



Ansell Village Stores



Delivering Your Newspaper



WHAT'S IN YOUR MESSENGER THIS MONTH?

2	Editorial	
3	Village Hall Committee	News about the Village Hall
6	Welcome Packs	Meppershall Good Neighbours Group "GNOMES"
7	Grand Summer Tours 31 st July	Warden Abbey Vineyard
8	Meppershall C of E Academy	School Report
9	Parish Council	June Report
10	Trevor Thorley	
12	Reader's photograph	Antenna near Old Warden
13	Shefford Leisure Group	Recent plus Future Shows & Events
15	Meppershall Brownies	
16	Henlow Academy	Newsletter
17	Denis Neilson	A Year in Australia – Part 4
19	The Lucy Pages	The Meppershall Forum
20	Summerfield miniature railway	Public Running Days
21	Paul Savuto	Finances On Divorce
23	Calendar of Events	
24	Social Club	June Newsletter
25	Meppershall Players	Appreciation and Future Productions
26	Puzzle Page	Su Doku 1419
27	Film Review	Tomorrowland: A World Beyond
29	What'sit?	No.12
30	MGC	June
31	Noticeboard	The Messenger & Barbara - Maurice Horwood
32	Sparks Superheroes 2015	Christian Holiday Club, 10-13 August 2015
34	Lewis' Further Adventures	A Komodo Dragon visited
36	Pre-School Ponderings	
37	Significant Events	
38	Puzzle Solution	Su Doku 1419
38	Birthdays	In July
39	St Mary's Church	Services & Events; Message from St. Mary's
42	Junior Church	The day of Pentecost
43	The Recipe	Banana Splits
44	The Team	Collating Dates

EDITORIAL

I'm belatedly writing this piece on the day that Swedish folk celebrate mid-summer. There, it is a national holiday but, like most of their festivals they celebrate on the eve rather than on the day - rather like we do at New Year. I assume that it is the long, cold, and dark winter that makes the Swedes welcome the summer so avidly and put such weight on the solstice, though to be fair that falls later in the weekend. They mark midsummer with parties, usually held outdoors and with special foods and dancing. In fact, they often dance round the "Maypole", as is sometimes done here in England on May 1st.



It got me thinking about how we celebrate summer here in England. By the time you read this, Father's Day, which this year falls on the summer solstice, will be long-gone. While as a father I welcome a day of our own - if only for gender equality, it does nothing to mark the year's longest day. In any case, Father's Day falls on a different date each year and is always a Sunday! A search for local mid-summer celebrations (I use wherecanwego.com) revealed the usual menu of open-gardens, local festivals and fetes, but nothing to acknowledge the solstice - though I did see that Stonehenge is closed that day, so at least someone is celebrating! While I'm not advocating that we all become druids, I do feel it is a shame that we have lost sight of the day, which is one landmark of the year, a beat in the rhythm of the seasons. At least we will have had the Meppershall Fair by the time you read this - I do hope you enjoyed it.

Now is the beginning of the holiday season and the children will soon be let out of school. Many of us will be looking forward to a break from work and perhaps some time away from home, hopefully in the sun! It is trying something different that I find so recreational and I suggest that we should all take the opportunity when it presents.

On a sadder note, I would like to add my voice to those regretting the passing of Trevor Thorley, a long term contributor to the Messenger who is remembered on page ten.

Mike McConnell

News from the Village Hall Committee

The Trustees of the Village Hall, working with the Parish Council and Polehangar Farms are pleased to confirm that agreement has been reached in principle with Croudace Homes to develop land behind the current Village Hall, to include provision of a new Village Hall, Community Sport facilities and Cemetery.

Croudace Homes is a family run business based in Letchworth founded in 1946, and has confirmed it is committed to building high quality homes, with particular emphasis on both Health and Safety during construction and consideration of the environment, with residential developments having maximum green space and mature landscaping.

Under the proposed agreement Croudace will be responsible for constructing the new Village Hall, Sports Facilities and Cemetery to a design provided by the Trustees, and subject to supervision by Robinson & Hall Chartered Surveyors on behalf of both the Trustees and the Parish Council. Croudace will therefore take the risk of any unexpected problems or costs arising during the course of construction.

The new Village Hall design has been revised slightly to reduce costs but continues to meet the requirements of both current and anticipated users as identified in earlier consultation processes, and the last two General Meetings. An excerpt from the latest draft plan follows.

