Hood

The Meppershall Players do have their own page on Facebook, which will be updated the first Monday of every month. If you use the Village Hall don't forget to check out the notice boards in the front entrance. We always have plenty of information about the Players on the board.

For those of you who enjoy singing, Karen's Karaoke is at Meppershall Social Club once a month throughout the year on the following Dates: Sat 2nd Aug, Sat 13th Sep, Sat 4th Oct, Sat 8th Nov, Sat 20th Dec. So come along and enjoy a sing song in a friendly atmosphere.

Wanted: One Pianist for Musicals and Pantomimes. Does not need to attend every rehearsal, only six musical rehearsals per production and then performances (2-3 on musicals & variety's, 6 on Pantos).

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 all areas of theatrical performances, from set building to costumes, directing to acting, make-up to song & dance. If you are interested in any of the above we look forward to meeting you.

Karen Mitchell (Players Secretary) 01462 816336

Meppershall Garden Club

It's been a busy time for the Garden Club. We recently had out stall at the Summer Fair and by the time you read this we will have had our Garden Safari visiting members' gardens. More about this next time.

Our most recent meeting was themed 'Using Cut Flowers from the Garden'. We met in a lovely garden belonging to one of our members and I was lucky enough to use many of her blooms to show members how to use them at home. As a florist I was able to offer some tips on preparing and arranging these garden materials, below are a few simple things to help your creations last a little longer:

- Cut plant materials the evening before you want to arrange them, put them into deep cool water overnight. Some large leaves such as Hosta can be immersed.

When arranging your flowers and foliage:

- Ensure that any container you use is clean – bacteria clogs stems and prevents water uptake.
- Use fresh lukewarm water and commercial flower food
- Remove all leaves that are below the water
- Cut 3-4 cm off the end of stems at an angle with a sharp pair of scissors.
Do not crush the stems – this will damage the cell structure and affect uptake of water.
- Change the water in the vase every 3-4 days, always recut the stems.
- Remove fading blooms etc. on a regular basis
- Keep flowers away from direct sunlight, heat, draughts and fruit.
- Have fun and enjoy!

Now over to you Marcia,
Kim Tyler

The summer is moving on too fast for my liking but there is still so much more to see and do before we hang up our shears at the end of the growing season. During August and September many gardens are at their peak and it is also a time to enjoy a selection of ripening fruits and vegetables.

Flaxbourne Farm , Aspley Guise, Beds. MK17 8HZ

This is a beautiful and entertaining fun garden of three acres. It has numerous water features, herbaceous borders and a Greek Temple ruin! The huge Roman

archway recently featured in ITV's 'This Morning' programme. I have visited this garden and it will definitely surprise you.

Open: Sunday 17th August 2pm – 6pm

Admission £5; children free.

Tyrells End, Milton Keynes, Beds. MK17 9DS

This is a delightful country village garden with a very large collection of Hydrangeas which flower profusely throughout August. Mike was, prior to his retirement, head gardener at Woburn Abbey Estates.

Open: Sunday 10th August 1pm – 5pm

Admission £ 3-50. Children free

Now for those fruits/veg!

Frosts host their **Chilli Festival** at Willington Garden Centre over the week-end of 16th – 17th August. It is now in its third year and promises to be even bigger and better this year. There will be exhibitors from all around the country, plus there will be traditional Mexican live music and live chilli cooking demonstrations.

The best news is that there will be FREE ENTRANCE & FREE PARKING

For four days in September St Albans Cathedral will be transformed when the '**Music in Bloom Festival**' takes place. The flower arrangements will be themed on musical titles of every genre and the cathedral will echo to the sound of local musicians. It will be floral art on a very grand scale and it is anticipated that it will attract over 20,000 visitors.

Opening times:

Thursday 25th September to Sunday 28th September

Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10am – 5pm

Sunday 1pm – 6pm

Admission £10; under 16's free with paying adult.

