

# The Meppershall Messenger



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## EDITORIAL

I've been in a reflective mood as I pondered the challenge of my first editorial for the Messenger. I know from reading Dick's thoughts in the March issue that the magazine is a team effort, but the editorial is very much a personal view of the editor.



Starting with the April edition makes a great deal of sense to me. As a gardener, April is the beginning of the yearly cycle - up till then everything has relied on work done during the previous year, but from April onwards you can sow in reasonably expectation of a harvest in the current year. This impression of new beginnings is reinforced, as I write, by the memory of a string of mild sunny days, of walks in a local countryside filled with birdsong and just a hint of that especially bright green that is the early spring growth. We may be a long way from harvest, but April is a good month to think about new beginnings.

So, what does this mean for The Messenger as it reaches its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue?

I value the Messenger's closeness to Meppershall village, its finger on the pulse of what is going on and for providing a forum to air issues of community interest. I am not sure however, whether that is what **you** value about **your** Messenger. A few contributors have elected to retire alongside Dick, so the magazine will be slightly thinner until new contributors come forward. This presents an opportunity, to continue the analogy, for sowing new seed.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, we will hold the Annual General Meeting of the Meppershall Messenger in the Sugar Loaf Public House. This is your opportunity to hear how your magazine is managed and to share opinions on the content.

Alternatively, if you have new ideas or suggestions to put forward you can always contact the editor.

Mike McConnell

## LETTERS

### Letter from John Chapman:

Referring firstly to the correspondent in the February Messenger regarding road markings, I concur with his observations surrounding the footpath markings and red pinch point areas. I scoured the Internet and could find no precedent or information regarding these (only where painted pinch points indicate a 'Village Gateway'). One of the green strips is already in need of resetting as it is partially sinking; interesting to note that painted green strips in Shefford indicate cycle ways. Hopefully, the correct six signs for a crossing will be installed soon at all three points. Anecdotal evidence suggests that horses will not cross them easily either. It is also extremely patronising of the council to suggest that pedestrians are apparently incapable of crossing directly from one side of a narrow road to the other without direction although it is not, it seems, necessary across our road junctions (yet) or where children cross the High Street to catch school buses!

Over the last two years we have seen the Great Meppershall Street Lamp Experiment unfold. This began with the flat LED replacement lamps in Crackle Hill Road and continued with the orange lamps, which have lit our streets for decades, being arbitrarily replaced with various alternatives presumably to SAVE money in running costs. In a sensible way the Shefford Road lamps were then gradually replaced by white lamps seemingly as the orange lamps failed. Then, all but one of the lamps in Orchard Close were cut down and replaced with capping posts and white tubes. Recently ALL the lamps in the High Street and Shefford Road, including those already recently replaced, have been replaced with a totally different lamp. This extended to side roads including HALF of Orchard Close, which now has 3 different lamp types.

This leads me on to the bus stop debacle. Last year, bus stop signs and associated painted road markings were installed throughout the village. Within a matter of weeks the signs were then moved and the road markings burned off and repainted. There is still an orphaned post at the top of Orchard Close just to remind us of this.

In a time of austerity, how can the Council justify this sort of behaviour bearing in mind that a simple road sign can cost in excess of £500 to make and install (and re-position)? The many thousands of pounds wasted on the above may have been better used to repair our crumbling pavements, for instance.

John Chapman



*I am very grateful for the opportunity to reply to the letter from John Chapman which came in 'on my watch' even though too late to be included in the last issue for which I was responsible.*

*I think I should first clarify that Meppershall Parish Council has no authority in the areas of road markings, street lights or bus stops: executive responsibility for all these matters lies with Central Beds Unitary Council (CBC). The role of a Parish Council is simply to act as a communications interface between CBC and parish residents. On that basis I asked for comment on John Chapman's letter from CBC.*

*Dick Bulley (Former Editor)*

Dear Editor,

I note your correspondent's comments on the coloured road surface sections included in the Meppershall Traffic Calming scheme carried out last September. The two locations of green imprint material had been included in the scheme to provide an optimum arrangement in highlighting crossing points aligned with the adjacent off road footpath route, indicating the continuous footpath route.

Monitoring of the Meppershall traffic calming scheme will provide the opportunity to assess the durability of the green imprint; we will also arrange for removal of the redundant bus-stop post near Orchard Close. Initial findings have shown the traffic calming scheme has raised driver awareness of the special nature of the village environment and had a positive impact on traffic conditions.

The variation in lighting along the length of Orchard Close comes from changes in lighting technology. LED is the current innovative light source being supported for 'roll out' across Central Bedfordshire. The remaining concrete column on Orchard Close is not fit for purpose, and will be replaced in line with the LEDs recently installed. The work has been scheduled to take place in April/May 2015, the same time as the six remaining white lights will be upgraded to LEDs too. The result being that all the lighting will be of the same 'type' and be more efficient.

Nick Chapman

Transportation Manager, Consulting & Strategic Infrastructure, AMEY

*[The following refers to Marcia Bairstow's letter in the March Edition]*

Syria is falling apart; Libya is in flames; in Iraq, killing each other seems to be a national pastime; the Ukraine is a human tragedy, Gaza and many other places in the world, ditto.

In Meppershall, the big issue of today (pardon the pun) is the one of a few dogs widdling on a 'private' gatepost. We are, truly, blessed to be living here. Aren't we?

Roger Crawford, Woodview Nurseries, Shefford Road.

## BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



BEMAT is a unique alliance, made up of Gothic Mede Academy, Gravenhurst Academy, Etonbury Academy, Langford Village Academy, Robert Bloomfield Academy and Samuel Whitbread Academy.

We have the following vacancy within BEMAT and welcome applications from suitably qualified candidates.

EXAM INVIGILATORS

**Based at:** Samuel Whitbread Academy  
**Required:** From 5th May and 25th June  
**Salary:** Current hourly rate of pay is £7.71 per hour

We are looking to recruit reliable, conscientious and trustworthy individuals to join our team of Invigilators here at Samuel Whitbread Academy.

If you are able to commit some of your time to help us with the Summer examinations we would like to hear from you!

Ideally, we would like you to be available from 8.00am – 12.10pm for morning sessions and/or 12.10pm – 4.00pm for afternoon sessions.

You do not have to be available for every day or session, but the more the merrier!!

Experience, although desirable, is not essential as training will be given.

Applicants must be willing to undertake a DBS clearance (formerly known as CRB). If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information, please email [SWA-Examofficer@bemat.org.uk](mailto:SWA-Examofficer@bemat.org.uk) or telephone 01462 628008.

We are committed to the safeguarding and promotion of children's welfare and offers of Directorship are subject to satisfactory DBS.

## DICK BULLEY'S RETIREMENT

As Messenger insiders know, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, the last Monday of the month was a collation-day. As is usual practice, the team of volunteers met together in the Sugar Loaf to undertake the last few tasks needed before the magazine is ready for distribution. These steps typically comprise collating the pages that form the body of the magazine (the white pages), assembling them with the colour-printed covers and inner advertising pages and stapling the complete magazine together. With many hands making light work, the whole print run is usually completed well within a couple of hours.



**Dick Bulley with his last edition of the Messenger and the incoming new editor**

With all the committee members present to lend a hand, the day provided the perfect opportunity for the team to mark the retirement of Dick Bulley after seven years as editor of the Messenger, as the last edition of the magazine published under his auspices rolled off the “production line”.

The Committee presented Dick with a token of their gratitude – a cake and a bottle of his favourite tipple. There were congratulations and well-wishes from everybody present.

We all wish him well during his retirement but we have a feeling that the team at the Messenger has not seen the last of Dick.



**Dick Bulley with cake and bottle!**



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 – March 2015**

On 7<sup>th</sup> March the sun shone brightly on Meppershall as we held our Spring Fayre. It truly felt like the first spring day of the year and added perfectly to what was an amazing event.

BBC Three Counties Radio made an appearance as part of their 'Treasure Quest' feature, so the day got off to an exciting start.

We were blessed with a huge number of people turning up to support the school. Once here, they were able to enjoy tea and home-made cakes, various commercial stalls, our local photographer and ex-parent of the school, traditional games including 'welly wanging' and 'guess the number of sweets on the cake', a very well supplied and attended tombola, a raffle, and an extra special raffle where the top prize was for a £150 voucher for Champneys.

