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## EDITORIAL

We had some difficulty getting staples through the 68 pages of the October issue, so I thought this one should be a bit slimmer. As we approach 'that time of year' we are asked to carry lots of adverts for festive events but I am not complaining that the volume of material coming in has only allowed a reduction to 64 pages.



Things that have not come in:

- Expressions of interest in being Editor
- Stories of trips made during the holidays (or any other time - we're not fussy!)

We have a superb base of contributors but we always need new material to keep the magazine fresh.

Even before we get to 'that time', there are events for you to enjoy: the Social Club Halloween Disco followed, on the next day, by the Meppershall Winter Fair and Fireworks. For more details, see the posters later in this issue.

I am making two more appeals this month:

- For material to go into a new 'Welcome to Meppershall' pack – see page 8.
- For people willing to join a group reviewing the 2008 Village Plan to bring it up to date with current needs and concerns - see page 40.

Don't forget that our next issue covers December and January, so please send in your New Year items.

Dick Bulley

## LETTERS

**Letter from Chris Foster:**

### **Rubbish, Rights and Responsibilities**

In the October Messenger, David Turner writes that he regularly litter picks along the Shillington Rd., 'trying to make a small difference'. Well done David, you are succeeding!

For some time we also have done this at the end of our Polehanger Farm drive entrance about 150 metres in both directions on both sides of the road. I collect nearly a full 20 kg bag of rubbish every 10 days or so, much of it from items purchased at Tesco Express or similar outlets. Most of the rubbish is of items that should be recycled by the purchasers, though I am not prepared to do that for them, given the unsavoury condition that most are in by the time I get to them! I know too that Wendy Rees collects along the in-field footpath along Shefford Rd. leading down to the bypass.

Maybe this can be plotted on the embryonic map proposed by David to encourage further community action. Multiples of 100 metres could quickly cover much if not all of the village roads and paths in this way. Pride in a job well done and increasing thoughtfulness from passers-to or through the village, would, I hope and expect, bring about noticeable improvements to the routeways of Meppershall.

In early October I was driving by tractor on the edge of our field alongside the hedge against the footpath running from the Village Hall to the top of Crackle Hill. I came across two blue dog mess bags that had been thrown over the hedge! Extraordinary . . . ! The first I got to know of this was the coloured and stinking stain revolving (and revolting) in the tread of the front wheel.

I am puzzled and dismayed at the mind-set of those who carry out these selfish actions: they may be careless but they are certainly not thoughtless. So many people these days seem to be shouting about their rights whilst not considering anyone else. However, it has always been the case that with rights come responsibilities. One person does not have the moral right to exercise any particular right if it clearly compromises or diminishes the right of another. Do the rubbish / dog mess throwers consider their gardens, front lawns as legitimate dumping grounds? The spots where their items are thrown belong either to someone privately or the community corporately.

I call upon everyone in Meppershall, be they readers of The Messenger or not, to work together and each do a small bit to clear up where there is mess and to prevent as much of it as possible from being there in the first place! It will make a difference.

In hopeful anticipation,  
Chris Foster

## MEPPERSHALL NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Woodview Nurseries - We can stay!**

Roger and I are very happy to say that we have finally come to a mutual agreement with Central Beds Council and now have legal security of tenure for the next, (if we need it), FORTY years to stay living on our land here at Woodview Nurseries. It has been a long struggle but we would like to thank everybody in Meppershall and local villages for all the support they have shown us over the last few years.

However, special thanks must go to: Nadine Dorries MP - who spoke on our behalf, Mary and Roger at the Bakery, Bob and Heather, Jill and dogs, Inge and Caroline Cooper, who are all friends and neighbours, but an extra special thanks must go to a very special person, Mr. Lewis Birt. He has fought in our corner, advised us, and talked to the necessary people for us and, despite everyone else's wonderful support; I don't think we would have reached this most satisfactory conclusion.

Thank you Meppershall!

Rosa and Roger Crawford

### **Official opening of £3.5million Lower School expansion**

Pupils at a Central Bedfordshire lower school now have much more space in which to learn and play following the completion of a £3.5million expansion project.

Shefford Lower School, in School Lane, Shefford, has seen its intake double in recent years, and is now home to 483 pupils. Following three years of work, the children are now able to learn in bright, airy classrooms with modern learning walls, as well as enjoying themselves on the new play equipment and sports area.

To celebrate the completion of the scheme, an official opening ceremony was held on Thursday (September 18) with Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council Caroline Maudlin and outgoing Director of Children's Services Edwina Grant among the dignitaries in attendance. Following a ribbon cutting, pupils sang to the invited guests before releasing 138 balloons – one for each year there has been a lower school on the site since 1876. And later in the day they buried a time capsule in the ground of the school, which is home to pupils from Nursery to Year 4.

The school remained open to pupils while building work took place, and although no more Roman pottery was discovered, as happened when the previous extension was built there in 2004, pupils were able to see the architects, planners, builders, painters and electricians helping to expand their school – meaning that the library and hall no longer need to be used as classrooms.

Shefford Lower School Headteacher Tracey Callender said: "This project has been massive, but it has been incredibly well managed throughout. Work has been going on while the school has been in operation and the children have been excited and

interested to see what has been happening at their school. I must pay tribute to our staff who have worked hard throughout so that children's learning has not been disrupted."

"We have a very successful school here, with a strong community ethos. Everyone works together and knows each other. And the expansion of the school can only help our outstanding pupils as well as the whole Shefford community. We are delighted with our new school."

And the school's chairman of governors Mark Liddiard added: "Since the start of this project we have had a superb relationship with Central Bedfordshire Council. When we went to see them at the outset to discuss the need to expand the school to 90 children per year, they discussed everything with us and explained what could be done. Their understanding and support throughout has been vital."

### ***Press Release from Central Beds Council:***

#### **Shefford Footpath Extension**

Thanks to the co-operation of the landowners and the Rights of Way group within Central Beds Council there is now a safe, off-road, path for pedestrians all the way from where the pavement on Shefford Road ends, to where it resumes again at the end of the drive to Polehanger Farm at the bottom of Shefford Hill. The works are not yet complete: there is still fencing to erect between the new path and the coppice that it runs through, but the path is usable right now.

When heading along Shefford Road in the direction of Shefford, cross the road on the new green coloured crossing and follow the new path behind the hedge. This new path runs into the old path at the junction with the path beside Nuns Wood - please note that the gap here onto the road is due to be closed in due course - and continues alongside Shefford Road until it reaches the second green coloured crossing, where it crosses over to run along on the right of Shefford Hill. It is a nuisance that pedestrians have to cross Shefford Road three times, but at least the crossing points are now clearly marked with the green tiles to warn motorists and the whole route is very much safer than walking along the road itself. All that is now needed is to keep the paths free of litter!

Cllr Dick Bulley  
Spokesman on Highways

#### **Save the date.....**

Meppershall Festival 2015 - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

**UNBEATABLE OFFER TO MEPPERSHALL RESIDENTS AGED 65 AND  
OVER TO SEE THE MEPPERSHALL PLAYERS PANTOMIME ON  
29 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 3PM**

The GNOMES are able to offer a £5 per person deal for any village resident over 65 to be taken to and brought back from the Meppershall Players matinee performance of Beauty and the Beast on Saturday 29 November 2014 starting at 3pm. The price of £5 includes transport to and from the Village Hall, a reserved seat and a cup of tea and biscuits served to you at the interval. The offer is limited to the first 20 bookings received.

Should you be a wheelchair user and the weather is nice, we could 'wheel' you there and back if you wish. Perhaps you are worried that you will not know anybody - never mind, we would introduce you to everyone. Maybe you would like to go but have a pet that you cannot leave. Do not worry, we can provide a pet sitter as well as the transport. If you feel alone then this could be an opportunity to meet others with similar needs.

So there is nothing to stop you taking up the offer. All you need to do is pick up the phone and call **07760793921** and book your slot. Please tell us if you require assistance with a wheelchair or other mobility aid or a pet needing care, and do not forget to give us your telephone number and address. Go on, **RING NOW.**

**PHYLLIS KIDGER**

Phyl has advised us that she wishes to retire from the team that prints The Messenger each month. At the age of 97 that seems quite reasonable, and she has been doing it for more than 20 years!

Seriously, all of us involved with The Messenger would like to thank Phyl very much indeed for the devoted and conscientious service that she has given, so quietly and reliably over all those years. We shall miss her but we send our love and wish her the best for many years to come.

Ed.



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 – November 2014**

The school term is rushing past and the children have had many new experiences since term began.

The Acorns went to Roger's Bakery where they helped to make a harvest loaf and some bread rolls shaped like animals. Thank you to the bakery for welcoming our youngest class.

Elms and Willows went on a walk around Meppershall where they looked at the different houses and learnt some interesting facts about Meppershall.

The whole school went to St Mary's Church on Wednesday 8th October for our Harvest Festival. It was amazing to see all the hard work that had gone into this service, with songs, poems and prayers performed by the children. Thank you to Rev. Roni for leading the service and welcoming us into this beautiful church.

Meppershall CE Academy has now been awarded the Sainsbury's School Games Bronze Award and we are very proud of this achievement. The Sainsbury's School Games scheme was introduced to help develop children's health and wellbeing by encouraging participation in games and teaching them the true meaning of the word 'competition'. This means, teaching children the values of sport, and working on their confidence, self-esteem and promoting the message that we should all strive to be the best we can be. The criteria we have to meet to qualify for this award include: providing a good PE curriculum and making use of coaches from outside the school; providing opportunities for all children to participate in sport, for example, extra-curricular clubs; and celebrating the sporting achievements of our pupils through assemblies and events such as Sports Day. We are now working towards the Silver Award and we will keep you updated with our progress!



Cedars went to Bedford Cinema on Tuesday 7th October to watch the launch of 'BBC Ten Pieces'. This was amazing and the children really enjoyed it – the cinema was filled with a wall of sound which certainly made the audience experience strong emotions. This introduces a year's work, throughout the school, using the ten pieces of music to fire the children's imagination.

Some of the news from the School Log Books from Octobers in the past includes:

1883 – "Punished several boys this morning for disobedience"

1931 – "Several children have developed Whooping cough. Five families are absent owing to this trouble"

1970 – "Night classes in decimalization began tonight"

1973 – "A new, electric, ink duplicator was delivered and this machine will greatly improve the efficiency of the school"

We hope you all have a lovely few weeks enjoying the beautiful Autumn.

Nickie Moore, Head Teacher

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### **NEW JOINT VENTURE FOR MEPPERSHALL GNOMES AND THE MESSENGER**

With the support of the Parish Council, a 'welcome pack' is being created for newly arrived residents of Meppershall. It will contain a copy of the current 'Who's Who and What's What in Meppershall' plus a set of the most recent advert pages from The Messenger. If you would like new residents to know more about your organisation or business, the pack could contain a copy of your brochure, prospectus or business card, or something that you write specifically for the purpose. The Meppershall Messenger will undertake to photo-copy your material as often as necessary and the complete package will be delivered by the Meppershall Good Neighbour Group to new arrivals as soon as the GNOMES become aware of their arrival. If you would like to add something to your bare entry in Who's Who, please contact the Editor of The Messenger with a sample of what you would like included.

This message is aimed at all village organisations: school, church, Social Club, etc., even political parties, as well as businesses. Your organisation is listed in 'Who's Who' (or should be!), but that publication only aims to provide contact details. If you would like new arrivals to know more about your organisation i.e. what you do, then give us something to put into the pack.

## MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

### Report on October Meeting

In the open part of the meeting PCSO Gillian Richardson stated that in the period July to September there had been 7 reported crimes in the Parish, down from 10 in the same period last year. The worst was violence against a person which related to a domestic dispute; 2 were attempted burglaries; 2 damage to property and 2 attempted thefts, 1 of which was non-payment of a taxi fare.