St Albans Cathedral, Sumpter Yard, St Albans, Herts. WD19 6UH

Marcia Bairstow

Contacts for The Meppershall Garden Club:

Linda Parker 01462 815114 or

Kim Lee Tyler 01462 811750 or

Sarah Till 01462 817176 or

e-mail at: meppershallgardenclub@hotmail.co.uk

Lewis's Further Adventures

A NOMADIC LIFE

I quickly established my credentials with the Workshop and the Regiment. One of the waitresses in the mess turned out to be a worshipper of poodles and took Manny under her wing; he was fed and walked to his great delight. In return I ensured that she received a liberal supply of rum and coke which was her particular weak spot!

A few days later I drove back to Mulheim to see that all was in order. On the way I spied a Camping Platz which appeared to have a number of wooden chalets so I turned off the autobahn to investigate. It was quite a large site with a restaurant in the chalet complex. I found the owner and established that a week's accommodation would not send me to Carey Street; we struck a deal slightly below his asking price which was reduced further when I said we would take a chalet for a month.

On to Mulheim to pass the news on to the family and Barbara and Albert; the family in a small flat was proving somewhat difficult, so the news was welcomed by all concerned. The next weekend we moved up to our new home with B&A in attendance; they were all enthused by the size of the chalet, which was quite large. The boys quickly established that there was a kiosk on the site which sold fresh brochen and a whole variety of sweets and ice-creams (Heaven!). The river adjacent to the site was used for canoeing and as it was the summer holiday, was always very crowded. I had brought Manny down from Gutersloh so the family was complete. With many tears and Lesley clinging on to Barbara, B&A returned home, promising to return at the weekend.

The chalets were linked together by a rear service corridor which ran into the restaurant; the prices there were very reasonable so we had dinner there most evenings. Our next door neighbour proved to be a former submariner, he was the area sales representative for the magazine Der Spiegel and managed to have a series of young ladies living with him: they all came from the East Zone so were very appreciative! Liquor in the mess was to say the least very cheap - ten shillings a bottle for any spirit - the shorts were more expensive! We kept our neighbour and his ladies supplied and had some wonderful parties together: he supplied the shorts!

Life on the Camping Platz proved very attractive; the children thrived and were brown as berries, Manny was a favourite with everyone, the only fly in the ointment was the owner, who had taken a shine to my good lady and one night turned up at our chalet, somewhat the worse for wear with a bundle of Deutschemarks clutched in his fist offering to pay for a night of delight with

her. I took a good hold of his collar and squeezed it for good measure, let him see my clenched fist and told him to give his money and liberation – my Deutsche Sprache was quite good and he never bothered us again!

The jungle telegraph throbbed once more and I heard that some new flats had just been completed in Bunde, some seventy miles north of Gutersloh so, leaping into the VX, I visited the location. There was a concierge on site and I had a look around one of the flats: they were delightful and had three bedrooms. Back to Gutersloh, telephone lines humming and we had a third floor three bed roomed flat, fully fitted with brand new kitchen facilities and all new furniture. Fran was delighted without even seeing it! There were to be four other families from the regiment moving in to the flats – all Gunners. They didn't have their own cars so became my passengers, for which I received additional petrol coupons: my travel costs had suddenly been reduced to below zero. The return mileage was about 115 miles, early starts and late evenings home were the order of the day but we didn't care, we were all together as a family. Our two boys were taken in by the local kindergarten. A middle aged couple from the Eastern Zone were living in the flat adjacent to ours - they spoke a little English and took to Lesley as though she was their granddaughter. They introduced Fran to the town of Bunde and showed her around. Snow arrived one night and with twelve inches of it on the ground, driving became a little difficult. I spent a few hours on the square in the barracks at Gutersloh carrying out every manoeuvre possible with the VX until I was happy at being able to cope with the changed conditions. It was somewhat fortuitous, as the next evening, travelling back to Bunde, we had to cross a large hilly area called the Teutoburger-Wald but there was little traffic on the autobahn. Descending the hill we came round a very wide bend to find a large lorry and trailer jack-knifed and blocking the whole roadway with the autobahn kommando police much in evidence. I was travelling at about sixty mph, the road surface was very slippery and would not sustain regular braking, so I performed an old rally trick, keeping the brakes on and turning the car so that it was at right angles to the carriageway. Fortunately it worked and we came to a halt five yards from the lorry, to great sighs of relief from my passengers. One of the policemen came over: I wound the window down expecting a rollicking, but instead he said "Sie sind ein prima fahre"- praise indeed.