We were delighted with how many past pupils came and enjoyed looking around the school again and then sat together on the Pirate Ship outside, reminiscing, despite now being nearly 6ft tall. It was a real family event and we raised just over £1000! Thank you so much to MAPTA (Meppershall Academy Parent Teacher Association) who worked so hard to organise this event and thank you to everyone who attended and made this such a friendly, warm (and profitable) event.



An amazing array of characters arrived at school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March as we celebrated World Book Day. Children and staff dressed up and brought in their favourite books to share with each other. Miss Hornsey held an assembly to introduce the day. We had a fashion parade and the list of book characters was truly impressive. Just some of the characters included witches, a few Harry Potters, Cruella Deville, Miss Battleaxe, the Cat in the Hat, Primrose, Wendy (with Peter Pan shadow), Captain Hook, the Big Bad Wolf, Ann, the cat from Room On a Broom (plus all other characters from the story on the broomstick), Tigger, Aladdin, Woody, dinosaurs, various Matildas, Dorothy, Toto, Alice in Wonderland, princesses, fairies, Cinderella, assorted Little Red Riding Hoods, Goldilocks, Princess Elsa, a ladybird and Spy Dog. There were many other characters too! The staff talked about their favourite children's book. We were lucky to be joined by some parents throughout the day who shared stories with the children. Just before home-time the children were able to choose a classroom to go to where they could hear a Fairy Tale being read. The choices were Rapunzel, The Elves and the Shoemaker, The Princess and the Pea and a modern fairy tale, Beware of Boys.

We are now a collection point for The Need Project (further information 'theneedproject.co.uk') and would welcome any donations of items for food parcels. Please pop in for further information, or see the project's website about this very local charity.

We hope that the glorious weather continues and that spring has sprung as we head towards the end of term, School Easter Service at St Mary's and our first Tidy up event of 2015 which is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March. Please pop along if you would like to see more of our lovely school between 10.30am and 2.00pm.

Nickie Moore

## **Meppershall Parish Council Report 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

The Council received information regarding the Central Bedfordshire 2015 Budget and a proposed precept increase from Bedfordshire Police which will require a referendum as the increase is over 2%. The Police and Crime Commissioner is requesting an increase of 15.8% to fund the recruitment of 100 additional uniformed officers. This referendum will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 together with Parliamentary, Unitary and Parish Council elections.

The Council also discussed the poor state of highway footpaths in the village, proposed signage for the crossings of the permissive path in Shefford Road, 30mph signs and white lines missing from bends. All these are being raised with Central Beds / Amey in the near future.

The Clerk is still trying to get Central Beds to install more visible signage to St. Mary's Church from the High Street and Rectory Road. In addition he advised that we will shortly be receiving new warning signs about Dog Fouling.

Wry Close allotment still has a large number of vacant plots that are available for letting from £12.00 per annum, depending on size. The meeting was advised that the Village Caretaker will be making regular inspections of the allotments in the future. This is to ensure that tenants maintain their plots to a good standard and not allow weeds to grow which affects other plot holders.

### **Are you considering becoming a Parish Councillor?**

On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 there will be national and local government elections. Meppershall Parish Council has not been able to hold an election for many years due to a lack of candidates. This year a number of currently serving Councillors are not standing for re-election and we urgently need residents to come forward and assist with the running of our Village.

The Parish Council is a non-political group which meets 11 times a year for a couple of hours. If you are considering standing and would like more details, please do not hesitate to contact me 01462 851770. Nomination forms are now available for submission by 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015 to Central Beds at Chicksands.

Any resident is welcome to attend our meetings to speak about any subject during our open public session at the beginning of the formal meeting. Or you may just wish to come along and see what we do. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7:45 pm in the Village Hall**. There will also be the **Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7:45 pm** where the Chairman of the Council presents his annual report to the Parishioners of Meppershall.

David Foscett, Chairman, Meppershall Parish Council  
[chairman@meppershall.org](mailto:chairman@meppershall.org)

# Meppershall Festival 2015

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, Village Hall



Come and Dance

Tea and cake served all afternoon  
Provided by St. Mary's Church to raise funds for the church.



Join Rodney's School of Dance for a Children's session of  
Street Dance - 1:45 for 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Street Dance not for you?

Traditional Folk/Country Dance with Staplers Hitchin Folk Dance  
group. All the moves are called for you so what could go wrong? Get  
the whole family involved.

3:30 for 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.



Tickets available from 20<sup>th</sup> April

at Rogers Bakery, Village Stores and on the door:

adults £3, children/students £1.50

discount for families and groups of 4 or more



For more info, please contact:

Carolyn Holmes, 07868 530221, [meppfest@gmail.com](mailto:meppfest@gmail.com)

or

Colette, 07831 111062, [colettehouse@gmail.com](mailto:colettehouse@gmail.com)



# Meppershall Festival 2015

Evening Concert  
Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

Tickets will be available  
from  
20<sup>th</sup> April  
from Rogers Bakery,  
Village Stores  
and  
by telephone  
(see below)

Are you performing this year?  
Have you booked your slot yet?

815585/07831 111062 / [colettehouse@gmail.com](mailto:colettehouse@gmail.com)

## SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

By Enid Pamment

APRIL 2015



In the May edition of our newsletter we will be able to report results of our 'Get Together' including our donation to Keech Hospice Care for Children. Held at the Memorial Hall in Shefford we will enjoy entertainment by Caritas Harmony from Luton, several of us having supported them at previous concerts at both the Dunstable Theatre and Dunstable Methodist Church. They are returning to that same Theatre on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 6.30pm. They have new songs to sing and will be performing in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, so if you are interested in coming along please let me know, and I will do my best to make arrangements for this most enjoyable evening.

Also in our report for May will be our BBC Tour which takes place later on this month. All the tickets are now sold, and I am sure it will prove a most interesting afternoon. In the forthcoming events listed below we hope we have included something to 'whet your appetite', especially now the better weather is just around the corner!

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS (At a Glance) 2015**

Camden Market	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April
Dance 'till Dawn – Milton Keynes Theatre (Matinee)	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April
England's smallest County (with lunch)	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June
Ride a Cock Horse (with lunch)	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
Thursford Collection	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> August
Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Lode Mill	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> August
Mid-Summer Murders Country & Goring Gap Cruise	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept.
Guildford Cathedral & City	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept.
Thursford Christmas Spectacular	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov.
John Rutter RAH (with St Albans Cathedral Choir and St Albans Bach Choir)	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec.

### **HOLIDAYS – 2015**

<b>Dubrovnik – Riviera and a taste of Montenegro</b> , staying at the 3* Valamar Club, Babin Kuk, Dubrovnik. The price includes a coach from Shefford to Stansted Airport and return.	May 9 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Tinsel &amp; Turkey</b> – Weymouth – Staying at the Russell Hotel, another of Daish's family empire and adjoins Prince Regent Hotel, where you are free to enjoy the facilities of both hotels for live entertainment. – The price includes half board and coach from Shefford. For further details and prices, please contact Enid.	December 14 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>



## **LONDON SHOWS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE (organised in conjunction with Stevenage Group Travel)**

### MATINEE PERFORMANCES – 2015

LORD OF THE DANCE DANGEROUS GAMES Dominion Theatre, Dress of Circle Seats. Coach leaving Shefford at 10.45am	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April
BRICK LAND MUSIC HALL –incl. afternoon tea – Based on St George's Day, Leaving Shefford at 10.15am	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April
GYPSY — West End's Savoy Theatre – Coach leaves Shefford at 10.45am	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
SUNNY AFTERNOON (with lunch at the Planet Hollywood), Harold Painter Theatre, Stall Seats– Leaving Shefford at 9.30am.	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June
SINATRA — London Palladium, Royal Dress Circle Seats, leaving Shefford at 11.15am.	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July

### EVENING PERFORMANCES – 2015 - Leaving Shefford at 4.15pm (unless otherwise stated)

CATS – London Palladium – Dress Circle Seats	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April
MOUNTBATTEN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC — at The Royal Albert Hall – Choir & Circle Seats	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April
LES MISTERABLES — Queens Theatre – Stall Seats.	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June
RPO SYMPHONIC — Rock & Pop hits – Arena & Circle Seats	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May
BEAUTIFUL – THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL – Aldwych Theatre – Stall Seats. .	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June
RPO – FILM MUSIC GALA – at The Royal Albert Hall – Arena and Circle Seats.	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June

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

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

Shefford Leisure Group is open to everyone in the local community, who 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



### **WORLD THINKING DAY**

Fourteen of our brownies celebrated Girl Guiding's World Thinking Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at our district Thinking Day event at Raynsford Academy. Our brownies joined 120 other rainbows, brownies and guides to take part in an afternoon of activities themed around Chinese New Year. The girls made lovely bracelets, learnt some Tai Chi, played chopstick games, made a Chinese lantern and learnt about some of the traditions around the celebrations.