Unitary Councillor Brown reported that Central Beds expected a £20m shortfall in the grant from Central Government which needed to be made up in savings to achieve another year of zero increase in the Council Tax. The responses from the recent survey on which services were required/supported would be taken into consideration in making any changes.

Several Parishioners asked if any measurements would be made to see if the recently installed traffic calming had had any affect: Cllr Brown agreed to see if any measurement could be made.

In the official part of the meeting:

Housing and Planning: no new submissions had been received but a recent request for a building on land nearly to Campton had been refused. There had been no further developments on the proposed housing etc behind the Village Hall and the extraordinary meeting planned for 20th October had been postponed to a later date.

Finance: the external audit report had been received and a noticed posted on the Council Notice Board stating when and where the accounts could be viewed.

Highways and Lighting: the extension to the permissive path in Shefford Road was just about complete but there was a discussion on whether a 'kissing gate' was required, the Clerk was to contact Central Beds. 30 MPH roundels are still due to be painted in the road.

As a result of a recommendation from our Central Beds Councillors, the Village Plan published a few years ago is to be up dated. Cllr Bulley has agreed to convene the process and as will be seen in a separate article in this Messenger is seeking help in the task. Any help will be gratefully received.

Cllr Bulley also reported on an initiative by the Meppershall Good neighbour Group to create a welcome pack for new residents in the village. (see p 8). The Council agreed to support this venture and Cllr Brown agreed to find out how many new arrivals there were in a year.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 10<sup>th</sup> November and the final meeting for 2014 is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December both in the Village Hall at 7.45pm.

A reminder that 2015 is election year for your Parish Council. If you have ever thought you may like to get involved, please come along to a meeting and see what happens. We always struggle to get 10 volunteers to stand; in fact the last time there was a need for an election was 1991.

Peter Chapman, Vice Chair

# **YOUR SHOUT**

## **with Trevor Thorley**



### **VILLAGE CHOIR:**

If you love singing, whether in the bathroom, in the kitchen in tune with the radio, or even participation with the odd karaoke session, why not give serious consideration to joining the choir? It's not too serious but it is a lot of fun and participation in events is down to you, with no pressure applied. Choir Leader Wendy Corns wishes to pass this message out to you!

"Meppershall Village Choir is a small group of enthusiastic singers with big ambitions. We want to build up the choir into something that you, the villagers, will be proud of. However we need more members to achieve and realise this ambition."

"Singing together has been proved to enrich our lives both physically and mentally, so come along and sing with us. If you are interested, why not come along to one of our rehearsals and observe what goes on – there is no obligation to join. We meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church. If you prefer to speak to someone first, please give me a ring me, Wendy Corns on 01462 850142 or email [wendycorns1950@gmail.com](mailto:wendycorns1950@gmail.com)."

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

Contact me on 01462 813357 or email:

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

## SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

By Enid Pamment



It seems ages ago since we were basking in beautiful sunshine, now it seems to have been replaced by wind and rain; it is certainly a little colder and before this issue is printed we will have put our clocks back and our evenings will be darker! Never mind, we will have all the seasonal pleasures to experience as well as Christmas events well on their way for us to enjoy!

In September a group of us visited Scarborough, travelling in warm sunshine which remained with us for the entire week. The hotel was brilliant, with a lovely patio overlooking Scarborough Bay. We were able to spend our first day exploring Scarborough, a most interesting seaside town. One of our excursions was to Whitby and the majority chose an open-topped bus with a live commentary. Whitby is a very interesting, bustling town: the Harbour, the Castle, quaint little shops as well as the parade of High Street shops - plenty to see and do. Another of our excursions was to the picturesque village of Gothland – well known for the TV series 'Heartbeat Country'. The majority of us decided to enjoy a steam train ride through the Yorkshire Dales and on to Pickering, where once again we were able to enjoy the picturesque town and especially the quaint little tea shops. All too soon it was time to pack our cases and return to our homes.

Our latest event was the last cruise of the year, on The Waverley Paddle Steamer – it sailed from London Tower Pier, with Tower Bridge opening especially to allow us through. We then made our way to Southend, stopping at Gravesend on the way. Most of us left the Waverley at the end of Southend Pier; some decided to catch the train and others (like me) braved the wind and walked the mile long pier, working up an appetite for local fish and chips before returning along the Pier for our voyage back. We returned to Tower Pier through the beautifully lit up bridge. A very long day, but certainly one to remember.

By the time you read this our visit to Highgrove Garden, the home of Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, will have taken place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

At short notice we organised a trip to 'Mark the Centenary of the Great War'. This very special event is on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

We will give a report on both of the above visits in the December edition of the Messenger.

### Forthcoming Events 2014 (kindly telephone for more details):

The Lord Mayor's Show & Fireworks	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> November
Brick Lane Music Hall	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November
Thursford Christmas Spectacular (Matinee)	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November
Waddesdon Manor Christmas Lights	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
John Rutter's Christmas Celebration at the RAH	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
	<b>2015</b>
Charles Rennie Macintosh House, Northampton	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February
'Get Together' at Shefford Memorial Hall	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March

### Holidays 2014 (kindly telephone for more details):

Tinsel & Turkey at the Daish Hotel, Shanklin, IoW (Sold out – reserve list only)	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Holidays 2015</b>	
Dubrovnik– Riviera 9 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> May <i>We now have sufficient numbers interested to allow this holiday to go ahead.</i>	
Dubrovnik Riviera and a taste of Montenegro, staying at the 3* Valamar Club, Bavin Kuk, Dubrovnik. The price includes a coach from Shefford to East Midlands Airport which is £100 cheaper than other airports. The times are reasonable too, leaving at 15.00hrs arrival 19.00hrs. The price covers full board, hotel portage, regular and varied entertainment. One full day excursion to Monte Negro which includes coach and tour guide; other excursions may be booked from the hotel. A non-refundable deposit of £150.00 secures your flight. The inclusive price for this holiday is £599.00. We have only been allocated a few single rooms with a £15.00 per night supplement.	

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

Matinee Performance, leaving Shefford at 10.45 am.

The Lion King – Lyceum Theatre - Stalls	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November
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### Evening Shows – Leaving Shefford at 4.15pm – price includes coach:

Irvin Berlin's White Christmas – Dominion Theatre -Stalls	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November
Made in Dagenham – Adelphi Theatre – Dress Circle	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>2015</b>	Matinee Performance
Cats - London Palladium – Stalls (12 weeks only)	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January

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](mailto:enid.pamment@gmail.com)

**Enid Pamment – Shefford Leisure Group**



## MEPPERSHALL BROWNIES

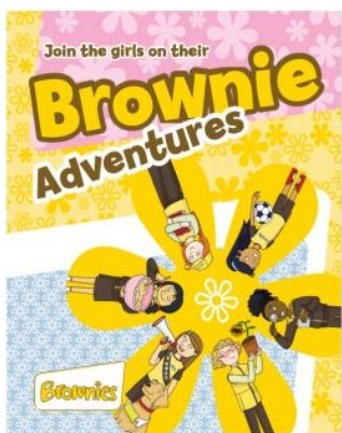


We started the Autumn term by welcoming our three new brownies, Ellis, Charlotte and Chloe and had our usual first meeting games evening and learnt all about all the fun things the brownies had got up to over the summer.

By popular demand we had a Disney's Frozen themed evening. The girls enjoyed dressing up as Elsa and Anna and we made and drank frozen fruit drinks, had a mad snowball fight (without snow) and made Olaf marshmallow lollipops



We have started working towards the Poppy Challenge badge to commemorate this year's Remembrance Day and the fact that this year it will be extra special to commemorate the centenary of World War I. We learnt about the meaning of poppies and Armistice Day and we made a poppy windmill.



As previously mentioned we were fortunate to be chosen as the beneficiary of the profit made at this year's Arts Festival and we have decided to buy the new Brownie Adventure Books for each of the girls. They are really looking forward to starting this new Adventure and earning the three new badges which go with this. We will also be taking the girls swimming and will use the rest of the money to commemorate Christine, who ran Meppershall Brownies for

so many years, by planting some commemorative flowers. An enormous thank you once again to all those involved in organising the Arts Festival.

We are finishing off our Big Brownie Birthday centenary celebrations with a district party; we are playing typical party games, such as pass the parcel, musical bumps, the chocolate game and lots of other fun party games.

As mentioned in last month's Messenger, we are collecting items for our Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box appeal. If you have any toys, toiletries, stationery, shoeboxes you would like to donate please contact me by 12<sup>th</sup> November on the number below.

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](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

# WANTED

## AN EDITOR

(Preferably ALIVE)

In March 2015, at the end of the current Messenger year, Dick Bulley is going to retire from the position of Editor, after 7 years in the job. The Messenger Committee is very keen that the Messenger should continue, so they are looking for a replacement from next April. A job description for the position appears below.

Dick says:

"I had no relevant experience when I took on the job: all it really needs is some time and some willingness. I have been supported by a brilliant Committee who will give the same support to my successor. I would be very happy to explain more fully what the job involves to anyone who is interested, and a new appointee could work in parallel for an initial period while he or she learned the ropes."

Some years ago the job of Editor was shared by two people on a month on, month off basis; that could be resurrected if two (or more) people wanted a reduced time commitment.

The Messenger provides a service to Meppershall which seems to be valued. If you would like to discuss whether you would like to play a part, please call or e-mail Dick Bulley in the first instance to find out more.

## A Message to Might-be Editors

As at 13<sup>th</sup> October I have received no approaches from people considering following me as Editor. This does not come as a complete surprise as I clearly remember feeling, when the job was last advertised seven years ago, that there must be lots of people better able to do it than me. I let several months go by before making a hesitant approach to Linda Gold (as then was), to find out what was involved.

What was involved *then* was rather different from what is involved *now*: back then all the copy and the adverts were stuck by hand into a 'mock-up', using lots of Pritstick! The most complicated thing Linda had to show me was how to work out what would appear where, when alternate sheets were turned back-to-back. Page numbering had to be calculated, depending on how many pages were in each issue, and the page numbers peeled off from Letraset and stuck on. There was a lot of craft in those days!

What has replaced all this is familiarity with MS Word: knowing how to copy and paste electronically, to adjust the size of the typeface and the line spacing, and to insert pictures. Most people who have a computer know how to use MS Word, and if there are particular skills that you do not have at the moment, they can be taught very quickly.

The point of this message is to say – please don't be bashful! You can do it if you want to, and if you raise your head above the parapet now, there is lots of time to fill in any gaps in your skills. Remember, you do not have to do it like that chap Bulley did it – in fact it will be far better if you do not, so please get in touch now so that a smooth hand-over can be arranged, and The Messenger can start to benefit from fresh direction. I can promise you that the work is a huge source of job-satisfaction.

Contact in the first place to [richrd.bulley@btinternet.com](mailto:richrd.bulley@btinternet.com) or by telephone to 01462 815114.