W.O.2 AQMS Lewis Birt. R.E.M.E.

To be continued.



Parents, Grandparents, & Childminders are all welcome!

We have all enjoyed the summer term this year. We've had messy play, parties, lots of themed crafts and a trip to Standalone Farm. Our joint stall with Meppershall pre-school at the summer fair was great fun. We had a bottle tombola, hook-a-duck and guess the name of the teddy bear! Whilst we were pleased to welcome new faces to the group and committee, we were also sad to say goodbye to chair Debbie Jones and secretary Katherine Smith. Their hard work over the last few years has been invaluable and they will certainly be missed.



For those that already attend the group we would like to say a big 'thank you' for your continued support. Your help in setting up / clearing away all helps to make the sessions run smoothly. If you haven't been along to Tots before, please do come along in September and see what we are all about. We also look forward to continuing to offer some free joint sessions with Orchard Children's Centre in 2014/15. We start back on Tuesday 9th September and in the meantime, we hope you have a fantastic summer!

**Come and join the fun at Meppershall Village Hall,
every Tuesday in term time from 1:30 till 3pm.**

Under 1's 50p * Under 3's £1.00 * Under 5's £1.50
FIRST VISIT FREE - MAX ENTRY £2 (exc. parties)

Craft, drink & healthy snack included each week.

Look for Meppershall Tots on Facebook, or email meppershalltots@hotmail.co.uk

Please ring Hayley on 07749 970742 for more information.



Ponderings

Reflecting on a very busy year, we have fitted in so many wonderful activities, and had lots more input from parents. The children have particularly enjoyed meeting the many visitors we have had, playing on all the new outside equipment, their mini sports day, and trips to the lower school, or church, or our very own 'Mini Diggers' allotment. We now have lots of plants and vegetables that will need watering over the summer, so if you are ever walking past the allotments please do look out for the 'Mini Diggers' sign and water away. We are right next to the tap😊

The Pre-school committee would like to say a huge thank you to our incredible staff team who have worked extremely hard this year. We have watched our children's personalities grow due to their fantastic ideas, and willingness to put in that little extra effort. They have also prepared our older children for big school in September.

In January Ofsted came and inspected our setting. We received a 'Good' rating, with only a few minor things letting us down from outstanding. These things were rectified very quickly so next time they come we will be even more ready!

We must not forget all the very kind people who have donated their time, or something to Meppershall Pre-school this year. Thank you very much indeed, it has been much appreciated.

We hope everyone enjoyed the family BBQ at the end of term, and has a really lovely summer break. Good luck to all our children starting big school, we will miss you! We look forward to seeing the rest of you in September.

Meppershall Pre-school is a thriving village Pre-school with its very own 'Mini Diggers' allotment. We take up to 24 children in each session, from in and around the surrounding areas. Priority is given to funded children, and we have limited spaces for two year olds.

Please ring Tamsin on 07816 357159, email info@meppershall-ps.co.uk, or visit www.meppershall-ps.co.uk to find out more about the Early Years Foundation Stage and exceptional care we offer.



POSITIVE AGEING



Register now for a new **FREE 4-week wellbeing programme** for older people of all physical abilities.

The sessions will combine gentle exercise, movement, music and discussion with time to socialise over tea.