Since 1926, Girl Guiding has celebrated World Thinking Day each year on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This date was chosen as it is the joint birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement and his wife Olave, who was World Chief Guide. It is a day of worldwide friendship, advocacy and fundraising.

The girls made friends with other brownies, rainbows and guides by taking part in events with other units and sections. They learnt about Chinese culture and traditions.

At Chinese New Year it is traditional for parents and elders to give gifts of 'lucky money' to children and unmarried adults. The money is presented in a red envelope. Each of the girls attending put 50p in a red envelope, which they hung from a cherry blossom tree and this money will go to the World Thinking Day fund. In all the girls raised £60. This money goes to Girl-Guiding to enable more girls and young women in less developed countries to take part in Guiding.

Back at our regular meetings we have continued with our circus badge activities; the brownies had fun making clown costumes and played circus themed games. We also spent an evening celebrating St David's Day. The brownies made Welsh cakes, made daffodil windmills and took part in a quiz about Wales.

If you are interested in your daughter joining Brownies or volunteering yourself, then please contact Snowy Owl (Suzanne) on 07817 392325 or you can register online at [www.girlguiding.co.uk](http://www.girlguiding.co.uk).

## Henlow Academy Newsletter

### Summary

Henlow Academy  
Aiming for Excellence  
[www.henlowacademy.co.uk](http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk)



#### E-Safety

E-Safety is an increasing concern for schools and parents alike. We all want and need to keep our children safe when they are online. Sometimes this can be difficult to monitor and regulate at home, but Vodafone have created a series of very useful resources for parents to use, in order to help set up parental controls, give advice about cyber bullying and fact files on different types of social media. Please refer to this very detailed and useful website if you can. Links to additional e-safety resources can also be found via the Henlow CE Academy website.

#### Lewis Pitcairn Duathlon Success

Lewis Pitcairn in Year 8 completed a sponsored Duathlon at the Velopark in London for his Year 8 Challenge. He raised £200 on his Just Giving page for the Down's Syndrome Association. This is the first Duathlon in which Lewis has competed and, despite the bitterly cold weather, he finished in 3rd position in his age group.

Congratulations Lewis!



#### Proposed Year 7 Trip to Paris

Thursday 18th June- Sunday 21st June 2015

Four day trip to Paris including:  
River Seine Cruise, Eiffel Tower, Tour Montparnasse, Palais de Versailles, Arc de Triomphe, Sacre Coeur, Notre Dame, Cite des Sciences

All for £285!

#### Great British Bake Off - Henlow Style

Henlow CE Academy had its own Great British Bake Off with pupils creating amazing cakes and cupcakes for charity. School Council members ran the event to raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation. Cake-lovers paid to get their hands on the delicious creations and were given a judging sheet to rate their chosen produce. Once the marks for taste, appearance and overall quality had been added up, the winners were as follows:

Year 5/6 Cake Lily Rothwell-Trickett  
Year 5/6 Cupcake Reece Delaney

Year 7/8 Cake Daisy Jeeves  
Year 7/8 Cupcake Franky Maza

Pictures show Lily Rothwell-Trickett with her cake (Bottom) and Daisy Jeeves, the KS3 Cake Winner, pictured BEFORE her victory, showing her Rainbow cake to Head teacher, Caren Earp (Top).



#### DIARY DATES

Friday 15th May  
Monday 1st June  
Friday 26th June

FUN RUN 4.00pm-6.00pm

Year 6 and Year 8 Residential Trips leave  
Summer Fayre 6.30pm-8.30pm

# YOUR SHOUT

## with Trevor Thorley



**GNOMES COFFEE MORNINGS:** The first of what will be regular monthly Coffee Mornings took place on Thursday, March 12, at the new Meppershall Care Home. Guests were warmly welcomed by Pam Halliwell who announced that the next coffee morning would take place on Thursday, April 9. It is the intention that these gatherings will take place on the second Thursday of each month and will give the gnomes and others the opportunity to meet regularly on each occasion for one hour between 10.30am and 11.30am. This is an excellent initiative for people to meet, socialise and hear of the Gnomes plans and ambitions as they grow and develop. It is also gracious of the management of the 'new' nursing home that they have opened their doors once a month for this to take place. Delicious cakes, tea and coffee were served to the people there who very much appreciated all that had been done for them.

**SPARKS:** It is never too early to look ahead and plan accordingly. Dawn Abbatt has announced that SPARKS 2015 will take place from Monday August 10 to Thursday August 13. This extremely popular event for children up to the age of 12 does not 'just' happen and Dawn is looking now for helpers and people who can give up their time for these four days and sometime in the planning on preceding weeks and days. The theme this year will be 'SUPER HEROES' if you think you will be able to help Dawn and the other organisers, please call Dawn on 01462 816962.

**COMPUTER SCAM:** My apologies if you were one of the people who received an email pretending to be from myself and requesting money to get me home from an eastern European country. If you DID receive an email I trust you had the good sense to delete and bin it immediately. This sort of scam appears to be rife, and how these people manage to 'steal' personal computer details I do not know but it is a stressful and embarrassing situation to the people it affects. On a lighter note, I was listening to the radio on a journey from Bedford the other week when on the 3pm news broadcast it was announced that the police had raided an address in North London and had made arrests at the same time as seizing computer software containing 40,000 stolen identities. It's uplifting then to know that the authorities are working hard to stamp out these crimes - and with some success.

Remember, this is 'YOUR' Shout. Call me on 01462 81337 or email [trevor.thorley1@btinternet.com](mailto:trevor.thorley1@btinternet.com)

## MEPPERSHALL GOOD NEIGHBOURS (GNOMES)

Before Christmas we announced that the Gnomes, in conjunction with Meppershall Parish Council, were going to arrange for a welcome pack to go to each new household arriving in the village. The pack will be based on the Messenger's 'Who's Who' but will also contain details of any other business or organisation that wishes to bring itself to the attention of new arrivals.



Some progress has been made since that first announcement: we have very neat plastic wallets to hold the packs and a super new logo to go on the outside (see above), courtesy of Kim Tyler. Now what we need most of all is a method of finding out when new people move in. We thought we could get a tipoff from changes to the electoral register, but it turns out that changes are confidential. So we must rely on the people of Meppershall themselves: if you see a 'Sold' sign outside a house, let the Gnomes know so that we can follow it up. If you see a removal van unloading, be neighbourly and introduce yourself but please introduce the Gnomes too: we have a short leaflet about ourselves which we can either give to you to hand over or we can take it ourselves to the new family. To contact the Gnomes for this or anything else, please call our 'hot-line' on 07760 793921.

So, the Welcome packs are ready to go but there is room for more in them. If you would like something about your organisation or your business included in each pack, either call the Gnomes or call me direct on 01462 815114 or e-mail on [richard.bulley@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.bulley@btinternet.com)

Dick Bulley



## WHERE MY CARAVAN HAS RESTED

By Denis Neilson

### A YEAR TOURING AUSTRALIA

#### Part 1 Getting there and selecting a car and caravan



Our time share of a motorhome in the USA had given us the confidence to go it alone and *awakened* the wanderlust bug, so to speak. We decided that we should bite the bullet and tour Australia. We started to do our research and realised that the easiest visa to get was one for visitors which allowed us to spend 12 months in the country. Further investigation soon

proved to us that to hire a motorhome, or a car and a caravan, for a year was way above what we were willing to pay. Our only way would be to go out there and buy whatever we could then sell at the end of the trip. We were told that Australians visiting Britain do this all the time. A chance meeting helped us, as a friend of a friend would “look after us” in Australia.

A couple of weeks later we were given the contact details of a family in Woolagong, south of Sydney. We made contact with them and arrangements were made for us to stay at their house until we got everything organised. Although it is not necessary to have such a contact, this arrangement was definitely going to make it much easier to organise things when we eventually got out there. With our contact made, and a basic timetable agreed, it was off to Australia House to arrange the visa, which turned out to be relatively straight forward but time consuming. Although we had a visa granted for 12 months visiting, we could only stay a maximum of 6 months at any one time and had to leave Australia for at least 48 hours before being able to continue to use the remainder of our visa period. Bit of a bind, but rules is rules and we thought that we could pop over to Australia’s Costa del Sol at Bali midway through our term. As it turned out this did not become an option. Next step was to book a flight. All very exciting.