In comparison to the current hall, not only should the new hall be cheaper to run, but there will be additional meeting rooms available to hire, providing both greater flexibility for users and additional rental income. The Trustees are satisfied that the proposed new hall will be sustainable and self-sufficient, in terms of income covering outgoings after an initial build up period during which the costs will be covered from funds retained for this purpose.

Health and Safety considerations mean that the current hall will need to be demolished in order to provide safe access to complete the building work. A temporary building, designed to accommodate existing regular users, will be erected on the playing field with access via a foot path constructed to a standard suitable for long term use by upgrading the access off Shefford Road and near to Crackle Hill Road. Emergency vehicle access to the temporary hall will be maintained at all times. Parking for visitors to the temporary hall will need to be addressed and this is in hand.

It is understood that the housing development will be similar to previous designs discussed at the consultation events but with a greater mix of different types of properties.

There will be an opportunity to view and comment on the overall proposals as part of the planning application process administered by Central Beds Council and a further information event will be held in the near future at the Village Hall.

The Trustees of the Village Hall have agreed to go forward with this project on the terms discussed, subject to satisfactory legal agreements, and it is hoped that such contractual issues will be agreed before the end of July 2015. The formal planning application process will then proceed. It is not expected that any demolition or construction work would start until after the 2016 Meppershall Summer Fair.

Meppershall Village Hall Trustees

MEPPERSHALL GOOD NEIGHBOURS GROUP "GNOMES"

The Gnomes are very proud to announce the birth of their latest project, the Welcome Pack for new residents of Meppershall. This has been a collaborative effort between the Gnomes and The Messenger, supported by the Parish Council. The first packs have been given out, and they contain specially created leaflets on the Gnomes themselves, on St Mary's Church and on the village, its organisations and amenities. These are reinforced by copies of the latest issue of The Messenger and of the Who's Who and What's What in Meppershall, which has been revamped to be more readable. The mix also includes local rail timetables and business cards for some local businesses. If you would like something included about your organisation or business, please contact Dick Bulley.

We have not been able to arrange for any official notification of new arrivals in the village, so we will be relying on all residents to let us know. The Gnomes hotline number is 07760798921 and any neighbour or the new arrivals themselves can call this number. A pack will be personally delivered by a Gnome, as we would like to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves.

Everyone who has seen a pack so far agrees that they wish the information had been available when they first came to the village, so please help us to get a pack into hands where it is needed.

Dick Bulley

01462 815114

Discover the secrets of Bedfordshire's medieval vineyard and this exciting community project

Grand Summer Tours **Friday 31st July**

Adults £8

Children welcome free

**Entry by advanced
booking only**

11.30am & 2.30pm

Tours & tasting last
1.5-2 hours

To book, contact:

info@wardenvineyard.org.uk

07981 113714

For more information:

wardenvineyard.org.uk

WARDEN ABBEY

The community vineyard



A Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity project



Love for God, Life, Learning and for Each Other

Meppershall Church of England Academy

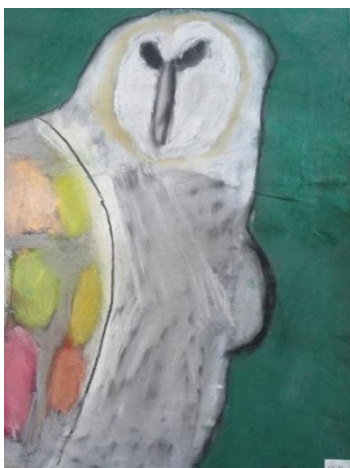
'An outstanding Church of England School' June 2008 and December 2010

We have been very busy at Meppershall CE Academy and seem to be racing towards the end of the year. Our Year 4's are getting ready to leave us and move on to Middle School. They are looking forward to their Residential trip before leaving us and are busy preparing their end of year production.

We have welcomed our new parents to the school who will be sending us their children in September ready to start in our Early Years classroom. We will have a full class starting and are pleased to be offering straight year groups next year as our numbers continue to rise. We will have over 100 children in September.

We are eagerly awaiting the unveiling of our new stained glass piece of art which will be hung in the school hall. It depicts a dove flying over the sea towards a rainbow – a message of hope and a brighter future.