Dick Bulley, Editor



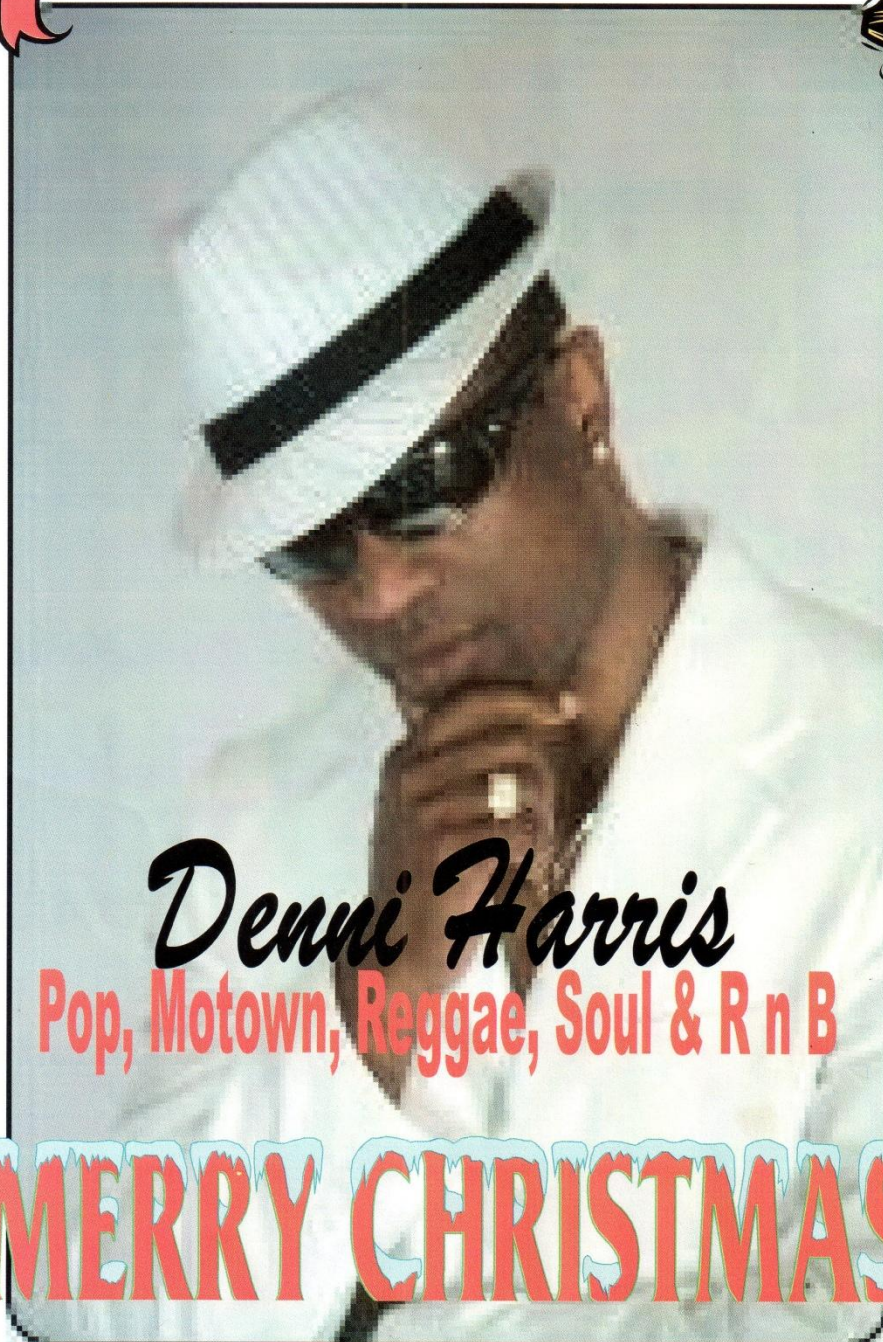
WK Promotions Ltd  
Presents...

# Christmas Eve

"At"



## The Sugar Loaf



*Denni Harris*  
Pop, Motown, Reggae, Soul & R n B

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

For Further Information or Bookings Telephone Stacy Tyler 07747 697573

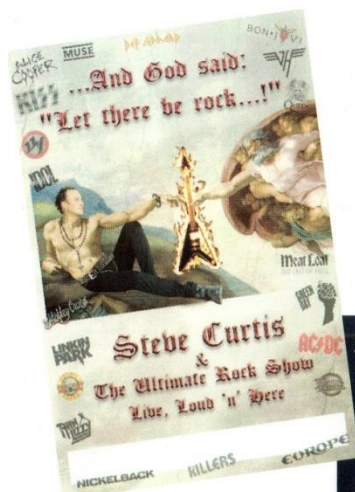
And.....

WK Promotions Ltd  
Presents...

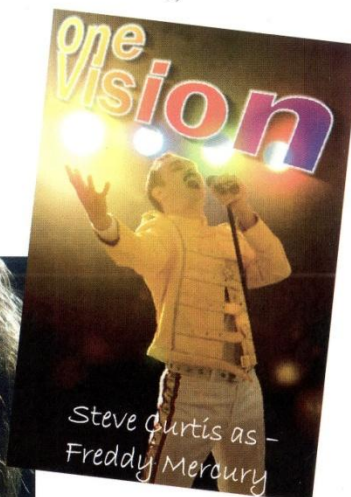
# New Year's Eve at

## The Sugar Loaf

### HAPPY NEW YEAR



Steve Curtis as...  
Jon Bon Jovi



Steve Curtis as -  
Freddy Mercury



**3 Great Tribute Performances  
By The Ever Popular Steve Curtis**

For Further Information or Bookings Telephone Stacy Tyler 07747 697573

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## 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*

**The Shefford Sports Club** is about to embark on the building of the Dean Johnson 'Buy a Brick' wall which will be situated in the reception area of the clubhouse building. This wall is in memory of Dean, who played for Shefford Saints but tragically lost his life in a car accident in October 2012. The wall will be made up of bricks purchased by people for a minimum donation of £25 which then have a personal message or family name printed on the face of them. As well as the brick wall the club is involved in a memorial football match which has been held for the last 2 years with one of the teams being made up of Dean's family and friends. Proceeds from this match are kindly donated to Shefford Saints by the family. If you would like to purchase a brick with a personal message or your family name and be a part of the fabric of the clubhouse for many years to come please email me for further details on [wayne.sheffordsaints@virgin.net](mailto:wayne.sheffordsaints@virgin.net)

No club can run without its committee and one of Shefford Saints' most enthusiastic and pro-active committee members is Pamela Johnson, our Membership Secretary. I asked Pam to put some words together and she kindly wrote the following for me:

"Since joining Shefford Saints FC committee in June 2013, I took on the role of Membership Secretary, looking after all the membership and league registrations for our teams - U5's to U21's. In addition to this I now also look after our pitch allocations for match days for all our home games, and started a Shefford Saints Club Shop with KLM Sports in Letchworth, enabling parents to purchase club merchandise. I also started up our 1st Shefford Saints Football Camp with Sportzone UK during the summer holidays, and I have since continued it during half terms as it was such a great success.

It has been an honour to take on such a fantastic role within the club. My son joined as a player at under 6 and now plays for the under 11's, so it was a natural progression for me to join and help children enjoy playing football and meeting new friends. It's has been a great pleasure as well to work alongside some amazing managers, with whom I have now developed great friendships, and without being part of such a great club I would never have met them.

If your son or daughter would like to play football, please get in touch. They will be part of a fantastic club, with some fantastic young players, and develop new friendships."

Pamela Johnson

Membership Secretary & Pitch Allocations, Shefford Saints FC

***Wayne Woodcock Shefford Saints U11 Reds, 07720 397 057.***

**[www.sheffordsaints.co.uk](http://www.sheffordsaints.co.uk)**



## 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 3: Washington, Philadelphia and New York.**

Washington, like other capitals of the world, has lots to see and is a busy, bustling place. We tried to do justice to it but really only scratched the surface. We visited Arlington Cemetery; saw President Kennedy's grave, the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the inspirational Iwo Jima statue with the soldiers raising that flag. It is a very large cemetery and impossible to see everything. We were unable to visit the Capitol because of the security constraints following 9/11. We did visit one of the Smithsonian museums and I had the chance to sit in a space capsule which had orbited the moon. I thought that 20 minutes cooped up in it would have been more than enough for me, it was so cramped, so how the astronauts managed for the length of time they had to endure, I do not know. We also saw the damage to the Pentagon caused by the hijacked airliner crashing into it. Even though repair work was being carried out the devastation was still very evident. The monuments also attracted us: the Lincoln Memorial, the hugely symbolic Vietnam Wall (so many names inscribed upon it) and the World War 2 memorial, all deserve mention. Finally, we stood and looked at the White House but saw no presidential movement at all.

From Washington it was up to Philadelphia to see, amongst other things, the famous Liberty Bell. Philly, as the city is known, was really the pivotal point of the fight for American Independence. It has lots of information regarding this period in history, which formed the basis of the United States as it is today. It was also in this city that we came across one of the founding, and I suppose you could say, most brilliant fathers of the fledging country, Mr Benjamin Franklin. Honestly, there he was in his 1700's finery, full powdered wig, silk hose and shiny buckled shoes. He performed very well, told us a lot about the city and the country's fight for freedom. When we said we came from England he started talking about the difficulties he had experienced trying to convince the people in London that the colonies were united in their determination to become independent unless better trading arrangements were made and taxation reduced. He was quite adamant that the greed of the Monarchy and the merchants in England was the major factor that lost them the colonies. He confided in us that he was not employed by any tourist office but had decided to play the part and earn his living from tips. He certainly looked the part and

played it well. Ruth had her photograph taken with him and we did cross his palm with silver!

From 'Philly' we travelled to New York City. We were able to camp right in the heart of New Jersey with a ferry stop nearby to take us to Manhattan or Staten Island and about a 5 minute walk away was an overground rail link into the centre of New York. This was fantastic and enabled us to visit the city very easily. We did the full tourist bit and saw how immigrants were processed at Ellis Island (a bit grim), and the poor conditions where they were forced to live in tenement blocks until they got employment and could move away. It was not all milk and honey by a long way. We are sure many must have had doubts once admitted to the US. The Empire State, Grand Central Station and Central Park all had a visit from us, as did Times Square and of course the Statue of Liberty where we climbed many steps to have a restricted view from her crown. Having seen the damage at the Pentagon we naturally went to Ground Zero where the twin towers had stood. This was very moving, especially the accounts and photographs displayed in St Paul's Chapel, literally a stone's throw away from the point of impact, which had served as a rest and relief station for the rescue services and even some of the rescued. New York is everything the films make it out to be, bustling, vibrant, exciting and noisy. A fantastic place to visit; no wonder they named it twice!

We have been asked how we found out about campsites in America. We had this huge tome produced by Woodhalls which needed a motorhome to carry it. No good for backpackers! The book contained thousands, well hundreds at least, of campgrounds throughout the US and you simply selected the State, then the town and away you went. Another book we had was also very good as it identified all the services available at junctions on the interstates; a little out of date but very helpful. You could certainly plan fuel stops and rest stops from it. Some of the campgrounds were excellent, others very rustic. Those in National and State parks tended to be on the rustic side. What was nice though was that the rustic sites invariably had fire pits in which you could safely light a camp fire to just sit and stare at, or, if you were feeling more adventurous, cook your own catch! We never really planned where we would go but simply selected an end point and let Winnie or recommendations guide us to the place.

*To be continued in next issue*

## LIFE ON THE WILD SIDE by JEREMY HOLDEN



### Sumatran Rabbit

When I was about five years old my parents ordered a set of wildlife encyclopaedias, which arrived by post once a week. I remember the first one arriving in a thin brown cardboard box. My brother and I huddled with my mother on the bed as she opened it. The cover featured an armadillo – the alphabetical first in any animal encyclopaedia. The photographs were what made these books amazing. At the time they featured state-of-the-art wildlife photography, with incredibly intimate images of everything from diatoms to duck-billed platypus. But there were some species that weren't represented by photographs but by coloured illustrations. There were few, but I always remembered these species because the implication was that they were rare, unseen, perhaps almost extinct, and this gave them an almost mythical quality. The New Zealand Huia was one – an unusual bird with a curved beak; Sumatran rabbit was another. The Huia was never seen again and is now considered extinct. The Sumatran rabbit it seems was just elusive and unknown, living hidden in the deepest, wettest mountain forests of Sumatra.