Our departure date (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2003) dawned, we closed up the house, climbed into a taxi and made our way to Heathrow. We had decided to break our journey at Dubai and Singapore rather than take the single 24 hour flight all the way through. Our departure was delayed because the driver of the vehicle that was towing the aircraft from its parking bay to the taxiway was suddenly taken ill. An ambulance was called and the poor man was taken away on a stretcher. Another driver came and we eventually got pulled out with our nose pointing in the right direction and we were off, only about 1 hour late. Dubai the next stop.

What a contrast from UK is Dubai. Nice and warm, crystal blue sea, skyscrapers galore, unbelievable traffic congestion and, outside the city, plenty of sand! The hotel was very nice and had a lovely garden surrounding a very large swimming pool. A very relaxing place, especially with a G&T in one's hand. The following morning's breakfast was buffet style with lots of choice. It would be worth a trip out here for the breakfast alone! We had decided to fill the day looking around a Dubai, however, that proved a little more difficult than one expected. Dubai is scattered and areas of interest are not conveniently placed together. We took the shuttle bus to "city centre" thinking we would be in the midst of Dubai, only to find that it was a giant shopping mall called City Centre. Looking at the shop names you could have been in England, America, France or any other European country. It even had a Debenhams and a Laura Ashley to say nothing of IKEA and Woolworths (an upmarket one at that)! Anyway we spent 4 hours there without difficulty but bought nothing!

The hotel shuttle bus came around and we caught it to the Gold Souk. Now this area had atmosphere. It was not a market as one would assume from the word Souk, but consisted of many inter-crossing streets, some wide, some narrow, with wall to wall gold and diamond shops. It made the mind boggle. It also confused one as to what was available and where. Again we did not buy but easily passed 2 hours. We did find out how things were priced; you simply chose your gold piece, it was then weighed and the gold price for the day was charged plus an addition for the workmanship and dealers profit. It is for this workmanship and profit that one is expected to haggle. No haggling takes place at all on the price of gold. Another interesting aspect of the area was the number of sellers actually offering fake designer watches at knock down prices! Unfortunately time ran out and we had to return to the hotel to collect our luggage and make for the airport and it was Singapore next stop. Our hotel in Singapore was not as good as the one in Dubai but its location was convenient for getting into the city. They did, like the one in Dubai, run a shuttle bus so we caught it to Orchard Road, took the underground to Raffles Place and walked to

the Merlion and to SunTec City. We had visited Singapore on a previous occasion so avoided Raffles Hotel this time having experienced the weak gin slings and dropping peanut shells on the floor. We failed to find the pickup point for the shuttle back to the hotel so had eventually to hail a taxi. Earlier we had booked for a night safari trip in Singapore Zoo so we had to get back. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone overnighiting in Singapore. You are given a torch on arrival and escorted throughout. We were amazed at the amount of animals, reptiles and creepy-crawlies that were on the move and visible to us. The area you are taken to is separate from the main zoo and you travel on a train around the main parts with 3 walks should you wish to do so. The lighting is fantastic for it looks just like moonlight and because of Singapore's geographical position, it always gets dark around 7.30pm so it is ideal for an evening out especially if you have children. We saw lots of animals and the atmosphere was just marvellous. All too soon it was over and back to the hotel. We easily filled in the following day looking around Singapore but had to be at the airport for a 4pm take off and we were on the last leg of our journey to Oz. The flight was uneventful, apart from a symbolic spraying of the luggage in the aircraft lockers prior to take off whilst we all sat there! I say symbolic because two stewardesses moved through the aircraft opening the overhead lockers and giving the contents a cursory squirt from an aerosol can! We sat there in our seats, those in the aisle probably got splashed. We were reliably informed that the spray would only kill the bugs! In my opinion the way they sprayed, the bugs would have had no difficulty in surviving the ordeal.

Prior to landing we were given the inevitable immigration forms to complete. What you are not allowed to take into Australia leaves very few alternatives. Prior to landing, the lockers were again symbolically sprayed. It really is a mockery. All this, we read, was to prevent the importation of pests into the country. We had been up in the region of 38000ft so goodness knows what pests had entered the aircraft after the spraying in Singapore. Whatever had got in was not going to be deterred by a bit of aerosol now!!! We left the aircraft, and quickly went through the immigration check, then the collection of baggage and the examination of our "prohibited" goods and the entire activity only took 30 minutes. That, for me, is a record time through any international airport. I was very impressed with their efficiency. Dick and Bev, our hosts, were there to meet us with a sign which read "Denis and Ruth, welcome to Oz".

...to be continued.

## THE LUCY PAGES

By Lucy Standbridge, aged 13



### How Much Do You Support Local Businesses?

Continuing the theme of local businesses, this month I chose to interview Colette House about her Bed and Breakfast called Old Joe's. It is at 90 Fildyke Road in Meppershall (the blue house).

Old Joe's B&B was started in September 2007. Colette decided to take on the job because she had "a lovely house with three spare rooms and a spare bathroom- and it would be a shame not to use it". She did some research and found out that there was very little cheap accommodation in the area. Colette told me that she was inspired from watching television episodes of people who owned B&B's and realised how easily she could set up that business.

During the first week of setting up, she noticed that the Biggleswade Chronicle was holding a competition to tell them in 60 words "why your business should win". Colette was surprised when she found out she had won, so she asked what it was that made her win. The Chronicle said that she had won because she was so unselfish and wrote about the benefits to the other local businesses (the pub, bakery, social club and shop) and her prize was a free website. Her website ([www.oldjoes.co.uk](http://www.oldjoes.co.uk)) shows all the information you might need and it gives people an idea of the particular things that appeal to her guests. You can also view the testimonials and reviews from previous guests which are all up-to-date. Upon starting her business, Colette contacted 'Visit Britain' to get advice, the information she needed and how to register. She had an anonymous visit from a representative from 'Quality in Tourism' who gave her an accreditation of 2 stars. However, when she received her assessment report, each category (hospitality, cleanliness, facilities, furnishings

and food) received a four star rating. The two star rating reflects the lack of hand wash basins in the bedrooms. Colette said “Old Joe’s is aware that a two star rating may put potential guests off, but the above explanation of my report may way-lay their fears”.

She is open all year round and her guests describe it as ‘home from home comfort’. After a good night’s sleep, the guests go down for a continental breakfast with bread and cakes from Roger’s Bakery, fruit from her allotment and her homemade preserves. Colette told me that her guests are mainly split into three categories: trades people, friends/relatives visiting people in the village and people who are going to events in the area. She said “The B&B has all the basic things it needs which is why it appeals to people (especially the trades people) who are looking for local, cheap accommodation”. She also told me that some of her guests can be late for breakfast as the bathroom looks on to the wonderful fields behind and the B&B’s lovely garden, and men seem to take a long time shaving while bird watching!

With supporting the local businesses, Colette said that she believes Meppershall people are very loyal to their village and try to support their community as much as possible, and that Old Joe’s Bed and Breakfast also benefits the businesses in the area.

*If you know someone who needs friendly and cheap accommodation, then why not tell them to support our village and consider Old Joe’s B&B.*



## FINANCIAL UPDATE by PAUL SAVUTO

*Q): I recently had a Barclays Bank Five Year Defined Return Structured Plan mature. It made a 40% return on my original investment, which I was very pleased with. When I went into the bank to re-invest the money, they said that because they do not give financial advice anymore, they cannot help. What do I do?*

A): We have received many similar enquires and although the banks are not providing advice for these and other products, there are still ways to get financial advice. During March alone, an estimated £1.07bn of Structured Products will be maturing from Lloyds, RBS, Barclays, Santander and others who no longer provide financial advice. With these maturing products, an important point to note is that if your current investment is held within an ISA, it is important to consider retaining the ISA benefits. This can only be undertaken by an ISA Transfer and you may need to act quickly to retain this status. If the investment is not in an ISA, on maturity of the plan, you may well have tax issues to deal with. You should receive a tax certificate that may be required when completing your tax return.

I often get asked by new clients as to why “we should use DGS”. There are of course many reasons, but when you are looking for Financial Advice, here are two things you should ask.

*Q: Are you Independent or Restricted Financial Advisers?*

**A): DGS are ‘Independent’ not ‘restricted’.** There are two kinds of financial adviser: independent financial advisers (IFAs) and restricted advisers. DGS advisers are all independent financial advisers. At DGS, all of our financial advisers are authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), and are qualified to the level required by FCA regulation. The advice given must be unbiased and unrestricted. We will undertake a comprehensive and fair analysis of the whole of the market in order to make our personal recommendations to you. We are able to advise on financial products available in the relevant

market across all product areas and we do not have any agreements in place with providers to recommend their products, unlike restricted advisers.