On 17th June Key Stage 1 are visiting Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire as part of their topic on "The Enchanted Woodland". The children in Year 2 have created their very own Magic Faraway Tree in the classroom, with magic doors, fairy keys and mysterious lands at the top of the tree. The artwork across Years 1 and 2 has been stunning and much better than anything I could produce! It has been hard to choose a couple of examples to show you. The Barn Owl is by Hollie in Year 2, the Owl is by Jhnelle in Year 2 and the dormouse is by Emily in Year 1.



Meppershall Parish Council Report

8th June 2015

The meeting commenced with a report from PCSO Gillian Richardson who reported that in the past four-week period there had been seven reported crimes in Meppershall. All seven were different, a report of grooming of a juvenile on the internet, a house burglary in Shefford Road (unfortunately the second time in recent months this house has been targeted), a break in at the Village Hall, a robbery where a taxi passenger ran off without paying, attempted removal of a wheel from a car, a report of a laser being pointed at aircraft and criminal damage, when crops were driven through at the top of Shefford Hill.

Unfortunately Cllr Brown was at another meeting and Cllr Birt was unwell, so there was no report from Central Beds. Further to the report last month of an overhanging tree in Shefford Road it has been confirmed that it is the responsibility of the land owner but the Highways Agency have yet to assess if there is a danger to road users.

One planning application for minor extension to property was received during the month.

The 2014/15 Annual Accounts were approved for submission to the Auditors

A new contractor to carry out weed treatment to the area of Old Road Meadow is about to be appointed. Three more allotments have been let, but there are a number still available to rent.

Community Defibrillators - 40 Parishioners attended the Awareness Evening.

The saga of the maintenance of common areas off Coneygate has hopefully been resolved as Central Beds have agreed to clear the footpath to the High Street and the drainage areas three times a year – April, end of June and end of the growing season – while the hedge beyond number 30 will be cut twice a year – end of June and end of the growing season.

Cllr Foskett reported on the latest developments regarding the New Village Hall. As the Parish Council is only involved in the transfer of land it is up to Village Hall Trustees to report further.

Next meeting 27 July at 7:45pm

Peter Chapman,

Chairman Meppershall Parish Council (chairman@meppershall.org)

TREVOR THORLEY

1938 - 2015

Many, many people in Meppershall will have been saddened to hear of Trevor's death on 4th June, following a heart attack and a stroke. The full congregation at his funeral on 16th was testimony to how many lives he touched in one way or another. It was also fitting that his funeral and final interment should be at St Mary's, the Church for which he did so much. Trevor sang in the choir and was Chair and Trustee of the Friends of St Mary's: he will have been most visible to many people as the organiser and host of musical events to raise funds for the Friends. Probably his greatest triumph was to get Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen to play at two sell-out concerts in the church, followed later by a third concert under Kenny's son, Keith.

It was because Trevor knew so many people and was so "plugged in" to the village that as a fairly new Editor I had been delighted to welcome Trevor as a contributor to The Messenger in 2009. I had heard that he had once been in the newspaper business, so I approached him; he confirmed that he had indeed worked for a national newspaper, but on the commercial side, not as a journalist – not withstanding that, he bravely agreed to "have a go", and in October of that year "Your Shout" first appeared in the magazine. From that time, almost to his death, Trevor was a regular and faithful contributor.

But there was much more to Trevor than his work for St Mary's and for The Messenger. He was a family man: husband, father and grandfather; a sportsman who played tennis and football and helped to found the team that became Shefford Saints. He was a walker and a skier. Originally a Yorkshire lad from a village near Leeds, he moved to Meppershall with Janet in 1971 when the first of their three children was born. He was an enthusiastic traveller - a passion triggered by his postings with the RAF in the 1950s. His walking even took him and Janet into the Himalayas, which provided a memorable Messenger item years later.

Trevor's death after a short illness leaves a gap in the whole village but especially for his widow, Janet. We hope that she will take comfort and support from knowing how widely loved and respected Trevor was.

Contributed with love and fond memory by Dick Bulley and James Read



**Mobile-phone antenna, somewhat disguised as a tree near
Old Warden. Photo D Neilson**



SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

By Enid Pamment

July 2015



Without exception everyone really enjoyed their visit to Dubrovnik. The weather was sunny and hot the entire week. The hotel was beautifully clean and had superb views where we could see cruise ships coming in and out of the harbour in the old city of Dubrovnik. In the restaurant there was a vast selection of food which also included beer, wines or soft drinks to accompany your meal, these selections were available for breakfast, lunch and evening dinner! From the outside dining area, one could look down to see the fantastic swimming pool, where all the entertainment in the evenings took place. Beyond the swimming pool there was a narrow sloping road to the beach. Although the beach it was pebbles, it was equipped with smart garden furniture and a bar! where one could relax. Some of the excursions left from the beach where boats could make the short journey to Dubrovnik harbour. The main inclusive trip of the holiday was to Montenegro, where we had a very knowledgeable Guide who told us of the suffering they had experienced in the Civil War from 1991 – 5 and just how badly this had affected them and their families.