When:

Wednesdays from 2-5pm starting 6th August for four weeks
OR

Thursdays from 2-5pm starting 7th August for four weeks

Where:

The Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living, Rosehill Hospital,
Hitchin Road, Letchworth, Herts SG6 3NA

To register call The Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living on
01462 678804 or email jaqui@letchworthcentre.org
www.letchworthcentre.org



The Letchworth Centre
for Healthy Living

Charity Registration No. 295219

1984-2014

30
YEARS

What'sit?

Last month's picture was a bit of a give-away as well – the front of Brinkley's work shop on the High Street



This one requires slightly greater powers of observation.
Answer next month.





FREE DANCE WORKSHOPS

@ STONDON VILLAGE HALL

COMMERICAL/STREET DANCE FOR ALL ABILITIES!

SAT AUGUST 9TH -

10.00am - 11.00am age 4-6
11.00am - 12.00pm age 7-11
12.00pm - 1.00pm age 12+

SAT AUGUST 23RD -

10.00am - 11.00am age 4-6
11.00am - 12.00pm age 7-11
12.00pm - 1.00pm age 12+

@ HENLOW PARISH HALL

STREETEMPORARY - INFUSED CONTEMPORARY
AND STREET DANCE

MON SEPTEMBER 1ST -

7.00pm - 8.00pm 12+

www.ragedance.com

classes for ages 4-18
sign up today!

 facebook.com/ragedance2011

 info@ragedance.com

 instagram.com/rage_dance

 07807079776

JOIN THE BIKE AND HIKE IN 2014!

Saturday 13th September

*Each year Meppershall enters a team for the
Beds & Herts 'Bike and Hike' – will you join us?*

On bikes or in walking shoes, each participant raises sponsorship based on the number of churches visited throughout the day. Almost **every church in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire is open** to sign your form and (often) to give you a drink! It's a beautiful way to see more of our local region and lose yourself in the great outdoors - all for a very worthy cause.



Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust raises and manages money to help with the repair and restoration of churches and chapels across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire – for more information go to www.bedshertshct.org.uk.

Walk to one or two neighbouring villages or spend the day covering the county, individually or in teams – it's up to you, and it is a great day out for all ages. For information:

Call James 01462 857836

Email: meppershall.pcc@gmail.com



STOP PRESS !

Saturday 1st November 2014

**Meppershall Firework Display
Village Hall**



**Yes!! Thanks to your support of the Summer Fair
there will be fireworks this year in Meppershall**

Put the date in your Diary

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



THE BIKE and CAR SHED - MEPPERSHALL FAIR

By Wayne Allen

Well the British Summer lived up to its reputation with a major downpour for the Meppershall fair. That said it was great to see the fighting spirit of the classic bike and car community still braving not only the elements but the guaranteed prospect of a major clean-up operation on their cherished machines. So a big thanks to all for your support on the day. As mentioned in last month's edition, Phil Morris travelled down from Oswestry to support our humble stand and his enthusiasm certainly has passed on to a number of the very damp spectators who came to view the Rossi Aprilia. Nick Fisk also did us proud by bringing the Shotgun drag bike which proved a challenge to start due a flooded crank, with methanol I hasten to add. Owen John of Studio 434 displayed a beautiful Lagonda (pictured right)



which drew many admiring looks. This Lagonda will be gracing our TV screens in the not too distant future by its appearance in a new TV drama called a Girls Night Out. This is a story based on the two young princesses on VE day. I won't spoil the plot but keep an eye out for the car that graced the Meppershall Show. Steve Cooper (pictured on his Yamaha, left) from Classic Motorcycle Mechanics arrived on his Yamaha YL1 to talk to the attendees and judge the Bike of the Show.

The Best Bike award went to a very deserving Russell Gregory for his Honda Britain 750 Four. Russell is in the picture to the right sat on his Honda and receiving his trophy from Steve Cooper (with what appears to be some blue sky showing through, at last).