*Q): Are you a Chartered Financial Planner?*

**DGS are 'Chartered'.** The titles of Chartered Financial Planner and Chartered Financial Planners were granted by the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII). The Privy Council authorised the CII to issue the Chartered title in 2005. Thus, a Chartered Financial Planner now carries equivalent qualifications, much like other established professions such as Chartered Accountants and Chartered Surveyors, etc. Membership of the Personal Finance Society, the leading professional body for financial planners, is required to be able to use the professional designation: Chartered Financial Planner.

The qualification fits into the National Qualifications Framework at Level 6, equivalent to a Bachelors (first) Degree.

The role of a financial adviser is to help individuals and businesses understand their financial circumstances and to help them plan for the future. This usually includes tax, investment and retirement planning but may extend to more specialist services such as wealth management, trustee investment, divorce and non-domiciled clients. DGS prides itself on taking a holistic approach to sound financial planning, and we consider our client's long-term situation, undertaking detailed analysis before making any recommendations.

With Pensions Freedom coming into force on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015, if you are looking for retirement advice, then it is worth considering an Independent firm of Chartered Financial Planners like DGS.

If you would like to meet up to discuss your financial situation, please contact me, Paul Savuto, Chartered Financial Planner on 07834 499595.

## MEPPERSHALL SOCIAL CLUB

**April**

**2015**

Membership is still available to anyone wishing to join, it entitles you to subsidised drinks, full use of our facilities, free or reduced entry to our events & your chance to have your say at our AGM!

Our next event will be Saturday 4th April when we will be holding our Easter bingo eggstravaganza, great cash prizes to be won as well as a huge raffle with lots of goodies to be won. Bingo will be followed by a good old fashioned sing song with a fab keyboard player. Details are displayed on the notice boards situated outside the main entrance to the club, inside the club & kerb side at the front of the village hall.

Don't forget we have bingo EVERY Friday night, eyes down 7.30pm non-members are charged a £1 entrance fee in addition to your bingo book cost.

If you haven't given Karen's Karaoke a try yet, then you are missing out on a real fun night, you don't have to sing, just watching others (some great, some really bad!!!) will have you either tapping your toes or roaring with laughter! Paul Carnes quiz night is also a fun night, held the 2nd Sunday of each month, come & see how knowledgeable you are, max teams of 6, £1 to play with half the prize money going to the winners & half to our charities, ST John's Hospice Moggerhanger & the British Heart Foundation. These events are open to non-members as well as members at no charge; Again, please take the time to read the notice boards for further details.

We have yet to book more entertainment for your enjoyment, some input from locals & beyond on what YOU like to see would be much appreciated in helping us plan YOUR entertainment at YOUR social club/village hall, contact details below.

Finally, we would like to wish all of you a very happy Easter.

Contact:

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

## CALENDAR OF MEPPERSHALL EVENTS

### ***April 2015***

<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>		
Evergreens	2:15 – 4:00 pm	Sugar Loaf
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>		
Easter Bingo Extrazavaganza		Social Club
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>MINI SPARKS Holiday Club</b>	10 - 11 am	St Mary's Church
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>		
GNOMES Coffee Morning	10.30 – 11.30 am	Meppershall Care Home
<b>Saturday &amp; Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 12<sup>th</sup></b>		
Art Exhibition	10:00 – 4:00	Northill Village Hall
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>		
Paul Carnes Quiz Night		Village Hall
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup></b>		
Parish Council Meeting	7:45 pm	Village Hall
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup></b>		
Evergreens	2:15 – 4:00 pm	Sugar Loaf
Election Hustings		St Michael's, Shefford
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup></b>		
Karen's Karaoke	8 pm	Meppershall Social Club
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup></b>		
Parish Meeting - Q&A (open to all)	7:45pm	Village Hall
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>		
Meppershall Messenger AGM	7:30pm	Sugar Loaf

### **A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM THE MESSENGER TEAM:**

A very big 'thank you' to Tessa and David who have delivered the Messenger for many years but sadly are leaving Meppershall. We wish them well in pastures new. Welcome and thank you to Karen Hirst, who has kindly offered to take over their delivery.

We extend a very sincere 'thank you' to all our deliverers who have ensured that a copy of the Messenger has been received by every household in the village for the last Messenger year. What a faithful band you are - all 32 of you!



# The Meppershall Players



“When the Lights Go on Again” A musical play commemorating & celebrating the anniversary of VE Day 70 years ago. Have you got your tickets yet?

Definitely not to be missed and never to be repeated. Yes, this uplifting musical play for all ages is a one-time-only deal. An amazing evening of unabashed and unapologetic patriotism and flag waving. A rollercoaster ride of an evening, as you share and join in the hopes and fears, tears and laughter of a country at war

- “When the Lights Go On Again” Fri 8<sup>th</sup> & Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015 7.45pm at Meppershall Village Hall, Tickets £10 (No Concessions) Includes Food and much more. On sale NOW at Rogers Bakery 01462 813398
- Players AGM Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 8pm at Meppershall Village Hall
- Robin Hood Pantomime 2015-Fri 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> December

Would you like to advertise in the Players’ programme for the next two years for a minimum donation of £10? If interested, please e-mail Claire at [clairepiller1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clairepiller1@hotmail.co.uk) for more information,

The Meppershall Players do have their own page on Facebook (Meppershall Players Community) which will be updated the first Monday of every month.

If you use the Village Hall don’t forget to check out the notice boards in the front entrance. We always have plenty of information about the Players on the boards in the front foyer.

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 18th Apr, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> Aug, 5<sup>th</sup> Sep, 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, 14<sup>th</sup> Nov, 19th Dec & 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2016 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 currently free and we welcome people from the age of 9 to 90+. To indulge in all areas of theatrical performances, set building, costumes, directing, acting, make-up, song & dance. Interested? We look forward to meeting you.

Karen Mitchell (Players Secretary) 01462 816336



## PUZZLE PAGES

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

**Su Doku 1415**

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

**Arithmetic square puzzle 105**

	-	9	-		-		-28
+		-		+		+	
	+		+		+		45
+		-		+		-	
	+	14	+		+		32
+		-		+		-	
	+		+		+		27
10	-36	35	11				

Try to fill in the missing numbers.

Use the numbers 1 through 16 to complete the equations.

Each number is only used once. Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation.

Two cells are completed to assist

*Thanks to Paul Smith for the puzzles*

## FILM REVIEW

**By Carlie Newman**

With all the publicity and praise for *Still Alice* it has been easy to overlook *STILL LIFE* (cert.15 1 hr 32 mins.). In this little British gem, Eddie Marsan plays John May, a council officer charged with arranging the funerals of those who have died without relatives around. John has worked in the same office for 22 years. He researches the past lives of the deceased and tries to find anybody who has known the dead person in the past. Once these labours are complete John writes the funeral oration for the vicar to read out and finds appropriate music to suit the deceased.



John lives alone, eating the same food for lunch each day and the same evening meal at home. He always wears the same clothes and has a set routine for everything he does. When he finds that a neighbour has died, John realises that he didn't know anything about

the dead man, Billy Stokes, an alcoholic and that he is in a similar position in that no-one knows or cares about him. An uncaring new boss in the department dismisses John saying that he is being made redundant as the department is downsizing.

John continues to work on his last case, Billy, and while doing his research on Billy's background, finds his estranged daughter, Kelly (Joanne Froggatt). The two lonely souls begin to form a relationship. Just when all seems to be brightening up for John May - who even tries out some new food and changes his clothes for casual attire - disaster strikes.

Eddie Marsan is known for his fine performances, generally in smallish parts in good, solid British films such as *Vera Drake* with Imelda Staunton and the uptight driving instructor in *Happy-Go-Luck*. In this film he is finally given the main part and he brings a wonderful combination of vulnerability, loneliness, a conscientious work ethic together with truthfulness to the role which is rare these days. Joanne Froggatt gives a tender performance as Billy's daughter and the two share some sensitive moments together. Director Uberto Pasolini has given us a good picture of loneliness.

I found the ending unsatisfactory, but, apart from that, Marsan's outstanding performance, together with a sensitively directed and well-written story which manages to be moving but never sentimental, makes this a must-see film. It can still be found on limited release or buy/rent it on DVD.