All too soon it was time to say 'goodbye' to Dubrovnik and all the friendly people. I have now received enquiries 'Where to next year!' Please keep me informed of anywhere in particular you would like to go and I will make enquiries.

NAFAS Flower Festival – There are still tickets available and room on the coach to see this wonderful display set in the lovely old building 'Ingatestone Hall' in Essex. This event is from 10.30am until 4.30pm and the coach leaves Shefford at 9am. Why not join us, you certainly will not be disappointed.

Regretfully, we have had to cancel 'The Caritas Harmony' performing at The Grove Theatre, Dunstable, this is due to lack of support. Many residents in the village choose not to go out in the evenings, so in future will try to arrange matinee performances. I do apologies for any disappointment this may have caused.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (At a Glance) 2015

Ingatestone Hall Festival of Flowers (NAFAS)	Saturday 18 th July
Ride a Cock Horse (with lunch)	Wednesday 22 nd July
Sandringham Flower Show	Wednesday 29 th July
Thursford Collection	Wednesday 5 th August
Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Lode Mill	Wednesday 19 th August

Mid-Summer Murders Country & Goring Gap Cruise	Tuesday 8 th Sept.
Guildford Cathedral & City	Wednesday 30 th Sept.
Brick Lane Music Hall with afternoon tea, (War-Time Music Hall)	Tuesday 27 th October
Lord Mayor's Show – 800 th Year	Saturday 14 th Nov.
Thursford Christmas Spectacular	Friday 27 th Nov.
The Last Tango (Flavia & Vincent) Matinee Milton Keynes Theatre	Wednesday 25 th Nov.
John Rutter RAH	Monday 7 th Dec.
Weymouth – Russell Hotel (Tinsel & Turkey)	14 th -18 th December

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

MATINEE PERFORMANCES – 2015

MEMPHIS – Shaftesbury Theatre Royal – Dress Circle Seats – Leaving Shefford at 10.45am	Wed. 1 st July
SINATRA — London Palladium, Royal Dress Circle Seats, leaving Shefford at 11.15am.	Wednesday 22 nd July
WAR HORSE – New London Theatre, Stall Seats, leaving Shefford at 10.45am	Thursday 23 rd July
RAILWAY CHILDREN – London Kings Cross Station – Leaving Shefford at 11am	Wed. 5 th August
SUNNY AFTERNOON – Harold Pinter Theatre, Stall Seats – Leaving Shefford at 10.45am	Wed. 26 th August
CATS –Andrew Lloyd Webber – London Palladium – Stall Seats – Leaving Shefford at 10.45am	Wed. 28 th October
DISNEY ON ICE – WORLD OF ENCHANTMENT – Barclaycard Arena (Formerly The NIA Birmingham) Block 4 (lower) Rows D E F & G – Leaving Shefford at 8.30am.	Sunday 1 st Nov.

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

GYPSY – West End's Savoy Theatre. - Stall Seats	Thursday 13 th August
KINKY BOOTS – Adelphi Theatre – Stall Seats	Tuesday 29 th Sept.

Please telephone for availability and prices of any outings or shows listed above. For all holidays, which include 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.

Enid Pamment – Shefford Leisure Group



This month we went on a treasure hunt through Henlow and we were very lucky to have picked a nice sunny and dry evening for our outing. After the girls had completed the treasure hunt we went to the Pit and played on the zip lines, slide and swings and finished off with chips from the chip shop which the girls really enjoyed.

Six of our brownies joined over 1400 other girls for an activity day to celebrate Bedfordshire Girl Guiding's centenary. There was an amazing array of activities for the girls to take part in and again we were lucky with the weather as the sun shone all day. In the morning, we went on lots of bouncy castles, had go at a form of zorbing, rode a bouncy rodeo, though not for long, rode on the beautiful old fashioned carousel and the girls enjoyed spinning around on the tea cups. In the afternoon we saw the night sky under the planetarium, which was very interesting and informative, learnt some new crafts and some of the girls went climbing on the climbing wall, whilst the others enjoyed the circus acts, which they tell me included flame eating! Here are a few pictures of the girls enjoying their day:



Back in Meppershall, our activities have included a night playing games, Father's Day crafts and we spent an evening commemorating the birth of the new Royal Princess Charlotte with a princess and babies themed evening, we made pretty tiaras, played guess the baby and found out the correct names for lots of baby animals.