Years later, I found myself living in Sumatra. I learned that even twenty-five years on from my first encounter with the illustration there was still no photograph of a living Sumatran rabbit; in fact no one had seen it for many years. Occasionally we met locals who claimed to have seen them. They all said it was a stupid animal, very easy to approach and just pick up. It didn't sound much like the kind of rabbits I knew, which disappeared in a flash at the slightest sign of movement. But then the Sumatran rabbit wasn't a normal rabbit. It lived in dense rain forest for a start, whereas most rabbits were found in open grassy areas. It had small ears, and most remarkably a beautiful striped coat of brown and cream, like an Art Deco clock.

I decided to try and get the first photograph. Following up on a sighting made by a Sumatran friend, I placed a series of camera traps in the location he had seen two rabbits eating fallen fruit. When animals are poorly known it is important to use whatever scant information one can get on their habits. The fallen fruit was a clue. No one was sure what the rabbits fed on, but fallen fruit seemed as likely as anything else. I had to supply the bait. I chose a particularly aromatic type of guava that was in fruit at the time and placed 5kg around the

cameras. Three days later I went back to look. All the fruit had gone. The film showed only forest rats making repeated sorties to steal the guavas. I re-baited and tried again.

I had placed the camera traps on an extinct volcano at between 1800 – 2100 metres above sea level – the known habitat of the rabbit. Each time I baited the cameras I had to make the climb with 5 kg of fruit. And each time I came back with more pictures of rats. I got civets and a rare pheasant, too, but no rabbits. Elephants further complicated the task. Two domesticated elephants lived in the forests at the base of the volcano. They were supposedly tame, but living semi-wild had made them unpredictable. They had learned that I was making regular trips with a backpack full of odoriferous fruit, and they began to ambush me along the trail. It became more and more difficult to outwit them. A few guavas cast in the opposite direction as I tried to scurry past no longer worked. They wanted the lot.

After almost two months I reached the point of giving up. The tough climb up the mountain every few days, the rats and the elephants made me think I was



wasting my time. The guavas were getting harder to find, too. I made one last visit, breezing past the elephants without fruit, to remove the cameras. Back in town I discovered that on this last trip I had got the first picture of Sumatran rabbit. It was small in the frame and not an award-winning image, but the animal was caught in mid hop, and very

clearly a rabbit, despite its small ears and dense jungle home. It proved to be the first photograph of this elusive animal.

Fifteen years later and I am back in the same location setting cameras again – this time video camera traps. Last month we got the very first moving footage of Sumatran rabbit, hopping around the forest floor feeding on fallen fruit.

*Remember, you saw it here first: the first photograph of a Sumatran Rabbit! Ed*



## THE LUCY PAGES

By Lucy Standbridge, aged 13



For this month's article I interviewed Christina Steeley, who owns Spring House Beauty and Holistics. With some of Christina's other clients I attended their re-launch evening in September, which I will also be telling you about.

Christina is the owner, with 27 years' experience, and she works alongside Vicky, Louisa (Christina's daughter who is now qualified to do treatments), Sharon - an epilation (hair removal) specialist, and Elaine, who is a fully qualified beauty therapist. Spring House started in 2007 when they held an open day to launch the new business and 70 people came; they advertised with posters and in The Messenger, and offered free treatments. There is no specific age range, and her current clients are aged from 13 years to late 70's.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September I went along to the Spring House Re-Launch Evening to celebrate the new skincare range Love Your Skin and the salon's redecoration. Lorraine Winslade, the owner of Love Your Skin came and talked to us about the products and the benefits of looking after your skin. Lorraine has 40 years' experience in the beauty industry and works with the chemists who make her products so she knows exactly how they are made, and she chooses all the ingredients that go into them. The new décor matches the Love Your Skin colours, whilst keeping up with the time and giving it a fresh look. Christina said "I tried Love Your Skin from February, before using it in the salon, and I loved it".

The products they use are Love Your Skin, Orly Nail Varnish, Gelish and Calgel nail gels, Couture Tans and Neal's Yard. They can also give pamper days which include a range of treatments and lunch, and look out for their special offers on the back of the Messenger. The most popular treatments are hot stone massages, facials and gel nail treatments. The busiest days for Spring House are Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturdays.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE by PAUL SAVUTO

### PENSION CHANGES ON DEATH FROM APRIL 2015

A few months ago, I highlighted the changes with regards to how you can draw your pension income in retirement. The Chancellor has just announced some further important changes to what happens when you die with a Pension and also to the rules on Intestacy (dying without a Will). This month I will deal with the pension changes and come back to the intestacy rules next month.

#### **The Current Rules - 'Death Tax'**

The government has provided a further boost to pensions by abolishing the 55% 'death tax' from next year.

Under current rules, what happens to pensions when someone dies is quite complicated and depends on how old the deceased was and whether they had taken any money from their pension pot:

- If a person dies and their pension is in *income drawdown* – where the pension pot remains invested and an income taken from it – then their remaining pension pot can be paid out as a lump sum to a named beneficiary (maybe a spouse or child) minus the 55% tax.
- If a pension is '*uncrystallised*' – in other words no money has been taken from it – then a 55% tax charge is only payable on the lump sum paid out to beneficiaries if the deceased was over the age of 75; if the deceased was under the age of 75 then a lump sum can be paid out tax-free.
- There is another option for passing on a pension: that is for it to be paid out as income rather than as a lump sum. Individuals can pass their regular pension income on to a dependent, such as a spouse or children under the age of 23, but the people receiving may have to pay income tax on it.

As you can see the old rules are quite complex and the government is hoping to simplify them, and no doubt win a few votes in the process. So what's changing?

### **The New Rules**

Under the new rules, which will be implemented from April 2015, anyone who dies before the age of 75 will be able to pass their pension on to anyone they like, completely tax free.

- Unlike the old rules, it doesn't matter if the pension has been touched or crystallised; whether or not an income or lump sum has been taken from the pension pot, it can still be passed on tax free as long as the person who died was age under 75.

But what happens after age 75? With everyone living longer, what happens to a pension if you die after age 75 is of key importance. Unfortunately, the tax charge on pensions if the pensioner dies after age 75 has not been abolished but the rate at which a lump sum is passed on is still in transition:

- From April 2015, if a person dies after age 75 and their pension is passed on to their beneficiaries as a lump sum, it will be liable to a 45% tax charge. However, from April 2016, the government intends to make lump-sum payments subject to tax at the beneficiary's rate (known as a marginal rate) rather than a 45% flat rate.
- 
- As before, if beneficiaries want to take the deceased's pensions as an income, not a lump sum, the income paid out will still be taxed at their income tax rate (potentially zero).

This is just some of the detail and there are a few further complex points to note which I have not detailed above. If you have any questions about the changes please don't hesitate to contact me on 07834 499595.

Should you have any concerns around this or your pension provision, please feel free to contact me for a free initial financial health check.

## Beer Review: Lomond Gold - Organic Blonde Ale



Next up, this is a *Traditional Scottish Ales Ltd* bottle of *Lomond Gold Organic Blonde Beer*. The front label has a big silhouette of what is presumably a Scottish loch – Loch Lomond perhaps? The style of the text is something I like. The deliberately worn down typeface that looks as if it has come straight from the dark ages is very effective. It gives the impression that ancient Scottish clans might have stopped to drink Blonde

Ale, in-between fighting each other and the Vikings. This label also has the highest billing yet for ‘Organic’. This is definitely the new trend in beers and ales and it’s probably something that we’ll see a lot more of in the years to come. The half-litre bottle has an unremarkable 5% ABV.

On the back of the bottle, it’s clear that they have chosen to keep the label simple; just a white background, black text and some gold here and there. The ‘Tasting Notes’ tell us the ale is “Clean sharp and fresh-tasting with a hint of citrus and a very satisfying aftertaste”. Sounds yummy. “Triple filtered for added purity”. Now that’s something I’ve not read on any other bottle.

Under the ‘Ingredients’ heading, the organic



credentials are boosted further. Pure Scottish water, organically grown malted barley and organically grown hops and yeast are all mentioned. The Organic Certification logo is on there and the bottle contains 2.5 units of alcohol. *Traditional Scottish Ales Ltd* is from Stirling and you'll find their website at [www.traditionalscottishales.co.uk](http://www.traditionalscottishales.co.uk).

After being poured, the ale itself is nondescript. There's hardly any head to speak of and the colour is a subdued shade of gold. The smell is quite good though. Split roughly 70-30 of malted barley and hops. A couple of gulps in and I'm not sure what to make of the taste. There's nothing that jumps out at you. It's certainly not bad. There's a little bitterness in there, but not very much. It's quite clean and fresh in character. This isn't a particularly big, heavy and daunting drink. Not too gassy either. The aftertaste is hoppy and slightly sour, but not in a bad way. And yes, there are those hints of citrus that were promised on the label. In fact, all the things promised on the label are present. But is *Lomond Gold* any good?

There will be lots of you out there, with your flat caps, pipes and walking sticks who adore the bitter and malty flavours of the ale world. The organic links will also be of great interest to the pro-muesli brigade, but how to sum up *Lomond Gold*? *Traditional Scottish Ales* are a relatively new outfit and new breweries are to be encouraged. *Lomond Gold* will appeal to some people, but many may find it boring and lacking the character of the many other ales and beers out there. It does well with the clean and fresh taste and citrus hints and that is to be applauded, but with so many awesome Scottish ales out there, this needs to try that bit harder to stand out.

*Abridged from the first publication on [Hywel's Big Log](#) 2008 by John Thompson.  
Lomond Gold is available from Tesco*





## Henlow Church of England Academy



A big thank you to everybody who sent in Sainsbury and Nestle tokens in the last academic year. We have been able to obtain tennis racquets, balls, stop watches and a demonstrating plate for the Food Technology Dept.

Morrisons supermarket is now giving out tokens for this year's 'Let's Grow' promotion. Please collect and send these into school as our science garden and gardening club really appreciate the tools and seeds that we acquire through these tokens. Our Harvest Festival was very well supported and we were able to send over 25 large boxes of food to the 'Need Project' at Kings Baptist Church Stotfold.



We have a very busy term ahead and would like to keep you informed of the special events coming up that may be of interest to you:

There will be another Bags 2 School collection on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November**. Please sort out any old clothes, bedding and soft furnishings. The

School receives payment based upon the total weight of clothes donated.

Our 'School at Work' open evening will take place on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November between 6.30-8.00pm**. This is an opportunity for prospective pupils and their parents to come along and see what goes on in School and to try out a range of activities.

If you would like more information on any of the above please contact the School Office on 01462 813733  
email: [henlowacademy@schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:henlowacademy@schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk)

## PUZZLE PAGES

### SuDoku 1406

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

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

### Number Block Puzzle 001

Try to fill in the missing numbers.

The missing numbers are integers between 0 and 9.  
 The numbers in each row add up to totals to the right.  
 The numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom.  
 The diagonal lines also add up the totals to the right.

				21
8	6			22
		6	0	12
5				15
			1	19
26	13	27	2	16

(Solutions on page 33 – with thanks, as ever, to Paul Smith)

## **MEPPERSHALL SOCIAL CLUB**

### **Social Club Newsletter September/October 2014**

Our August entertainment, Kenny Bernard was reasonably attended, however we do need more support to continue to provide entertainment for all. Any suggestions for what you would like to see will be gratefully received and considered when booking our entertainment for 2015.

Congratulations go to the following domino players, Graham Walker & Baz Tingey, Doubles cup winners, and Shaz Tingey & Teresa Richards-Crosbie reserve cup winners.

In the crib league the team were league runners up, with Baz Tingey taking the captain's runner up.

The snooker completion finally came to conclusion with Phil Church taking the winner's cup & Andy Cannon the runner up.