## What'sit?

Solution to What'sit No. 8.....Church Road/Campton Road junction



We had the following interesting letter about What'sit No. 8:

This plaque is situated on Church End Cottage I believe, 1 and 1a Church Road. This was my grandparents Mr Waldren Lawrence and Mrs Minnie Alice Lawrence's house. She was my grandfather's second wife, as his first wife had passed away leaving him to raise 3 children. My mother, Miss Beatrice Elaine Lawrence later to become Mrs W J Game, being the only girl in the house, took on the duties of housewife in and around the late 70s. When they passed away I sold the house and grounds to J Clayton the builder. He then renovated the house and turned it back into two cottages. I no longer live in the village, I was a resident for 50 years, but I left to live in Milton Keynes after my marriage finished. All my children went to the local schools in Meppershall, Henlow and Samuel Whitbread. Alas, they all have now grown up and moved to various points of the United Kingdom. I hope that this makes sense.

Yours, Mr Terry W Game

Now where is  
What'sit No.9?...



# The Meppershall players *present*



## *'When the Lights go on Again'*

*A musical by Karen Mitchell*

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

***Friday 8th May and Saturday 9th May - 7:45***

*All tickets are £10 (No concessions). Tickets also include food.*

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

***(01462) 813398***

## The Classic Combustion Shed

### Words and pictures by Wayne Allen

#### The Rolls Royce Merlin

To all the petrol heads out there you will truly understand about the great mechanical landmarks that have stamped their place in engineering history. Through the numerous stories I have penned over the years very often I refer to the completed product, the Lamborghini

Aventador, the Suzuki X7, the Dehavilland Comet and many more.



But very rarely does a component of such masterpieces reach the same heights of recognition, such as an engine. In this case I refer you to the Rolls-Royce Merlin. As a write, I can hear the sounds of a Merlin powering a Spitfire through the air which such theatre. For those who know what I am talking about no further words are needed to explain the emotions when experiencing the wave of sound. Even those with less enthusiasm for the world of engineering, will stop and take in the aural spectacle of Merlin engine regardless of its final suit of clothing as a Spitfire or Lancaster Bomber, to name but a few. So how did the Merlin claim its distinctive place in the hall of engineering fame?



In the early 1930s, Rolls-Royce started planning its future aero engine development program and realised there was a need for an engine larger than their 21-litre (1,296 cu in) Kestrel which was being used with great

success in a number of 1930s aircraft. Consequently, work was started on a new 1,100 hp class design known as the PV-12, with PV standing for *Private Venture, 12-cylinder*, as the company received no government funding for work on the project. The PV-12 was first run on 15 October 1933 and first flew in a Hawker Hart biplane in 1935. The engine was originally designed to use the evaporative cooling system then in vogue. This proved unreliable and when supplies of ethylene glycol from the U.S. became available, the engine was adapted to use a conventional liquid cooling system. The Hart was subsequently delivered to Rolls-Royce where, as a Merlin test bed, it completed over 100 hours of flying with the Merlin C and E engines.

In 1935, the Air Ministry issued a specification, for new fighter aircraft with a minimum airspeed of 310 mph. fortunately, two designs had been developed: the Supermarine Spitfire and the Hawker Hurricane; the latter designed in response to another specification. Both were designed around the PV-12 instead of the



Kestrel, and were the only contemporary British fighters to have been so developed. Production contracts for both aircraft were placed in 1936, and development of the PV-12 was given top priority as well as government funding. Following the company convention of naming its piston aero engines after birds of prey, Rolls-Royce named the engine the Merlin after a small, Northern Hemisphere falcon.

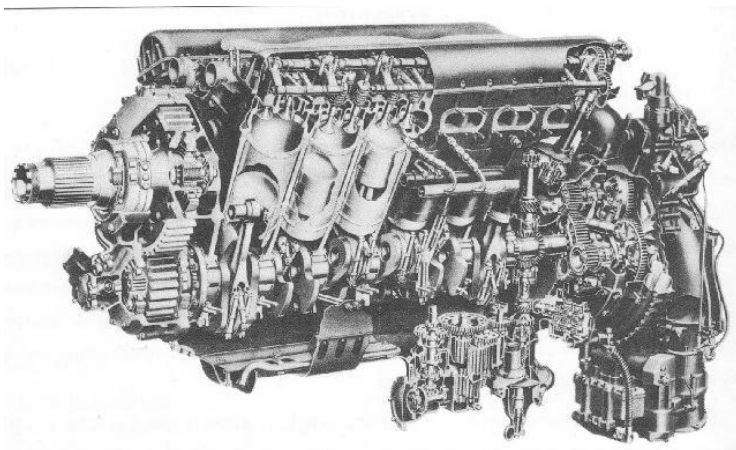
The Merlin consumed an enormous volume of air at full power (equivalent to the volume of a single-decker bus *per* minute), and with the exhaust gases exiting at 1,300 mph it was realised that useful thrust could be gained simply by angling the gases backwards instead of venting sideways. During tests, 70 pounds-force thrust at 300 mph, or roughly 70 horsepower was obtained which increased the level maximum speed of the Spitfire by 10 mph to 360 mph. The first versions of the ejector exhausts featured round outlets, while subsequent versions of the system used "fishtail" style outlets which marginally increased thrust and reduced exhaust glare for night flying.

In September 1937 the Spitfire prototype, *K5054*, was fitted with ejector type exhausts. Later marks of the Spitfire used a variation of this exhaust system



fitted with forward-facing intake ducts to distribute hot air out to the wing-mounted guns to prevent freezing and stoppages at high altitudes, replacing an earlier system that used heated air from the engine coolant radiator. The latter system had become ineffective due to improvements to the Merlin itself which allowed higher operating altitudes where air temperatures are lower. Ejector exhausts were also fitted to other Merlin-powered aircraft.

Central to the success of the Merlin was the supercharger. A brilliant engineer by the name of Sir Stanley Hooker improved the performance of the Merlin by developing a supercharger which gave the Merlin an extra 30% in power and



also added a distinctive whine when powering through the air. There are some examples of the Merlin on display at the Shuttleworth collection with the bonus of hearing them in action during the displays.

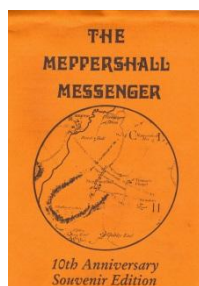
## COVERS BY REQUEST

**It's our anniversary!** – It has been 30 years since the first Meppershall Messenger magazine dropped off the production line and made its way, to be hand-delivered much as it is today, around the village to individual households by a willing band of volunteers.

We hope to celebrate this milestone in our production history at the Meppershall Village Fair. Look out for us there on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015.



May 1985



April 1995



# Meppershall Summer Fair

## Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015

We have already started our plans for this year's fair.

In addition to many of your favourite attractions such as Scruffs, Fairground rides and of course the Bake-Off, this year we are looking to have **Street entertainment**.

Perhaps you Stilt walk, Juggle, or have a little magic up your sleeve?

Are you a Balloon model artist? Or a Hoola hoop fanatic?

Whatever your talent we are keen to hear from you.



If you know of someone who would love to entertain at our fair do ask them to contact us – they do not need to live in Meppershall.

It's your Village Fair, so let's make it the best yet!

Contact: [kim@randall-tyler.org.uk](mailto:kim@randall-tyler.org.uk), Tel: 0795 255 7203

## MEPPERSHALL GARDEN CLUB



by Gill Smith

The MGC met up for our February meeting at Thornes Garden Centre on the Stotfold Road, Letchworth. ([www.thornesgn.co.uk](http://www.thornesgn.co.uk)). In addition to a selection of good quality plants and garden ornaments, Thornes has a chicken centre and sells fresh eggs. It was a bright but cold day so after a browse around we headed for the 'Potting Shed Cafe' for coffee and a 'catch up' meeting. (Thornes sell delicious cakes and lunches)

As the sun was shining brightly, a group of us continued on to visit the Benington Lordship Gardens four miles east of Stevenage. The seven acre gardens surround a Georgian manor house with a Norman keep and moat. During February and early March, the garden is a magnificent sight, carpeted with huge drifts of naturalised snowdrops; it is a galanthophile's paradise! By the time you read this, the snowdrops will be over but if you have never visited Benington, you may like to visit over the Easter weekend to see the garden covered in daffodils and scillas. The garden is open on Sunday 5th and Monday 6th April from 12-4pm.