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.org.uk.

Devastation in Nepal - Henlow Helps!**£2300+ RAISED IN TREMENDOUS CHARITY EFFORT**

Wow! What an amazing achievement by the whole school!

Henlow pupils and staff wore red, white, blue, green and yellow clothes; the colours of the famous Nepalese prayer flags. Pupils also held cake sales after lunch and staff held an auction of promises to raise more money. After 2 days of fundraising, Henlow had raised over £2300 for Aquabox, with some pupils raising well over £100 individually.

Fun Run

This year's Fun Run was slightly shorter in time and longer in length of lap, but tackled with no less enthusiasm by pupils at Henlow! New records were for the taking and Heather Hitchcock and Joe Lawson set the new yardsticks for the one hour Fun Run challenge. Heather completed 19 laps and Joe managed a whopping 22 laps of the Fun Run course. There were plenty of people in fancy dress, including Batman (Owen Hicks), several Supermen, Minions (Monica Steeley & Millie Jackson), Year 8 pupils in tutus and the odd gorilla (Will Carstairs).

**Kenya Day - Year 5**

Year 5 pupils spent a whole day learning about Kenya and, more specifically about our partner school in Utange.

WHERE MY CARAVAN HAS RESTED

By Denis Neilson

A year in Australia – Part 4 – Finally getting underway.



A heavy thunderstorm started the next day and this delayed us taking Bob the Dog for a walk but eventually the rain stopped and we all got our exercise. We then said our goodbyes to the relatives and climbed into the car to head back to Wollongong via Batemans Bay which all said was worth a stop. We had lunch in a small quaint town called Braidwood, an old gold rush town. Gold was discovered

in 1851 and for 2 decades the population swelled as all came for a piece of the action. It was during this time that the banks and commercial buildings that stand there today were constructed. On then, to Batemans Bay, which is a cute little fishing village with colourful cafes, a sort of St Tropez of the Eastern Seaboard. We booked into a motel and after a wander we headed out to Pebbly Beach. Here, in the evening, we had been told, there was a good chance that Kangaroos and Wallabies would come to the beach. There was nothing there when we arrived but before long they started to arrive eating the grass around us just as though we were not there. It was uncanny. I did not realise how big Kangaroos were but when you get one standing next to you then it can be more than a little disconcerting. Back in the Bay we had a meal, fish of course, mine was grilled Perch and Ruth's was huge prawns wrapped in bacon. A feast if ever there was one.

We had a lazy start next day, well we were on holiday, and left the motel around 10am, breakfasted in Batemans Bay, bought an electric fry pan and a cool bag. and then set off north stopping on the way at Ubadullah, a small fishing town with a nice beach and harbour. As we walked, we came across a bowling green so we stood and watched them play for a while. There is an abundance of bowling clubs in Australia. We kept stopping at various places along the coast to have a look and came across our first Kookaburra in Vincentia. Naturally we were thrilled but after a few weeks in Oz we were fed up hearing the noisy things. Vincentia itself has some very nice beaches. Huskisson, a small but very picturesque fishing village, and a final stop at Nowra, before getting back to Wollongong around 11pm having had a wonderful day. If this was Oz I wanted more!

The following day we went out to Symbio Wildlife Gardens, Wollongong's private zoo where you can get hands on experiences with most of the animals

there especially the Koalas. They have a wide variety including wallaby, kangaroo and wombat, and various birds including emu and ostrich. It was a very good morning out and both Ruth and I enjoyed it very much. Later our hosts took us to Albion Park Bowls Club for the evening where we had a nice meal, although pumpkin as a vegetable accompaniment to fish was not to my taste.