Car of the show went to the Jaguar XK150 and with the MGB as runner up. My apologies to the owners for not noting their names but I trust they were happy with their trophies. I would like to thank Owen for conducting in what in my mind was a difficult judging process amongst the many great cars on display. Extended gratitude goes out to



Studio 434 who sponsored the trophies for both the cars and bikes. A special award was presented to Dylan Roberts for Best Junior Bike by Phil Morris. Another one converted to the biking community!

Shotgun (above) being given some love and attention to help her start.

So despite the bad timing on the persistent rain we had some fun, made some new friends and now look forward to building the petrol head section of the fair going forward. See you in 2015!



COVERS BY REQUEST

This month the cover picture had to be from our coverage of the Summer Fair, and we thought we ought to recognise the huge popularity of Scruffs. So, with thanks to Marcia Bairstow, we are delighted to feature the Best In Show, Maisey, owned by Gill Havers. Many thanks to Kim Tyler for this and the other Scruffs pictures.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Birthdays in August

On 3rd August David Drummond will be 90

On 14th August Ida Taylor will be 96

Many congratulations to both of the above.

RIP

We are very sad to record that John Thompson of Church Road died on 23rd June aged 80. The Messenger sends it sincere sympathy to Eunice and their children and grandchildren.

If you know of a significant event in the village, please let the Editor know: we are looking for things to celebrate! 80th, 90th, and 100th birthdays we mark with the presentation of a cake from The Messenger.

We would also love to hear about big anniversaries or any other cause to celebrate.

NOTICE BOARD

**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

St Mary The Virgin

Meppershall Parish Church (Church of England)

Church Road, off Campton Road

www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk † facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall



Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman

01462 339962 – usual day off Monday

Churchwardens:

Dawn Abbatt 01462 816962

James Read 01462 857836 Email: Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com

PCC Secretary:

Anne Parsons 01462 813333 Email: annie10639@gmail.com

Services and Events – August 2014 at St Mary's unless stated below

Date	Time	Service
Sun 3 rd August 7 th after Trinity	11.00am 11.00am 2-7pm	Parish Communion Junior Church at the School Meppershall World War 1 Centenary Walk and Afternoon of Commemoration in Aid of Help for Heroes – centred on the Memorial in the churchyard - see separate information in this copy of The Messenger. Finishing 6.30-7.00pm with a short ceremony at the Memorial.
Weds 6 th August	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sat 9 th August	9.00am 2.30pm	Celtic Morning Prayer Second Sunday Stroll: see "What to look out for" Moved to Saturday for SPARKS preparations. Return lifts / more info from James 857836.
Sun 10 th August 8 th after Trinity	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion Preparation of the Church and Churchyard for SPARKS
11-14 th August	SPARKS Holiday Club – see separate information or call Dawn (816962) or Morag (643387) for more info. 11-14 th August	
Sun 17 th August 9 th after Trinity	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion SPARKS All-Age Family Service
Weds 20 th Aug	10.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 22 nd Aug	9.00pm	Silent Together – all welcome to enjoy and sit in the quiet of the church on a summer evening
Sun 24 th Aug 10 th after Trinity	11.00am	Parish Communion
Weds 27 th August	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 31 st August 11 th after Trinity	9.00am 10.00am	Breakfast, followed by... United Benefice Service and Holy Communion, all at St Michael's, High St, Shefford