Our regular monthly events are Karen's Karaoke & Paul Carnes quiz night, please see posters on display boards for dates.

Cash bingo on Friday evenings, eyes down 7.15pm.

Anyone from the village (or outside it) is welcome in the social club and indeed to any of our events (small charge for non-members)

Finally, our apologies for the incorrect Halloween disco poster in the last Messenger; the correct poster was displayed in and around the Social Club/Village Hall.

Further information: [sharon1805@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sharon1805@hotmail.co.uk)

## Speeding on Country Roads

Bedfordshire Police are reminding motorists to reduce their speed when driving on country roads.

Country roads are the most dangerous for all road users with more than half of all fatal collisions occurring on them. A significant factor in these collisions is speed and although the majority of country roads have a legal speed limit of 60mph, the road layout and conditions often do not suit this and require a lower speed.

Country roads have many characteristics that other types of roads do not have and when combined with high speeds, the risks to all road users are increased. Most country roads have no pavements, are narrow with frequent sharp and blind bends which require skill when negotiating. Country roads are generally not as well maintained as main and regular roads and so are more likely to have pot holes and fallen branches in them. These roads are also shared with slow moving farm vehicles and vulnerable road users such as horse riders, pedestrians and cyclists.

Inspector Philip Bloor of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Roads Policing Unit said: "Drivers must slow down on rural roads and remember that the national speed limit on these types of roads is a limit and not a target. The uncertain nature of rural roads means that if you are travelling at 60mph, you may not have enough time to stop should you encounter hazards on the road or if you meet other road users. Driving on rural roads can be an enjoyable and scenic alternative to other roads but please do not allow the inviting empty road ahead and the increased speed limits lull you into a false sense of security – slow down".

Bedfordshire Police will continue to carry out speeding enforcement on rural roads across the County and ask drivers to adhere to the following safety advice:

- Avoid overtaking – Overtaking on any single carriageway is risky. It's impossible to judge the speed of oncoming traffic, so if in doubt do not overtake. Arriving a few minutes later is better than not arriving at all.
- Slow down in bad weather conditions – Bad weather significantly affects stopping distances and grip on the road.
- Be aware of horse riders – When you see a horse rider in the distance, slow down in plenty of time to ensure any drivers following you also have time to get down to a suitably slow speed to pass.
- Be aware of cyclists and pedestrians – Ensure that the road ahead is clear of oncoming traffic to enable you to pass them leaving enough space.
- Slow down at bends – if you approach a bend at speed it could result in you crossing the other side of the road and either coming off the road or into the path of an oncoming vehicle.
- Night time driving – Rural roads tend to be poorly lit. Remember to use full beams and to dip them when oncoming traffic approaches.

## CALENDAR OF MEPPERSHALL EVENTS

### November 2014

<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup></b>		
Churchyard Working Party	From 8.30 am	St Mary's Church
Winter Fair & Fireworks	From 5.30 pm	Behind Village Hall
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup></b>		
Evergreens	2.15 – 4.00 pm	The Sugar Loaf
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>		
Karen's Karaoke		Meppershall Social Club
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup></b>		
Parish Council Meeting	7.45 pm	Meppershall Village Hall
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>		
Evergreens	2.15 – 4.00 pm	The Sugar Loaf
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>		
Robert Bloomfield Academy Winter Fair	10am to 1pm	Robert Bloomfield School
Switch-on Shefford Xmas Lights	6.00 pm	Shefford Town Centre
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>		
Xmas Craft Fayre	Midday – 4.00 pm	Shefford Memorial Hall
<b>Fri 28<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sat 29<sup>th</sup></b>		
Players Pantomime	See poster on p.37	Meppershall Village Hall
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup></b>		
Southill Lower School Xmas Fayre	12 Noon – 3.00 pm	Southill Lower School

### December 2014

<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b>		
Players Pantomime	See poster on p.37	Meppershall Village Hall
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>		
JC Christmas Craft Sunday	10.30 – Noon	Mepp. CE Academy Hall
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>		
Parish Council Meeting	7.45 pm	Meppershall Village Hall
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup></b>		
Christmas Quiz Night	7.00 – 10.30 pm	Shefford Memorial Hall
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>		
Pre-School Christmas Party	2.00 – 5.00 pm	Meppershall Village Hall
Macmillan Christmas Spectacular	6.30 pm	Dunstable Methodist Ch.
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup></b>		
Christmas Party	7.30 - Midnight	Shefford Memorial Hall
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>		
Denni Harris	9.00 - Midnight	The Sugar Loaf
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup></b>		
Steve Curtis tribute evening	9.00 - 1 am	The Sugar Loaf

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

### Solution to Su Doku 1406

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

## Number Block Solution 001

				21
8	6	7	1	22
4	2	6	0	12
5	5	5	0	15
9	0	9	1	19
26	13	27	2	16

## FILM REVIEW

**By Carlie Newman**

The WIZARD OF OZ (cert. PG 1hr. 43 mins.) is a gorgeous film which first came out in 1939 and has been shown periodically in cinemas and on television since then. We love the film for its story, the characters, the colour and above all the acting of the leading parts and the wonderful voice of young Judy Garland. How then can it be bettered or, indeed, can it be improved? The answer surprisingly is yes in the new version on 3D on the Imax screen.

The story remains the same: orphan Dorothy (Judy Garland) who lives in Texas with her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry along with her dog Toto, has a pleasant life except for a neighbour who objects to her dog and wants him put down. She is caught up in a tornado and knocked unconscious. Dorothy awakes to find the house spinning in the tornado and then she is put down in the Land of Oz.



It's Munchkinland and the film changes from black and white to technicolour. Glinda (Billie Burke) greets Dorothy and explains that she is the Good Witch of the North and she and the Munchkins (little people) are pleased because the house has landed on and killed the Wicked Witch of the East. Her sister, the Wicked Witch of the West (Margaret Hamilton), tries to claim the magic ruby slippers worn by her dead sister but Glinda gives them to Dorothy. Dorothy just wants to get back home and Glinda tells her to follow the yellow brick road to the Emerald City, where the Wizard of Oz (Frank Morgan) might be able to help her.

On the way Dorothy meets the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger) who wants a brain, the Tin Man (Jack Haley) who desires a heart and the Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr) who needs courage. They join her and thwart the witch's attempts to stop them getting to the Emerald City. The film has some exciting moments as well as some comic ones and can be enjoyed by all - except for the under 5s for whom it might be a little too scary - as it has been for many years,

Judy Garland has a lovely light voice and puts across the yearning as well as innocence of the young girl in the song, "Somewhere over the Rainbow." Her three companions are played beautifully by Bolger, Lahr and Haley and Hamilton's witch is suitably gruesome. Director Victor Fleming captures the heart of the story and has made a great film.

The original colour is still there and it remains a magical moment when Dorothy finds herself in the Land of Oz and all is colour. The colour is now enhanced and the depth of the scenery is brought out by the use of 3D. The Imax screen gives the whole movie a sense that one is actually partaking of the magic alongside Dorothy.





# The Meppershall Players



Have you got your tickets yet for 'Beauty & The Beast'? Will you be there to see if Merchant Muddleton can regain his fortune and find his way out the forest? Will Dame Batty learn how to fish? Will the Beast break his curse and will Belle find true love? The only way to find out is to get your tickets for this fun for all the family show.

Tickets for 'Beauty & the Beast' are on sale now at Roger's Bakery. Whilst serving you with bread, cakes, pies, honey and many more yummy things to eat, the lovely Mary and her ladies will be happy to sell you tickets to the very reasonably priced extravaganza that is Meppershall Players' 2014 pantomime.

The Pantomime Dates and Prices are as follows:

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> & Sat 29<sup>th</sup> November & Fri 5<sup>th</sup> & Sat 6<sup>th</sup> December

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

So get your festive celebrations off to a flying start with the Meppershall Players' 'Beauty & The Beast'

Future Productions:

'When the Lights Go On Again' - a celebration/commemoration marking the seventieth anniversary of VE/VJ.

Read-Through: Wed 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Auditions: Wed 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015, at the Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Performance: Fri 8<sup>th</sup> & Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015, 7.45pm at the Village Hall.

Tickets for 'When the Lights Go On Again' will be available to buy at the Pantomime 'Beauty & the Beast' priced £10 - no concessions but includes food.

We would very much like a pianist for 'When the Lights Go On Again'; if you are interested please contact Karen on 01462 816336.

Pantomime 2015 - 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Nov & Fri 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Dec - Robin Hood.

The Meppershall Players do have their own page on Facebook, which is updated on 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. 8th Nov., Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. so come along and enjoy a sing-song in a friendly atmosphere.

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 (Secretary) 01462 81633

## What'sit?



The answer to What'sit No. 4 is a small plaque high on the wall of 57 High street; it is not known what the initials stand for – possibly the builder, but the house is also called Jigglers Cross. The owner tells me that this name may be because, years ago, it was within sight of the cross roads where the jibbet stood, and hanged malefactors would jiggle in their last moments!

Now where is Whatsit No. 5?...





# The Meppershall Players

present

## BEAUTY and the BEAST

*A pantomime by Karen Mitchell*

***Performed at the Meppershall Village Hall***

***Friday 28th November***

***7:45pm - Adults £8, Concessions £7***

***Saturday 29th November***

***Our Charity Matinee***

***3:00pm - Adults £6, Concessions £5***

***7:45pm - Adults £8, Concessions £7***

***Friday 5th December***

***7:45pm - Adults £8, Concessions £7***

***Saturday 6th December***

***3:00pm - Adults £6, Concessions £5***

***7:45pm - Final Performance £9***

***(No Concessions)***

*Concessions are Senior Citizens and children under 16.*

*Tickets on sale at Roger's Bakery, Meppershall, Shefford and Barton*

*(01462) 813398*



## The Classic Combustion Shed – By Wayne Allen

### Lamborghini

Last month we began our Italian trip with a visit to the Pagani showroom and factory tour. We now move on a day and after recovering from the excitement of the Pagani sounds and smells our itinerary takes Sean and I just east of Modena to the site of the Lamborghini Museum and factory. I will cover the Lamborghini history in a later edition as it a fascinating birth. It is a vast building, way exceeding that of our previous location at Pagani, but then it is effectively a volume manufacture of high performance cars: still has an 18 month waiting list though! Now under Audi ownership, this is reflected in the rows upon rows of Audis in the car park; this leadership has made some significant changes in its operation, as would be evident later in our tour. One of the great things we had noticed on our tour is that you don't have to enter into the building to see and experience these wonderful machines. In true Italian style (or culture) they use the local streets as a test track. So by just being in the area you become part of the local pantomime where the ambient sound is disrupted by a newly assembled car screaming its V12 engine along the high street announcing its arrival like a new born baby.



So after salivating at the newly assembled cars on the test track, I mean local roads, we had pre-booked both the museum and factory tour, so first the museum. Once we had verified our booking at the reception desk, there is a sensory overload and panic to try to capture pictures before other visitors get in the shots of our advance- planned photographs. The museum is set out over two floors, rather like a supersized car showroom you might encounter here in the UK but let's say the contents in our view is a little more interesting. Lamborghini like most other manufactures we have seen in Italy are proud of their product and history. This is demonstrated by the layout of the cars on display and by the fact that there are no barriers to obstruct your pictures or general viewing of the cars. Some of these cars are priceless, one off



prototypes. One model that clearly stands out is the Mura shown in the picture, the one with eyelashes. Those of you who have seen the film "The Italian Job" may remember the opening scene set against the track sung by Matt Munro "On Days Like This" where a Lamborghini Mura is driving through the sweeping mountain

roads only to pass into a rock cut tunnel to meet its end by crashing into a bulldozer placed there by courtesy of the Mafia. This was a film which generated great discussion at school when it was broadcast on one of the 3 TV channels back in the 70s. Education complete!