Monday morning was our last day before setting off in our caravan. As we now had all the information required to prove that the caravan was legally ours and nobody had any claim on it I took it to a workshop to get it examined for its "Bluey" as it has to be registered as a vehicle in its own right. This was done without any bother, or so I thought! At the Registration Office once again, but with a different lady this time, I encountered a problem. The Vehicle Identification Number was not registered on the data base of New South Wales or Victoria! I just could not believe this because the number on the receipts from the dealer, the seller and the guarantee were the same, the only difference was the "Bluey", which was the document, and the only document, the lady would accept. In the number on the "Bluey" was a small g yet in all the other paperwork it was a 9. The garage issuing it had misread the number off the chassis! So, back to the garage, reissue the "Bluey" with the "g" amended to "9" and bingo, all plain sailing! No difficulty with home address this time as I had a car registered there!!!

We got our New South Wales plate for the caravan and ditched the Victoria one. Dashed from the RTA offices across to the NRMA offices and got the caravan insured and on the breakdown recovery list. We were now very close to being able to head off tomorrow as planned. We said our final farewell that evening to our hosts as they were working the next day and left early. They had been so good to us and parting was a tearful affair.

The morning was again a nice bright and sunny one. We finished off packing the caravan, locked the door, deposited the key through the letter box as planned and we were on our way! Well, nearly, for I suddenly realised that compulsory extension mirrors were needed when towing a caravan. More shopping was needed to get the mirrors, making it 3pm before we hit the road. Our destination was Sydney, the starting point for our Australian adventure. (....to be continued)

THE LUCY PAGES

By Lucy Standbridge, aged 13



For this issue's piece, I decided that I would find out more about what the Meppershall Village Forum is, and how it could help the village. I interviewed Albane Lester, who is part of the committee to see what it is about.

Interviewing Albane I learnt that the Meppershall Village Forum is a consultation run on behalf of the Meppershall Parish Council, and the aim is to give the community a voice about the future of the village. The outcome is to be a strategic ten year plan to try and improve the community as a whole, in which the forum identifies the strengths of the village that they would like to maintain as well as areas for improvement.

Some the Messenger readers may know that a previous consultation was run in 2006/2008 (the details can be found on www.meppershall.org), and the forum will keep the views of the village up-to-date, by running a community-wide review of 5 key areas:

- Communication and engagement
- Community, social and recreation
- Countryside and environment
- Housing and employment
- Retail, goods and services
- Targeted research with groups such as businesses, youth, the elderly etc.

Albane told me that "The forum is a way of allowing everybody to share their opinion on the village, as well as ask any questions they might have." This can be done on a variety of different formats.

Social Media is already in use (Twitter @MeppVilForum and a Facebook group). The Facebook group seems to be the most popular, with approx. 150 members (correct at time of writing), and it also seems to be mostly women, mothers, however it is starting to attract more teenagers and men. The Facebook forum has #ThursdayThumbsDown where everyone can say what they think is a not-so-good thing of the village and how they can improve that situation. On the plus side, the hashtag #LoveMeppershall is frequently being used on the Facebook forum and twitter.

Online surveys can be found via social media or through the meppershall.org website. Albane also said “At the moment, the surveys have not been advertised much, so there aren’t enough responses yet to get a clear picture of what people like and dislike. If people prefer to use pen and paper, the surveys will also be available in that format”. The forum committee asked: if you can, please complete the surveys and more will be available over the next few months.

There will also be some face-to-face consultations for the community to have a say. If you went to the Summer Fair, you probably saw some information from the Forum committee and perhaps you gave some views about the village. Some more meetings for the forum are to come and the dates will be in the Messenger or online.

Whichever method you prefer, and whichever topics interest you, the Meppershall Village Forum aims to give the community a voice. Make sure to take the advantage of this opportunity to have your say!

Bedford Model Engineering Society Summerfield Miniature Railway

Off the A600 just past Haynes Turn
Public Running Days in 2015 from 11 am to 4 pm.

JULY	Sunday 5 th		SEPTEMBER	Sunday 6 th
	Sunday 19 th			Sunday 27 th
AUGUST	Wednesday 5 th		OCTOBER	Sunday 11 th
	Wednesday 12 th		NOVEMBER	Sunday 1 st
	Wednesday 19 th		DECEMBER	Saturday & Sunday 5 th & 6 th : Santa Specials – booking essential; forms available in September
	Sunday 30 th			
	Bank Holiday Monday 31 st			

FINANCES ON DIVORCE by Paul Savuto

It's a fact of modern life that as many as 40% of all marriages in the UK end in divorce. The break-up can be a traumatic time for all concerned, and brings with it the need to make financial arrangements that can have ramifications for years after the settlement is made.