Services and Events – September 2014 *At St Mary's unless stated below*

Date	Time	Service / Event
Wednesday 3 rd Sept	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 7 th Sept	11.00am	Parish Communion
12 th after Trinity	11.00am	Junior Church at the School
Wednesday 10 th Sept	10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 13 th Sept	9.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer
	All Day	Bike & Hike – raise money for Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust by visiting churches by bike or on foot across the two counties – almost all churches open – more info from James- 857836 or Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com
Sunday 14 th Sept	8.30am	Holy Communion
13 th after Trinity	10.30am	Second Sunday Stroll, meet at Church for a 5 mile walk to the ruined church of St Mary's, Clophill – ending with a picnic lunch amid wonderful views. Return lifts / more info from James 857836.
Racial Justice Sunday		
Wednesday 17 th Sept	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st Sept	8.30am	Holy Communion
14 th after Trinity	11.00am	All-Age Family Service
Wednesday 24 th Sept	10.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 26 th Sept	9.00pm	Silent Together – all welcome to enjoy and sit in the quiet of the church on a summer evening
Sunday 28 th Sept		Back to Church Sunday (go on, please come back!)
15 th after Trinity	11.00am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 1 st Oct	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 5 th Oct	11.00am	HARVEST FESTIVAL
16 th after Trinity	11.00am	Parish Communion
	3.00pm	Junior Church at the School
		Harvest Event followed by Harvest Tea

St Mary's weekday service - Wednesdays:

Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer), each Wednesday, 10.00am.

PS. From Rector Roni

You may like to know that in thanksgiving for our new toilet facilities the congregation and friends have “twinned” our new loo - providing a latrine in Burundi and one in Uganda. 2.5 billion people in the world still do not have a toilet - see www.toilettwinning.org. And special thanks to all those who worked so hard to provide us with one!

Things to look out for at your Parish Church

SPARKS – the legendary children’s holiday club, 11-14 August

BIKE AND HIKE – Saturday 13th September – get back in the saddle or in your boots for a spot of long distance church touring and sponsorship.

SECOND SUNDAY STROLLS – a route around Shillington, through Apsley End to Pirton (Sat 9th Aug); and through Gravenhurst, past the castle mounds and up to the ruined church of St Mary’s, Clophill (Sun 14th Sept).

HARVEST FESTIVAL – Sun 5th October, 11am service, 3pm Harvest Tea.

PET SERVICE – Sunday 19th October – and get your pet ready to come along to church – dogs, cats, goldfish, rabbits... even horses – we’ve seen them all in church before for this very special event!

A Message from St Mary’s...

"Sumer is icumen in" as they say, and it’s time to look forward to long lazy days and holidays for those fortunate enough to have them.

Whether or not we are able to go away for a holiday, it’s important to take time to rest and recreate ourselves in the warmth and the sunshine, summer breezes and dappled shade, long evenings and warm nights, that offer us a renewed sense of well-being. We are able to breathe a sigh of relief and take time just to “be”, and just to “be” with those we love, for whom we struggle to find adequate time in busy routines of our “normal” daily life.

Nowadays, I suspect many find space for this just once a year. For Christians, Sunday, or “the Sabbath”, was meant to offer that space every week. When I was young, Sunday was “sold” to me as a day of rest because it was the day that God rested when he had finished creating the earth and the heavens, and presumably put his feet up, tired after all the hard work. The problem with that account of things is that the Bible tells us that God “does not faint or grow weary” (Isaiah 40:28).

Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan explains that since God “does not faint or grow weary” the Sabbath is not so much the day on which God rested from his work, but the day that God invented or created “rest”. Or, if you like, the day on which God took the first holiday!

“Sabbath” is supposed to be the time when the world, resting from its tussles and struggles and state of constant change, is able to enjoy participating in God’s tranquillity and serenity and timelessness... a time when we truly rest, at peace with God, at peace with each other and at peace with the world.

The idea of Sabbath goes back to creation and to a time when Adam and Eve walked in intimacy with God in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the evening. It also looks forward to the true and lasting peace and harmony we all hope for, to the “day when all will be Sabbath for always”.

I remember long lazy summer days when I was a child, and with my own children, when - for a while - we just forgot time and the rest of the world, enjoying walking, talking, paddling, swimming, hunting in rock pools, combing the beach, searching caves for pirate treasure!

In this Summer may there be space for the rest that allows us to share in God’s tranquillity, serenity and timelessness – just for a while, allowing us to glimpse the lasting peace and harmony which we hope is to come...