The museum was combed several times to ensure we had completed our photography, and then we hiked down the street for some lunch and discussed the much anticipated factory tour. We later reassembled back at the Museum where we sadly had to comply with the camera amnesty by placing them in secure lockers before being allowed guided entry into the main factory. Once again relating to the sensation of Hollywood it was like having the golden ticket to attend the Willy Wonker's Chocolate Factory tour without those annoying kids in tow. We were guided through some doors that led us into a small reception area where one of the latest cars was on display. A second set of doors then took us into the factor. Please don't expect me to cover the sights we encountered here in this short piece because it would be impossible. What was very evident was that all the major components going into the cars had "Made in Germany" stamped on them. The one part of the car that is of pure Italian heritage was the interior trim shop. There was a beautifully displayed wall of leather samples in varying colours. Some of the colours were questionable - why do the rich have such bad taste? We observed the very skillful workers sewing the highly complex pattern parts into beautifully crafted seat cover, dashboard and door trim panels - truly exquisite!

We witnessed pretty much of the whole process involved in making these great cars apart from the spray shop. Our tour lasted approximately 90 minutes and we enjoyed every one of them. Once we completed the tour we were released



back into the museum, reunited with our cameras and the option of visiting the Lamborghini accessories shop. I cannot recommend this tour enough, it simply a great experience and one that, as a petrol head, you will never forget. A newly finished Lamborghini (left) returning to the factory after a test drive.

## **MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE PLAN**

Many people who live in Meppershall now were also living here in 2008. They will remember how a team led by John West looked at life in Meppershall under a number of headings:

Local Government; Countryside and Environment; Emergency, Environmental and Other Services; Retail Services & Other Facilities; Sports, Social & Entertainment; Housing Development; Transport & Highways; Education; Information & Communication; Employment; Religion.

Under these headings the team gathered data from many sources, but their main tool was a questionnaire which went to every household. Following an analysis of the responses, public consultations were held in order to obtain local views on some specific points. The net result of those efforts, which extended over 2 years, was a 17 page document which also went to every household. An electronic copy of that document can be found on the Village web site and is available on request.

There have been some tangible results from the exercise:

- One widely held concern was the danger to pedestrians walking down Shefford Hill. In due course this concern was met by the permissive footpath which opened in 2011 and which has just been extended.
- Respondents at the public consultations also indicated that some of them would like to form a Garden Club. Some of these respondents got together, and the MGC was born.

The Parish Council now considers that after 6 years the Plan ought to be reviewed. Councillor Bulley agreed to look to see what might be done. It appears that the first step could be to re-look at the 2008 material to identify areas where circumstances have changed and a new examination in depth is required. In other areas, there has been no significant change, for better or worse!

This needs to be a group exercise, but of the original 2008 Steering Group, 5 of the 11 members have either died or left the village. Two new members bravely volunteered at the last Council meeting, but there is a need for at least three more, preferably younger people, to get a range of views. If you would be willing to give a little of your time to benefit the community where you live, please contact Dick Bulley at the address or phone number given at the back of The Messenger.

# Meppershall Garden Club

Our September meeting took us to Hopley's Nursery in Much Haddam where we wandered through the lovely gardens and browsed the good selection of plants prior to making our purchases.

We have all been busy over the past few weeks enjoying the mild weather & taking the opportunity to get on with more jobs in our gardens. Thanks to the help and advice from MGC members and their families Martin & I are now well on our way with our new garden plans and I am looking forward to a winter salad crop in my raised beds!

One of our members recently held a Macmillan coffee morning. It was well attended by group members plus friends and neighbours who enjoyed cake and conversation. Thanks to their generosity and the donations from those who couldn't attend, £180 was raised. What a wonderful way to raise money for a good charity.

Here are a couple more of those tips brought back from one of our member's garden visits:

♣ Use leftover tea and coffee grounds to acidify the soil of acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, gardenias and even blueberries. A light sprinkling of about one-quarter of an inch applied once a month will keep the pH of the soil on the acidic side.

♣ Turn a long-handled tool into a measuring stick! Lay a long-handled garden tool on the ground, and next to it place a tape measure. Using a permanent marker, write inch and foot marks on the handle. When you need to space plants a certain distance apart (from an inch to several feet) you already have a measuring device in your hand.

♣ Next time you boil or steam vegetables don't pour the water down the drain, use it to water potted patio plants, and you'll be amazed at how the plants respond to the 'vegetable soup'.

From January 2015 the MGC Messenger pages will be changing - Both Marcia & I will be taking a break from our pages and future MGC articles will be supplied from various members of the group.

Contacts for the Meppershall Garden Club:

Linda Parker 01462 815114

Kim Lee Tyler 01462 811750

Sarah Till 01462 817176

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



## Fungi

At this time of year, 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,' there is a wonderful opportunity to go looking for fungi.

During the months of October and November there are several places locally to find these treasures, particularly if the weather is damp and warm. There are thousands of species in the UK and some are too small for us even to see. Many have weird and wonderful shapes and habits. Most of us remember the toadstools in story books but there are many more unusual ones.

Here are some to look out for:

### Eerie:

Found on dead elder, a reddish brown on the outer surface and inner grey and wrinkled. They look and feel like ears.

### Cramp balls or King Alfred's Cakes:

These are hard black lumps of fungus which grow on dead wood. Carrying the balls in your pocket was thought to safeguard against cramp!

Two interesting facts;

- Orchids cannot germinate without the help of fungi.
- Mushrooms can release up to 2.7 billion spores a day.

Places to visit for fungi:

### **Purwell Ninesprings, Hitchin**

A wet woodland which makes an ideal habitat for fungi.

### **Priors Wood, Stevenage**

A fantastic mixed woodland of oak, hornbeam, ash, field maple and wild cherry.

### **RSPB Sandy, Beds. SG19 2DL Tel: 01767 680541**

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November there will be a 'Fungi Foray'.

10am – 12.20pm or 13.30 - 15.30pm Adults £6 Children £3

You will need to book for this event. A guided walk to discover the fungi that fill the woodland at The Lodge. This will be led by expert Alan Outen from the Herts and Beds Fungi group.

Happy fungi hunting.

Marcia Bairstow

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Meppershall Village Hall

13th December 2014

2 till 5pm



- All the family welcome!
  - Activities for all
  - Homemade Cakes
- Meet Father Christmas
  - Refreshments



- Raffle
- Crafts and Jewellery
  - Gorgeous Gifts
- Christmas Fancy Dress Competition

**FREE ENTRY!**  
**Ring Debbie**  
**on 07713 627376**  
**for more**  
**information**

All proceeds go to Meppershall Pre-school

## Lewis's Further Adventures

### THE WORLD SHUDDERED

Fran and I were at a rather swish do in the Lifeguards Mess, best bib and tucker and all that, and everyone was having a hell of a time. The Regimental Corporal of Horse (RSM) called me to one side to tell me in confidence that President Kennedy of the United States had been assassinated. The Lifeguards would not 'Crash Out' into their Immediate Action deployment until the function ended, but if I wished to get back to my Workshop, he would understand. I told him, my unit would have already left to their defined locations and I would see the function through. He thanked me and bought me a tippie in which we both indulged, to seal our agreement. It was past two a.m. when we left the Mess; We hunkered down in bed and let the morrow take care of itself.

By 7.00 following a hug and a kiss from Fran I was on the road - very little traffic and I made Gutersloh in forty minutes; the VX was good for a ton! I parked up outside my office and walked round to Regt. HQ. A champ was parked up with the bonnet still warm, so I found the driver and got him to run me to the workshop location which was in dense woods some eight miles away. On arrival I was greeted by my 'tiffies': "Thank God you're here, no-one has a clue!". The sparks sergeant had a powerful receiver and we tuned in to the World Service and pulled up all the latest information: evidently the Soviets had nothing to do with it. None of their European Ground Forces had moved from their peacetime locations. We had a Major O.C. Workshop and a Captain 2i/c, but both were absent! I had a Clansman Radio and contacted Regt HQ: the orders were to hold our positions for 48 hours, and then we would then be contacted to confirm return to barracks. I had a walk round to chat with all my chaps, as usual they were in good spirits – it wasn't raining and with the info we had received on the Russians, I didn't insist on digging foxholes!

I took the opportunity for a closer look at our location: the trees were mostly fir and pine some forty feet in height; there were fire breaks every hundred metres or so and our repair vehicles were pulled off some twenty metres from one of these. The trees were all shallow rooted and the soil was a mix of loam and sand. It occurred to me that if this had been for real and tactical nuclear strikes or even heavy artillery bombardments had been made against us, the trees would be blown down randomly, rendering movement of the vehicles impossible. I had some fifteen vehicles and one bow saw on the Scammel Recovery Truck. Using the Scammel, I persuaded one tree to adopt a prone

position and then using the bow saw and relays of unwilling but somewhat bored technicians, removed all the branches and sawed up the trunk into five feet long sections; it took the best part of an hour. There were no spare blades for the saw (not on the inventory), but by rudimentary calculation I reckon a saw blade would last out for five trees maximum. We would certainly have run out of rations before we cleared the trees! Effectively my Workshop would be out of action for a very long time and the rest of the Regiment would be in a similar situation.

Time for the composition of an urgent signal to my O.C. and the Commanding Officer of the Regiment. My signal was not welcomed, because it told the truth and my O.C. had not thought about it. Essentially it outlined the problem and the inability to deal with it with the existing sparsely distributed hand saws. I suggested that powered saws, one to every five vehicles would allow us to ensure the operational readiness of our formation. I was called in to the Commanding Officer and he was very enthusiastic and agreed that this problem should have been addressed many years ago. He pushed it up to Brigade HQ who were supportive, however when it reached the Dead Hand of the Ministry of Defence it was turned down; insufficient funds was said to be the reason. The Russkies must have been laughing all over their backsides - what a way to run a railway!

After all the excitement, life steadied down to its normal measured pace. We as a family were blessed with a wonderful occasion: Fran gave birth to a son, Carl John in the Military Hospital at Rinteln. We brought them both home three days later, but unfortunately two days after that, Fran suffered a bad internal haemorrhage and had to be rushed 'blue light' back into Rinteln some thirty miles away; she was accompanied by the Surgeon Major of the Life Guards who ensured her priority treatment. I was looking after the family with a new born son less than a week old - however I applied all my organisational techniques and the family weathered the storm

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

*To be continued.*

## SPRING HOUSE BEAUTY & HOLISTICS RELAUNCH EVENING: THURSDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Continuing the theme of articles from our advertisers, Christina Steeley writes about Spring House Beauty & Holistics which was recently refurbished and re-launched.



We welcomed our guest speaker Lorraine Winslade, clients and guests to our newly redecorated salon here in Meppershall. Lorraine's talk was about her skin care and body range "Love Your Skin". She has trained in all aspects of beauty and holistic therapy and has spent a lifetime working to achieve optimum skin care. With a career spanning four decades, she has treated hundreds of clients and also been responsible for training thousands of students. Lorraine says 'Working with your clients skincare, you learn daily; years of experience is your training in the best solutions to all the issues that skincare can present.'

I have personally known Lorraine for over 20 years and I was very excited by the concept of a new skin care range that was affordable, simple for our clients to use and of excellent quality. These products are also ethically produced in the UK and use the finest of nature's ingredients to achieve a product range for the future!