There are no hard and fast rules governing how assets should be divided, although there is a broad starting point of 50:50. If the divorcing couple are unable to come to an agreement on the division of their financial assets, the court will decide how these should be apportioned between them, based on factors such as their age, earnings ability, property and investments, and role in the relationship (e.g. breadwinner or primary carer). The needs of any children of the marriage are always considered paramount.

THE MARITAL HOME

One spouse can buy the other out and keep the house, or the property could be sold and the proceeds divided. But if there are children, a parent will often want to remain there with them. In which case, any existing mortgage arrangements will need to be reviewed, especially as the other partner may wish to buy their own property. It's worth exploring all the options with a mortgage adviser, especially if both parties intend to purchase a property after the divorce.

PENSIONS

Many people think that a pension solely belongs to the party named on the policy, but that's not the case. A pension has to be considered in the division of assets. Pension assets can be apportioned in various ways, by:

- offsetting the value of one spouse's fund by transferring a lump sum, or other assets, to the other spouse
- splitting the pension fund into two separate pensions
- arranging that when a pension comes to be paid, a portion goes to the other spouse.

LIFE POLICIES

A decision will need to be reached as to whether policies are surrendered or retained. If they are retained, you will have to consider if the name on the policy needs to be altered and if the beneficiaries of any life cover need to be changed. If maintenance is payable and funded from the income of one party,

it may be appropriate to take out further life insurance in case they die or become incapacitated and unable to continue to make payments.

A CLEAN BREAK

It's important to have a Consent Order in place as part of the divorce settlement. Without one, either side could make further demands for income or assets. This could include demanding a share of any inheritance, lottery win or pay rise.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Post-divorce, it makes sense to discuss your revised circumstances with a DGS financial adviser. You'll need to reconsider your financial goals and review your mortgage, life insurance, savings and investment plans and you'll need to remake your will. Reorganising your finances is an essential step in moving forward to a new life.

Please feel to contact me on 0783 4499595, I am Meppershall based.

It is important to take professional advice before making any decision relating to your personal finances. Information above is based on our current understanding of taxation and can be subject to change in future. It does not provide individual tailored investment advice and is for guidance only. Some rules may vary in different parts of the UK; please ask for details. We cannot assume legal liability for any errors or omissions it might contain. Levels and bases of, and reliefs from taxation are those currently applying or proposed and are subject to change; their value depends on the individual circumstances of the investor.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2015

Thursday 2nd		
Evergreens	2:15 – 4:00pm	Sugar Loaf
Saturday 4th		
Karen's Karaoke	8:00pm	Village Hall
Wednesday 8th		
Confirmation service, Bishop Alan	7:30pm	St Marys
Thursday 9th		
GNOMES Coffee morning	10:30-11:30am	Meppershall Care Home
Sunday 12th		
Second Sunday Stroll	10:30	St Marys
Paul Carne's Quiz Night	7:30pm	Social Club
Monday 13th		
Jonathan Gorsky guest speaker	7:45pm	Bible Society, St Michael's Shefford
Saturday 18th		
Social Club BBQ	TBA	Village Hall
Monday 27th		
Parish Council Meeting	7:45pm	Village Hall
Friday 31st		
Grand Summer Tours	11:30 & 2:30	Warden Abbey Vineyard

MEPPERSHALL SOCIAL CLUB

June 2015

Not much to report on at the Social Club as we have had no events at the time the Messenger goes to press. I will report on the Almost Abba event next month.

A big thank you goes out to those of you who have kindly popped in to make a donation after our charity bottle was stolen during a break in. We have almost half of what was stolen. You may still donate anything you can afford, just pop in.

Our event for July will be a BBQ on the 18th, please see the notice boards in and around the village hall for further details.

Our August event on the 15th will be a celebration of the end of World War 2, this will be held in the hall, a street party set up is planned and it is in conjunction with the Meppershall Players, it is NOT the same as their production in May, it is a variety show, suitable for all, tickets will be sold in advance only as food will be provided and we need to cater correctly, see notice boards & next month's messenger for further details.

Don't forget we have cash bingo on Friday night's, eyes down 7.30pm, over 18s only, £1 entry fee for non-members.

As usual, any queries, comments, questions or suggestions, please get in touch.

sharon1805@hotmail.co.uk



The Meppershall Players



At the time of writing this, we have not had our A.G.M or the auditions for "Robin Hood" the pantomime, hopefully by now, as you're reading this, the committee will have been elected and we will have cast the Pantomime.