Happy Holidays,

Rector Roni

St Mary's Church, Meppershall

Junior Church

Friendship was our chosen topic on the first Sunday in July: coincidental also that one of our leaders was due to celebrate her birthday later in the week!

So, with the key topic of 'friendship' in mind and a birthday in the week, we decided to give this session a birthday party feel. But, first of all we prayed for our friends and families and thanked the Lord that not only were we blessed with siblings, but our siblings were also our friends.

Of course, our constant friend is in Jesus and we can always turn to Him in our time of need.

The famous 'Footprints' poem demonstrates how the Lord carries us when we need Him the most although we may not realise at the time He is there.

Then the games began and our children had an egg and spoon race with a twist and three legged race.

In each case the children had to work with a friend to complete their task. Great fun was had by all. Finishing up with music and dancing followed by cake and a drink!

If you would like to join us, please do come along – no pre-booking necessary.

Please note there will NOT be a JC session held at School on Sunday 3rd August. The venue for JC at the beginning of September will be advised in the next edition of the Messenger!

Blessings

The JC Team

GREEN TOMATO CHUTNEY August/September 2014

5 lb green tomatoes

1 lb onions

½ oz peppercorns

1 oz salt

1 lb sugar

1 qt vinegar

½ lb raisins

½ lb sultanas

Method

- 1) Slice the tomatoes and chop the onions and mix together in a basin with the peppercorns and salt. Allow this to stand overnight.
- 2) Next day boil up the sugar in the vinegar. Then add the raisins (which may be chopped) and the sultanas.
- 3) Simmer for 5 minutes, then add the tomatoes and onions, and simmer till thick.
- 4) Put the chutney into warm jars and seal.

*Recipes are kindly supplied each month by Brenda Putwain.
Brenda would welcome feedback from readers on her recipes.*

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

Megan Maxwell who will be 15 on the 6th
 Thomas Clark who will be 12 on the 8th
 Jessica Myers who will be 8 on the 11th
 Harry Bavister(Grandpa's mate) who will be 4 on the 12th
 George Lumbis who will be 6 on the 14th
 Lucy Standbridge who will be 13 on the 14th
 Billy Gower who will be 13 on the 15th
 Manishka Hart who will be 14 on the 21st
 Noah Flint who will be 8 on the 22nd
 Georgia Thomason who will be 13 on the 23rd
 Toby Standbridge who will be 10 on the 23rd
 Archie Zimmerman who will be 10 on the 23rd
 Lucy Edwards who will be 14 on the 24th
 Kate Chappell who will be 14 on the 25th
 Max Chappell who will be 14 on the 25th
 Chloe Bryant who will be 7 on the 28th

...and September

Joshua Turner who will be 9 on the 4th
 Chloe Burr who will be 15 on the 9th
 Niamh Maxwell who will be 14 on the 11th
 Ben Horsford who will be 15 on the 13th
 Jack Gregg who will be 13 on the 17th
 Leah Metcalfe who will be 9 on the 19th
 Thomas Cordes who will be 7 on the 21st
 Liam Sturgeon who will be 12 on the 22nd
 Katie Halford who will be 15 on the 23rd
 Lewis Bridger who will be 12 on the 24th
 Marc Neilson who will be 14 on the 27th
 Charlotte Turner who will be 4 on the 28th

If you are under 16 and would like your name added to
 the birthday page, please call Louise Hutson on 814148
 or email at louhuts@gmail.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 12th of the month for publication at the end of that month. Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

DISCLAIMER

The Editor reserves the right to omit or alter any 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.

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<u>Collating Dates for your Diaries</u>					
	<u>2014</u>			<u>2015</u>	
August	NONE		January	26	
September	29		February	23	
October	27		March	30	
November	24	Double	April	27	
December	NONE		May	26	Tuesday
			June	29	

Please note that dates in the above table indicate the month in which the collating will take place, at 2.00 pm in the Sugar Loaf. The issue being collated will relate to the following month, e.g. on 2th September the October issue will be collated.