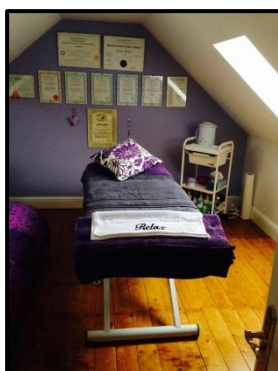
Spring House Beauty & Holistics has been open for more than 7 years. It has been an enjoyable business to operate, due to the perfect village setting in Meppershall. Our clients come from far and wide and our best forms of advertising are 'word of mouth' and our very informative Meppershall Messenger. Holistic therapies are beneficial for everyone. They are a natural way of helping your body to find balance and promote a healthy life style. Holistic therapies work on the principal that the body has a vital force, or life energy. It is this force that protects the body from disease and allows it to heal. We often refer to it as the "immune system". When the balance of the

immune system is disturbed we see the various symptoms of disease. Holistic therapies aim to help restore the balance, thus allowing the body to heal itself naturally. Remember that it is estimated that **75% of all illness** is due to the effects of stress and tension on the body! Holistic Treatments are one of the best methods to promote and restore balance within the body by easing tension and the effects of stress. Holistic health is a diverse field in which many techniques and therapies are used. The treatments that are available here range from facials, body massages, reflexology, aromatherapy, waxing, manicure, pedicure, gel nails, spray tanning, hot stone massage, lava shell massage, Thai-style herbal compress massage, Hopi ear candles, body exfoliation and Pamper Days too! Hopefully something for everyone!



We are open from Monday to Saturday and offer at least two late evenings. Gift vouchers can be purchased as an ideal surprise present for your friends or family. The back page of The Messenger is an ideal way for us to promote our special offer treatments, of which we try to offer three per month.

We are a small friendly team of fully insured and qualified therapists. I have been working within the beauty/holistic industry for the past 27 years and have gained a wide range of experiences working with clients from health farms to salons. I am also a beauty/holistic therapy teacher, assessor and internal verifier, having worked in both private and further educational colleges. Please feel free to pop in for a free consultation or call us on 01462 851629 to book an appointment.



Spring House Beauty & Holistics would like to be regarded as your local, relaxed and friendly salon in Meppershall. We have two treatment rooms of which one is a double sized room that can accommodate 2 clients at the same time - ideal for friends requesting treatments together.

Pamper days can be offered for up to 3 clients at any time. Parking is an added bonus which is also available right outside the salon.

We would love to meet you and your friends at Spring House Beauty & Holistics soon!

We would like to thank local businesses Chris Jones Property Services (Painter & Decorator) and Paul & Chris from Lucas, Huntley & Co (Patio Doors) [fellow advertiser in the Messenger] for helping us to refurbish the salon.

Christina Steeley  
CIDESCO CIBTAC IHBC IHHHT  
Member of the Federation of Holistic Therapists



Lorraine, Christina & Elaine



Many Clients and friends help celebrate the re-



**Parents, Grandparents, & Childminders are all welcome!**  
**Parents, Grandparents, & Childminders are all welcome.**

We hope everyone has had a great half term! We had lots of fun in October, seeing the start of our Autumn/Winter-themed sessions. On Messy Play week we made hand print leaves to turn our wooden house in to a treehouse! We also had the dark tent and torches out to help the children understand how the nights draw in. And the week before half term saw our usual Hallowe'en party. We had fun with our bouncy castle, dressing up, musical instruments and making Hallowe'en mobiles!

This month we have lots more great themes planned including dinosaurs, winter and of course Messy Play. Carol from Orchard Children's Centre will also be back on our Sport week (25th Nov.), where she will bring along soft play and other indoor sports equipment. There is no charge for this session, so if you haven't been to Tots before this is a great opportunity to come and meet us all and see what we're all about!

At the end of term we will have our fantastic Christmas party. More details to follow.

Thank you to everyone who comes along and those who lend a hand. We couldn't keep the group running without your continued support.

**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](mailto:meppershalltots@hotmail.co.uk)  
**Please ring Hayley on 07749 970742 for more information.**



## Ponderings

### November

Since the last issue the children have had another enjoyable visit from Reverend Roni who read them 'The story of the Hungry Caterpillar'. We have also been doing lots of activities linked to this popular story, like butterfly painting, and cutting out body parts to create a caterpillar or a butterfly. The children also enjoyed apple printing with apples parents have kindly donated, and have learnt about sharing food instead of being as greedy as the hungry caterpillar. We have also had Denise Price a local dog trainer visit with her dog. This went down very well with the children who learnt about some simple dog training techniques.

Look out for us at Meppershall Fireworks night on 1st November. We will be selling glow sticks and would love to see you all there. Meppershall Pre-school are now accepting Morrison's vouchers, so please do feel free to pop them in any time you see the sign outside.

At the end of November Creative Camera Photography will be along to do professional portrait sittings with all our children/families on request. We are also looking forward to our Christmas Fayre which will be on Saturday 13th December in Meppershall Village Hall between 2 and 5pm. There will be many activities for all the family including Santa's Grotto, a raffle, and a Christmas fancy dress competition. There will also be a range of crafts, jewellery, other gorgeous gifts, and delicious refreshments on offer. It will be FREE ENTRY to all.

We now only have a few places left to fill at Meppershall Pre-school. If your little one has turned 2 and is ready to make new friends and enjoy our stimulating, safe environment, or if you would like them to join our waiting list please ring Tamsin our fantastic leader during session time on the number below for more information. We are open every morning from 9:15 till 12:15, and each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon from 12:15 till 3:15 (term time only).

**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](mailto:info@meppershall-ps.co.uk), or visit [www.meppershall-ps.co.uk](http://www.meppershall-ps.co.uk) to find out more about the Early Years Foundation Stage and exceptional care we offer.**

# Meppershall Bangs!



## WINTER FAIR & FIREWORKS

NOVEMBER 1, 2014

FROM 17:30

FIELD BEHIND VILLAGE HALL,  
MEPPERSHALL



**Pumpkin & Best Guy  
competition!**

**Hot Food**

**Craft Stalls**  
Warm cider, apple  
juice and gluhwein!

**Children's  
Entertainment**



Pre-Sale Tickets available at  
Meppershall Village Stores:

Adults £4 \*Children £3

On the night: Adults £5 \*Children £4  
(3 and under FREE)

\*Children aged 14 and under accompanied by an adult



## All Sorted! - Mixed Waste Recycling

Central Bedfordshire residents are amongst the top recyclers in the country, currently recycling and composting more than 50 per cent of all household waste. But if you've ever wondered what happens to the contents of your recycling bin once it's been collected from your home, the following five steps explain:

**1. Collection** - Once your kerbside recycling is collected by the recycling collection vehicle (RCV) it makes its way to materials recycling facility (MRF) located near Elstow, Bedford.

**2. Weighing** - On entering the MRF the fully loaded vehicle drives across a weighbridge to establish the type and weight of material collected. When the RCVs leave they are weighed again.

**3. Tipping** - The RCV tips the recyclables in a large tipping hall. Here mechanical shovels scoop the mixed recyclables onto a bag splitting machine.

**4. Sorting** - The loose materials are then loaded onto a conveyor belt and sorted by hand. Staff separate paper, cardboard, aluminium cans and plastic bottles into individual containers whilst large magnets grab steel tins. Other plastics such as cartons are sent to the Milton Keynes MRF where a further sorting is carried out by a more refined process.

**5. Squashed** - Once separated, the materials are squashed into bales so they can be easily transported. The bales are stored until there's enough to send to re-processors in the UK or abroad, who turn the recyclables into new products like cans, newspaper and plastic items.

### So what does it end up as?

- **Newspaper and cardboard:** paper and cardboard products such as newspapers, paper bags, and egg boxes.
- **Steel cans:** radiators, washing machines, fridges, nails or even a bridge!
- **Aluminium cans:** new cans which could be back on the shelf within a week!
- **Plastic bottles:** garden furniture, compost bins and fleece clothing.
- **Other plastics:** traffic bollards and refuse sacks.
- **Clothing & textiles:** cleaning cloths or felt used by the automotive industry for sound proofing.

Ian McMurdy, Waste Awareness Officer at Central Bedfordshire Council, says: "It's great that so many of our residents recycle but it's also important to put in only items that can be recycled: others can cause problems at the materials recycling facility, resulting in some recyclable items ending up in landfill. Not all materials that have a recycling symbol can be recycled through our doorstep collections. The message is: if in doubt, leave it out!"

For more information about waste and recycling, visit

[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/recycling) or call Central Bedfordshire Council on **0300 300 8302**.

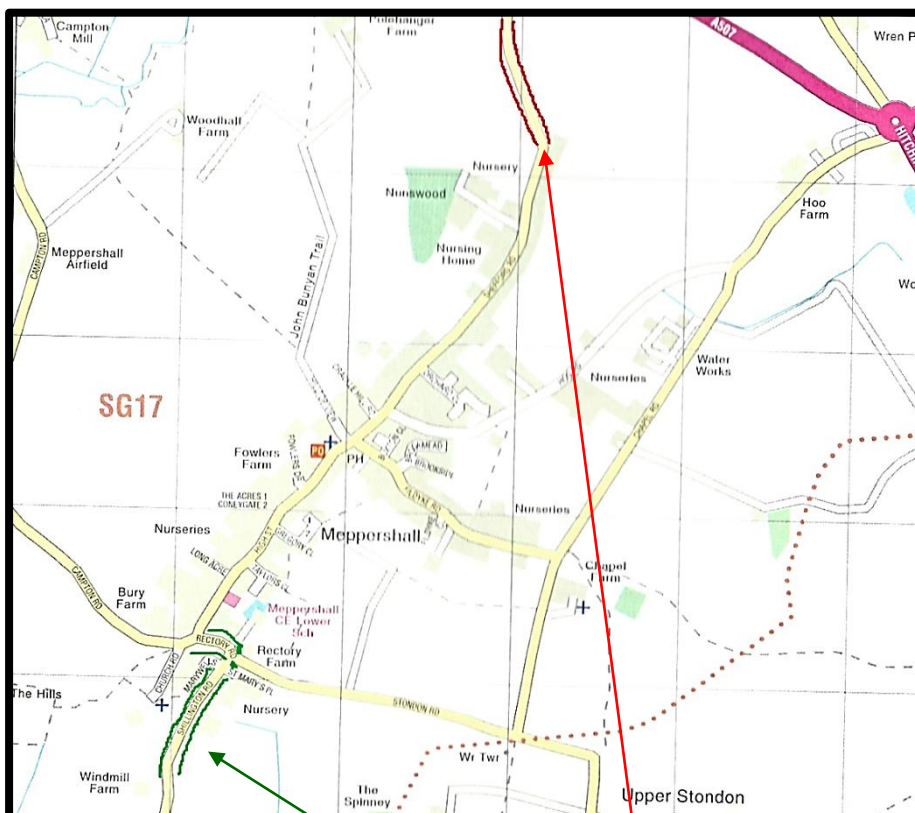


## ***More of Modern Life is Rubbish***

**David Turner**

Last month I wrote about the problem of rubbish accumulation in and around Meppershall, suggesting that it might be worth mapping individuals' efforts to keep our local environment litter-free. I was delighted therefore to find that I have a kindred spirit in Chris Foster (see Letters Page) and 'the ball' is now firmly rolling with two main stretches of road so far taken care of :  
Chris - Shefford Hill; Myself - Shillington Road.