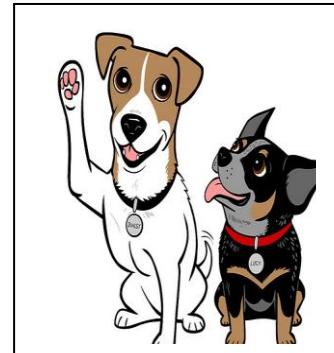
For more details see: [www.beningtonlordship.co.uk](http://www.beningtonlordship.co.uk)

After all our gallivanting, we thought we'd better do some work so we cleared the village hall borders in readiness for spring! We will be tackling the planters next. Thank you to the kind neighbours who supplied us with cups of tea on a very cold day. If you would like to find out more about joining the group then contact details are given below:

Linda Parker	01462 815114
Sarah Till	01462 817176
Kim Lee Tyler	01462 811750

## Meppershall Summer Fair – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015

We are pleased to announce that this year's judge for Scruffs will also be holding a **Canine Behaviour Clinic** at the fair – so why not bring along your 'problems' to him?



**Street entertainment** will include a FREE 'Have a go' circus - so be prepared to **Spin some Plates**, try your hand at **Juggling** and **Maypole dancing**.

**Grand Raffle Request** - Do you work for a company or know someone who does, who would be willing to donate a grand raffle prize? If you do we would love to hear from you.

### **Vacancies:**

Are you able to help run a stall on the day? Just a couple of hours help would be great!

Places still available for Street Entertainers - If you know of someone who would love to entertain at our fair do ask them to contact us – they do not need to live in Meppershall.

It's your Village Fair; let's make it the best yet!

Contact: [kim@randall-tyler.org.uk](mailto:kim@randall-tyler.org.uk), Tel: 0795 255 7203

Or Speak to Linda Primett in The Ansell Village Stores.

## NOTICE BOARD

### **From Kathy to all her family and friends**

Just to say a massive thank you to everybody for all my wonderful gifts and cards to celebrate my 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It was wonderful as are all the people who are special to me and made it so memorable. Thank you all x Kathy

Ken, Nicci & Family would like to thank everyone for their kindness, support and generous donations to Sue Ryder after the loss of Maureen Jackson, a much loved Wife, Mum And Nan.

### **Shefford Summer Fete 2015**

To be held on 31<sup>st</sup> May at Shefford Town Memorial Grounds  
Hitchin Road from 1pm till 5pm.

Arena events all afternoon from local clubs & schools.

Rides, Trampolines, Bouncy Castle, Barbecue, Fish'n'Chips, Classic Cars, Trade Stands, Tombolas, Local School Art Show, Charity Stalls, Tea & Homemade Cakes.

Beer Tent, Face Painting, & lots, **lots**, more.

The day is organised and run by volunteers.

Interested in taking part? Please Contact Linda 01462814582.

All Proceeds go towards the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall.

### **Millie's Christening**

We would like to thank everybody who made Millie's christening such a wonderful moment. Thank you to Reverend Roni for the wonderful Christening service, everybody who visited said how lucky we were to have such a beautiful church. Also to Graham and Linda at the Social Club for their help on the day. Again our visitors thought the village hall was lovely. Also a big thank you to Laraine for the wonderful buffet.

Thank you to everybody for being there and the lovely gifts. Pete, Jo and of course Millie and Kathy and Dave

### **ICKWELL CRICKET CLUB**

#### **NEW PLAYERS WANTED**

Youth & Senior – Experienced or Beginners

COME AND PLAY ON

PICTURESQUE ICKWELL GREEN

Contact: Gerry Ingham 07727 093924 - or follow us on facebook & twitter

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Solution to Su Doku 1415

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

Arithmetic square solution 105

2	-	9	-	10	-	11	-28
+		-		+		+	
4	+	16	+	12	+	13	45
+		-		+		-	
3	+	14	+	8	+	7	32
+		-		+		-	
1	+	15	+	5	+	6	27
10		-36		35		11	

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## Lewis' Further Adventures

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Deployment at R.A.F. Seletar.

This should have been a text book exercise but unfortunately the Battery had a number of Young Officers who had joined the Regiment straight from continuance training at Manorbier and were not aware of the wealth of experience afforded by the No1 Gun Sergeants. Against the advice of his senior No1, orders were given for a Gun Sub comprising three Matador tractors, a 40/70 gun, a Fire Control FCE No 7 and a Meadows 27.5 kva generator to drive in and deploy in a mangrove swamp. I received a frantic call over the Regimental Radio Net for urgent help; I arrived to find the floor of the driver's cab of the lead Matador about to disappear into the heaving mess of the swamp. I ordered the No1 to uncouple the gun and using his remaining Matadors to clear all the equipments onto firm ground at least three hundred yards from the impending immersion. I advised the Y.O. to return to the Battery H.Q. and not to return to the site.

After a lift to my hangar, the Scammel Wrecker was brought to the immersion site. Pacing out the deployment of the recovery equipment, two pulley blocks were set out with fishplates and ground anchors to provide a four to one pull, the three equipments and two unscathed Matadors were all lashed together to provide a substantial anchor for the Scammel to pull against. Now came the time to dig the ooze away from the Matador and lay sand channels behind the rear wheels: we were very soon covered head to foot in the evil smelling sludge but after an hour all was prepared for the first pull. The driver of the Matador repaired to his cab, the floor of which now below the surface, engaged reverse gear and together with the winch of the Scammel doing its worst, the Matador inch by inch eased out of the evil resting place. The trucks were driven to the wash down and with the crews simultaneously hosed down and we completed a six hour strenuous welcome to Singapore. I suggested to the battery Commander that the perpetrator of the mishap might consider delivering a crate of Tiger beer to the Gun Sub and surprise, surprise, he did so.

About ten p.m. one evening I received an urgent call to say that a Captain of the Royal Malta Artillery attached to the Regiment had crashed an RAF motorcycle into a monsoon drain on the perimeter of the airfield. Monsoon Drains built by the P.W.D. were some six feet deep with sloping sides down to the drain but the Scammel would be the means of recovery. I arrived at the



crash site to find a bruised and battered “Maltese Falcon” and a severely bent 500cc Triumph twin motor cycle upside down in the ditch. Fortunately a couple of my sergeants had accompanied me so we rigged a couple of slings under the bike and with the Scammel backed up to the ditch, let down the hook of the jib to reach the slings. The jib was not powered so it took fifteen minutes of turning to raise the bike clear of the ditch, then back to the hanger and the bike was soon offloaded. We retired to the mess and I made sure the cost of the Tiger Beers were passed to the Officers Mess and the Falcon’s mess bill. The next day I visited the RAF vehicle section and came to an arrangement with the W.O. i/c that he would supply the necessary spares to repair the bike, we would carry out the repairs and the “Falcon” would provide the sustenance to everyone involved (No damage report etc).



The author in Seletar in 1962  
with one of his radar sets

The RAF Mess in Seletar was excellent, the living in members made us most welcome and the evenings were to say the least somewhat lively with the attendance of the wives living on the patch and the dance floor of the mess was crowded most nights. We were enjoying our sojourn in Seletar however it was not to last: orders were received to the effect that 22 Regt was to move to Kuching in Borneo in ten days’ time

to replace 16 Lt Air Defence Regiment. Equipment would be left in situ and signed off to the incoming Regiment. This was something I feared most, as we had spent the last months getting all the equipment up to scratch and with my experience of 16 Regiments equipment, which I had inspected on a number of occasions in BAOR, I knew we would have another hard task in front of us. An AQMS was drafted in from 12 Regt workshop to accept the handover of my Workshop Equipment and Vehicles which he would in turn hand over to 16 Regt workshop when they deplaned from Kuching.

Very soon we emplaned, personnel only, into Argosy and Beverly transport aircraft for the relatively short hop to Kuching Airfield.

To be continued,  
W.O. 2 AQMS Lewis Birt. R.E.M.E.



WELCOME BACK!

Our end of term Easter party was a fun session for all. Our new bouncy castle and ball pit were out and the children enjoyed decorating wooden eggs to take their treats home in.

After Easter we only have 3 sessions in April. We will be having fun with a theatre themed week with lots of dressing up, musical instruments and designing funny glasses for our craft. In other sessions we will have the play farm out and the Wendy House will be a vets and then a tree house!

Looking ahead to the summer term, we will again be arranging a trip to Standalone Farm on 7<sup>th</sup> July. If you come along to the session on **21<sup>st</sup> April** you can collect a loyalty card and your first stamp. If you come to 7 sessions out of 10, your trip to Standalone will be funded by Tots!