I think it unlikely that Chris and I are the only two people undertaking this type of work. I appeal again - let us know at the Messenger if you are doing anything similar, or are ready to 'adopt' a section of road or footway of your choice. (contact details for the Messenger Team's can be found at the back of this magazine). My hope is that we will soon have sufficient detail to make publishing a map to illustrate 'who does what' worthwhile. The (admittedly outdated) map shown below will give you an idea of the sort of thing that I have in mind:



***Key (sorry you can't see the colour!):***  
***Shefford Road (Red lines) – Chris Foster***  
***Shillington Road (Green lines) – David Turner***

*I appealed last month for write-ups of trips that readers had made in their holidays. I have not been snowed under with stories, but I really would like them.*

*Gillian's did not write her piece below specifically for that slot, but I hope she will not mind my using it to launch the series. - Ed*

For our September 'Get Together', some of the Garden Club took a ride out to Hopley's Nursery in Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. ([www.hopleys.co.uk](http://www.hopleys.co.uk) SG106BU)

Hopley's is a working nursery which grows a large variety of plants that are not widely available in garden centres. They have exhibited at over 250 shows across the country and have won gold medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. There is a four acre plantsman's garden open to the public, featuring over 4000 varieties of trees, shrubs, grasses, conifers and rockery plants. The restaurant is really good, with a wonderful choice of lunches and the most delicious cakes! Alternatively the Bull Inn nearby is listed in the Good Food Guide.

To round off our visit we stopped off at Pearce's Farm Shop and Strawberry Farm on the A10 near Puckeridge which, in addition to selling local fruit and vegetables, has a very good delicatessen and restaurant.

If you are visiting Much Hadham, The Henry Moore Foundation is nearby at Perry Green. The home and garden of Henry Moore, it houses a large collection of his sculptures in a wonderful setting and really deserves a day visit on its own.

Gillian Smith



THE FRIENDS OF SOUTHILL LOWER SCHOOL  
School Lane, Southill, Near Biggleswade

CHRISTMAS FAYRE  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 12noon -3pm



Please come along for a wonderfully festive afternoon. With a varied selection of retail stalls, enchanting Santa's Grotto, children's stalls and craft activity, festive refreshments, a great raffle and more - **FREE ENTRY!**

There is still some availability for stallholders, please contact Kath Dilley via 0771 564 1204 or [dilley.dog@virgin.net](mailto:dilley.dog@virgin.net).



Hope to see you there! Your support will help raise much needed funds for the benefit of the school children.



Caritas Harmony Are Joined By Ladies  
from Herts, Beds & Bucks To Gift A Song  
For Macmillan At Christmas

**Christmas Spectacular**  
**6.30pm Sat 13 December 2014**  
**Methodist Church, The Square,**  
**Dunstable LU5 4NA**

**Tickets £5 from Brenda on 01582 873656**  
Children 12 and under free

email - [info@caritasharmony.co.uk](mailto:info@caritasharmony.co.uk)

[www.caritasharmony.co.uk](http://www.caritasharmony.co.uk)

St Mary's Church, Meppershall  
Junior Church

## Christmas Craft Sunday



**Aged 3-12?**  
**Join us at Junior Church**  
**On**  
**Sunday 7th December**  
**10.30am to 12noon**  
**In Meppershall CE Academy**  
**School Hall**  
**For Christmas Crafts and Fun!**



## COVERS BY REQUEST

Our cover picture this month was taken by Enid Pamment on a Shefford Leisure Group outing to the St Albans Cathedral Flower Festival in September.

Lyn Bewes and Gillian Thomas represented Meppershall at the St Albans Music in Bloom Flower Festival. Displays from around the Diocese followed the theme by illustrating a song or hymn. Meppershall's flower arrangement - 'Sipping Cider' - was widely acclaimed. The Abbey was a stunning setting for a spectacular event, attracting more than 100 displays, more than 10,000 visitors and a variety of musical acts to add sound to the colours on show.

You may also notice that the picture behind our title has subtly changed. We noticed that the shrub behind the Meppershall sign was looking particularly fine, so David Turner took a new picture of it for us.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### **Charlie Taylor**

In the last issue we reported Charlie's death but also, due to an editorial lapse, we recorded the birthday which, sadly, he never reached. We apologise sincerely to the Taylor family for any distress caused.

### **Birthdays in November:**

Jean Ford will be 82 on 10<sup>th</sup> and  
 Poppy Ashton will be 86 on the same day.  
 Ann Hutchinson will be 80 on 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Anne Gilmour will be 83 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Many congratulations to all of the above.

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If you know of a significant event in the village, please let the Editor know: we are looking for things to celebrate! 80<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>, and 100<sup>th</sup> 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

### Shefford Christmas Lights

The switch-on date is the 22nd November at 6pm.  
 Father Christmas will be in attendance and Peppa Pig.  
 Carol singing will precede the switch on and we hope to have the  
 Military Wives choir.

### Shefford Town Memorial Hall, Hitchin Road, Shefford

**Xmas Craft Fayre** 23rd November 12 midday until 4pm. Free Entry to buyers.. Lots of stalls with local crafts. Xmas carols coffee & cakes Licensed Bar. Contact Linda 01462814582

**Christmas Quiz Night** 12th December. 7 pm until 10.30. Tickets £3 each team of up to 8. Free mince pies & Crackers . Prize for winners. Contact Brenda 01462813264

**Christmas Party** 19th December. 7.30 pm until midnight. Live Entertainment & Disco. Tickets only £5. Contact Linda 01462814582

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

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

For weekday services and confessions please see notices in the church or telephone:  
 Parish Priest Canon Noonan on 813436 or  
 Parish Secretary Rose Boulton on 811547 or email [rosedene@talktalk.net](mailto:rosedene@talktalk.net)

## Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin (Church of England)

Church Road, off Campton Road, Meppershall

[www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk) ✝ [facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall](https://facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall)



**Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman**

01462 339962 – [ronigoodman@gmail.com](mailto:ronigoodman@gmail.com) – usual day off Monday

**Churchwardens:**

Dawn Abbatt 01462 816962

James Read 01462 857836 Email: [Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com](mailto:Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com)

**PCC Secretary:**

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

### Things to Look Out For...

**Churchyard Working Party** – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Feeling fit for some volunteering? Come and have some fun with village friends and neighbours while trimming back, raking up and clearing out the churchyard. Refreshments served. Bring your own rake, gloves, and any other preferred tools! Come from 8.30am for as little or as much time as you can spare.

**Remembrance Sunday** – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Gather in church from 10.45am, including the Act of Remembrance at the memorial in this, the Centenary year of the start of the First World War.

**Second Sunday Stroll** – also Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Meeting later at 2.30pm for a loop walk from the church, returning to church, out via Conegate, Chapel Farm, the Watertower and Chibley Farm and back via Shillington. A short 3 mile outing.

**Christingle** - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Candlelight in the church as we herald the coming of Christmas.

**Santa's Float!** - Saturday-Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> December – Santa touring Meppershall on his float, including community carol singing at the Sugar Loaf (Saturday) and Social Club (Sunday).

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

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 20 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	11.00am 11.00am 6.30 pm	Parish Communion Junior Church at the School Service of Special Memories
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> November	9.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> November 21 <sup>st</sup> after Trinity	11.00am	Service of Remembrance Meet from 10.45am
Remembrance Sunday	2.30pm	Second Sunday Stroll – a later departure from the church gate and a 3 mile loop, returning to church for refreshments.
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup> after Trinity	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion All Age Family Service
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup> after Trinity Christ the King	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion Parish Communion
Weds 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	9.00- 9.30pm	Silent Together – all welcome to enjoy and sit in the quiet of the church
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Advent	11.00am	United Benefice Service – joining with Shefford for this joint service at St Mary's.
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am 11.00am  4.30pm	Parish Communion Junior Church at the School  Christingle Service

**A Message from St Mary's...**

We have just had a busy time and we have a busy month to come.

First of all, Gift Day: a huge THANK YOU to all the children for the lovely artwork that they gave us to display. THANK YOU to those who came to see, and who enjoyed our tea and cake, and abseiled their teddies from the tower!

We hope you had a great time. THANK YOU for the gifts you gave to keep the church alive and well this year and, we hope, for years to come.

Harvest 2014 was a lovely celebration in Church. Our focus in the morning was 'people in difficulty', and our food donations went to the Need Project – the food bank which does such good work locally. In the afternoon our international focus was Christian Aid's Appeal for Bread for the Sudan. We had a 'round the world bread quiz', blindfold bread tasting, made hedgehog rolls, watched Christian Aid's Appeal Film and ate delicious Sudanese stew together (although we confess we swapped the 'Scotch Bonnets' for something a little milder - see the Christian Aid website for recipes).

Again, THANK YOU to those who made it happen and those who came and joined in! Also a huge THANK YOU to those who decorated the Church for Harvest. What wonderful displays and beautiful sunflowers we had – welcoming the autumn. See [facebook.com/stmarymeppershall](https://www.facebook.com/stmarymeppershall) for photos.

With November upon us the Church turns to remembering:

First, All Saints Day celebrates joyfully those men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work.

Then we will turn our thoughts to remember with thanksgiving before God friends and family who have died. A service of 'Special Memories' will offer the space to remember our loved ones together... with love and a sense of loss, but - because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection- not without hope.

Remembrance Day brings the opportunity - and faithful duty - to honour those who have given their lives in service of this country and its freedoms. We pray for those service men and women who continue to stand in harm's way, in commitment to their service, today.

On November 23rd, the Church year draws to a close with the feast of Christ the King. Every Sunday, we say "On the third day he (Jesus) rose again.... he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father." We end our year with joy-filled hymns that celebrate Jesus' return to his Father's side and proclaim him King of Earth and heaven.

Finally, the mood changes once more - this time to one of waiting and preparation. Advent Sunday invites us to begin telling ourselves His story, and our story, again... this time particularly through the Gospel of Mark. A Happy New Church Year to you all.

Roni

**St Mary's Church, Meppershall  
Junior Church**

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Junior Church supports;

**Operation Christmas Child**

Last year Junior Church helped support the enormously successful operation Christmas Child project in conjunction with the Brownies. So, save your shoe boxes and join us to fill shoe boxes which will then be distributed by the project.

Junior Church will take place on:

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November,  
11am  
in  
Meppershall CE School Hall**

Please do come along and help us to support this very worthwhile cause.

Contributions are welcome, but do still come even if you do not have anything to bring, there will be plenty to fill the boxes.

Junior Church is also looking forward to the fantastic **Christmas Craft** session which will be held on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – see the separate advert, but put the date in your diary.

If you have any question regarding the session on 2<sup>nd</sup> November or any future sessions, please contact Gillian on 850947.

Blessings

The JC Team



**LONDON PARTICULAR (thick pea soup)****NOVEMBER 2014**

450g (1lb) split dried peas.  
3 rashers rind less streaky bacon.  
1 onion, peeled and roughly chopped.  
1 carrot, peeled and diced.  
1 stick of celery, chopped.  
2.5 litres (4 pints) chicken or ham stock.  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
6 tbsp, double cream, (optional)  
Grilled bacon chopped, to garnish.

**Method**

- 1) If the dried peas need soaking, do this first, following the manufacturer's instructions. Put the bacon, onion, carrot and celery in a large saucepan and cook for 5-10 minutes, until beginning to soften.
- 2) Add the peas and stock and bring to the boil. Boil rapidly, uncovered for 10 minutes, then cover and simmer for around an hour, until the peas are tender.
- 3) Allow to cool slightly, then puree in a blender or food processor, until smooth.
- 4) Return the soup to the pan .Season to taste, and reheat gently. Serve hot, with a swirl of cream, if using, and garnished with the chopped bacon.

*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 November**

Alice Geneux who will be 12 on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Ben Halford who will be 10 on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Freddie Hefford who will be 9 on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
George Hing will be 2 on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
Scarlett Vernon who will be 3 on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Abbie Saunders who will be 15 on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Lucy Wallace who will be 11 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Cory Browning who will be 2 on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Alex Thorne who will be 15 on the 28<sup>th</sup>  
George Underwood who will be 2 on the 29<sup>th</sup>

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

### DISCLAIMER

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

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<u>Collating Dates for your Diaries</u>					
<u>2014</u>			<u>2015</u>		
			January	26	
			February	23	
November	24	<b>Double</b>	March	30	
December	NONE		April	27	
			May	26	<b>Tuesday</b>
			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.*