### Kitchen Help required!

We are looking for a volunteer who can come to the sessions on a Tuesday (without children) who could kindly spare us 1-1.5 hours to assist us in the kitchen. This would involve making teas and coffee, preparing the snack and some washing up. May suit an older person but we are of course grateful of any help!

**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 543203 for more information**



We wish everyone and all our families a very Happy Easter! We would like to welcome to Erin, Lara, Iris, Henry, Riley and Aiofe who have recently started at Meppershall Pre-school, or who will be starting after the Easter holiday. We would also like to say a big welcome to all their families.

Our topic before Easter was 'Mini Beasts'. We looked at many different insects/creatures such as ladybirds, spiders, snails and worms and continued the theme by looking at life cycles. This involved looking at caterpillars, butterflies and lead on to the life cycle of a frog and a chicken, leading us nicely up to Easter. We had a lot to pack into a short half term, and we had Mother's Day to celebrate too! The children really enjoyed making special cards.

As part of our mother's day celebrations we are invited any mummies, nannies or female carers in to 'stay and play' during the week leading up to Mother's day that is during the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> March. The children love having new faces in the setting and someone new to play with.

We are currently looking for a Temporary Pre-school Assistant who could work Wednesday and Friday 10:45 till 12:15. If you would be interested in applying please ring Debbie on 07713 627376. We are committed to offering Equal Opportunities in Employment, and follow strict Safeguarding and Safer Recruiting Procedures.

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.**

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### **Birthdays in April:**

Doreen Lawrence will be 90 on 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
 Kathleen Drummond will be 88 on 7<sup>th</sup> April  
 Shireen Longland will be 84 on 10<sup>th</sup> April

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.

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### **A very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those of you celebrating birthdays in APRIL**

Rebecca Myers who will be 10 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Teya Warner who will be 6 on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Amie-Lee Lumbis who will be 8 on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
 William Rogers who will be 12 on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Kate Fleming who will be 9 on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Katrina Brennand who will be 15 on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Harry White who will be 14 on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Jemma Dalton who will be 9 on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Sophie Hing will be 5 on the 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Charlie Lodge who will be 11 on the 30<sup>th</sup>

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

## **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 Watch Out For...**

**Election Time – Hustings in Shefford** – St Michael's church will play host to all the local candidates seeking your vote in the upcoming General Election. Lively public debate on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 7.30pm

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

April is the time of year when churches (in the Church of England) have their Annual General Meetings. It is a time to look back over the previous calendar year and to report so many aspects of our church life....

It is also a time for me, as Rector, to say a huge thank you to all who have contributed to the life of St Mary's over the past year. There are so many who give so much to make St Mary's tick: the church wardens, the PCC, our sacristans our caterers, churchyard working party-ers, choir and organists, sides persons, readers and prayers and rota-makers, Junior Church team, cleaners, launderers, flower arrangers, bell ringers, and maintenance team... and I apologise if I have missed any one! Thank you to all who contribute their gifts generously, quietly, tirelessly...

This year special thanks are due to Pat Bass as she moves on from our Church and so many jobs - assistant church warden, assistant sacristan, choir member, churchyard gardener... I understand she has undertaken many roles over the years and we will miss her.

We also need to give special thanks to Sheila Rossi and Gillian Thomas as they retire from the Church cleaning rota, and to Barbara Horwood and Joyce Smith as they hand over principal responsibility for our teas and coffees after services to others - but say they may feel the need to help out now and again.

A special thanks too, to all who ran the Sparks Holiday Club in 2014. Meppershall Space Academy welcomed all comers and Captains Buzz and Lightyear ran another very tight and happy ship as we toured the cosmos this time. I am so thankful that so many put so much effort into welcoming and enthralling so many children. We are all grateful to Dawn Abbatt and Morag De Luca for all their hard work once again. Look out for the Super Heroes-themed Sparks coming later in the year (August 10th - 13<sup>th</sup>) with a Sparks Service on the 16th. There will be many ways of helping if you have time...

I am pleased also, to thank the Friends of St Mary's for their generosity in raising funds for the Church building - and for the fun and fellowship their events generate in the Church and the village.

I think I should add that, as there are many people who kindly wear "several hats" and undertake two or three (or more!) jobs in the Church, and others who have served faithfully for many, many years, there is often actually a shortage of helpers and we are always grateful when new people offer to contribute their gifts.

I am so thankful that so many come and pray in our Church, sit quietly in it, look after it, watch over it, and support it in so many different ways.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on 23rd April at 7.30pm in the Church.

Best wishes

**Rector Roni**

## **Services and Events – April 2015** *At St Mary's unless stated below*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service / Event</b>
<b>Weds 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	2pm	Good Friday Service
<b>Sat 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	7.30pm	Easter Vigil at the Church
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	11.00am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion
<b>Weds 8<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Sat 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	9.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2<sup>nd</sup> of Easter</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion
<b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	2-4pm	Rectory Tea – chat and a cuppa – all welcome
<b>Weds 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	7.30pm	Election Hustings – meet the candidates and listen to the debate at St Michael's, Shefford.
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> April 3<sup>rd</sup> of Easter</b>	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion All Age Family Service
<b>Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion.
<b>Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	7.30pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	9.00pm	Silent Together – join friends to sit for a few minutes to enjoy the tranquillity of the church
<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April 4<sup>th</sup> of Easter</b>	11.00am	Parish Communion
<b>Tues 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	2-4pm	Topical discussion at the Rectory over a cuppa, all welcome
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 5<sup>th</sup> of Easter</b>	11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion Junior Church at the School



## St Mary's Church, Meppershall Junior Church

JC JC JC JC JC JC JC JC JC JC JC JC

As I write this article we are well into Lent and eagerly awaiting the coming of Easter Sunday when we can eat lots of chocolate eggs ...or is there more to it than that? Perhaps we are preparing to celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. When Mary discovered the stone had been rolled away and the tomb in which Jesus's body had been placed was empty.

The Easter story is told below in pictures and can be coloured in. On **Easter Sunday**, there will be a **Mini Sparks** from **10am to 11am** in St Mary's Church to celebrate the rising of Christ!

The JC team looks forward seeing the children at the Easter Mini Sparks!  
Blessings, The JC Team.

# The Easter Story



Most of the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Matthew 21:8



Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, "How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?" And they gave him thirty pieces of silver.

Matthew 26:14-15



As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it and eat it for this is my body."

Matthew 26:26



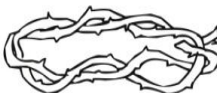
Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will." "Peter," Jesus replied, "the truth is, this very night before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."

Matthew 26:33-34



He went on a little farther and fell face down on the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine."

Matthew 26:39



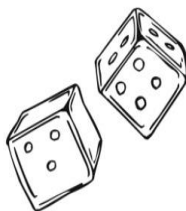
The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head, and they put a royal purple robe on him.

John 19:2



Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross.

Mark 15:24a



They gambled for his clothes, throwing dice to decide who would get them.

Mark 15:24b



Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance as he left.

Matthew 27:59-60



He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.

Matthew 28:6

St Mary's Church, Meppershall

Junior Church

# Easter 2015 MINI SPARKS

Sunday 5 April

10am to 11am

In St Mary's Church

Crafts  Cards  Egg Hunt 

Followed by Easter Service from 11am if  
you wish to stay



**SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN****APRIL 2015**

500g skinless, boneless chicken breast fillets, diced.

2 teaspoons vegetable oil.

½ green pepper, sliced.

½ red pepper, sliced.

3 spring onions, chopped.

2 carrots, cut into matchstick strips.

1 clove garlic, crushed.

1 teaspoon cornflour.

4 teaspoons soy sauce.

1 small tin pineapple pieces, juice reserved.

1 teaspoon rice vinegar.

1 teaspoon light brown soft sugar.

½ teaspoon ground ginger.

**METHOD (serves 6 persons):**

- 1) Brown the chicken breast pieces in the vegetable oil in a large wok over medium high heat.
- 2) Add the green and red peppers, spring onion, carrot and garlic and stir-fry for 1-2 minutes.
- 3) In a small bowl, combine the cornflour and soy sauce and mix. Pour into the wok.
- 4) Add the pineapple and juice, rice vinegar, brown sugar and ginger.
- 5) Stir together and bring to a full boil.
- 6) Serve over a bed of white rice.

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

*Brenda would welcome feedback from readers on her recipes.*

## 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>2015</u>				
April	27		September	28	
May	26	<b>Tuesday</b>	October	26	
June	29		November	30	<b>Double</b>
July	27	<b>Double</b>	December	None	
August	None		January 2016	25	

*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.*