Rehearsals for this production start in September, but before that, we will be performing a VJ Variety Show for one night only, on Saturday 15th August 2015. This show is a Meppershall Social Club event with the Players providing the entertainment. Tickets for the show are on sale from Meppershall Social Club from Wednesday 1st July. Tickets are as follows: Social club Members £7, Non Members £10, No Concessions, Ticket includes Supper, We can only seat 120 so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Performance Dates for "Robin Hood" Pantomime 2015 are Fri 27th & Sat 28th November, Fri 4th & Sat 5th December.

Tickets are on Sale Every Wednesday 7.30pm till 9.30pm at Meppershall Village Hall and will remain so until 1st October when they will be on sale at Roger's Bakery, in Meppershall only.

The Meppershall Players do have their own page on Face book (Meppershall Players Community) and also new Web Page which will be updated the first Monday of every month. So why not check us out.

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: Sat 4th July, 1st Aug, 5th Sep, 3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 19th Dec & 2nd 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 PAGE

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

Su Doku 1419

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

Thanks to Paul Smith for the puzzle

FILM REVIEW

By Carlie Newman

I recently spent time with swoony Clooney discussing his latest film at a press conference. He seemed pleased with the film as it brings in thoughts about climate change and about the future for all of us and especially the generations to come.

TOMORROWLAND: A WORLD BEYOND (cert.12A 2 hrs. 19 mins.), directed by Brad Bird, has Casey played by Britt Robertson - also at the press conference along with the director and writer - a bright teenager who lives in Florida with her recently made redundant father, (Tim McGraw) and younger brother. She comes across a very strange badge with a big 'T' on it. Trying to find out what it means she meets Athena (Raffey Cassidy) a very unusual young girl (in fact a robot) who is able to fight, but hasn't got any older since the 1960s when she met the young Frank who was attracted to her and now finds himself following a child. It is Athena who takes Casey to Frank (George Clooney) who is now a grumpy pessimist having been evicted from Tomorrowland, an alternative land where everything is wonderful, 50 years before.



Facing David Nix (Hugh Laurie) and his prediction of complete destruction of Earth, Casey and Frank, with Athena's assistance, set about stopping the prediction and saving the world. There is more than a little of ET and The Wizard of Oz in this movie, but nothing too frightening so it is an ideal film for the whole family to see. The two young girls are very good and Laurie and Clooney work well against each other. The message about saving the planet

and being alert to the dangers of climate change are strong and will, hopefully, resonate with film goers.

As for swoony Clooney, in interview he said he hoped the message will get across to young people that individuals can change things; look at Rosa Parks on a bus. He points out the future is not inevitable, ordinary people can alter it. Director Brad Bird points out that the film is an idea of what tomorrow can be.

George is pleased that this large-scale film has been made on real sets, not green screen. The girls added that they liked not having CGI but real people to react to. Clooney remarked that young Frank's speech, "I got tired of waiting around for someone else to do it" - so Frank invented a very special back pack - gives us a look at Frank's vision and that's what the film shows. George undertook the film as he wanted to work with the director and writer and loved the script, theme and issues taken up in the film about a good future. Clooney admitted that the endeavours he's taken up won't succeed in his lifetime but are still worth doing.

I asked what the actors found most scary to undertake. Casey: "had to climb up on a platform and then stand on it and struggle with someone." Raffey: "I trained in martial arts and the director made sure I was comfortable." George: "I trained for minutes. I enjoyed getting beaten up."

In answer to George being optimistic, he agreed and said he has had a lucky life, now "A very good time in my life - wife, house." When asked what one image he would take from the film, George said that films are an entertainment and if people can walk away discussing an issue then that's a bonus. "Looking at the future, when I was a boy I thought there would be flying cars but in fact we don't have that now, but I would hope that we can get away from technology a bit - while shaking hands recently every person was taking a film so not really meeting the President; recording rather than watching." George wants less reliance on technology and more on real conversations etc.

Good film and George Clooney still a most handsome man with a lovely chocolatey voice.

What'sit?

Solution to What'sit No. 11



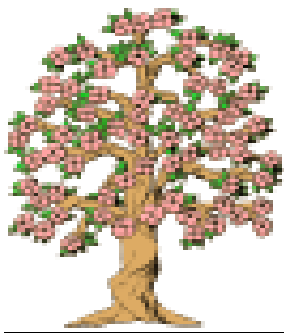
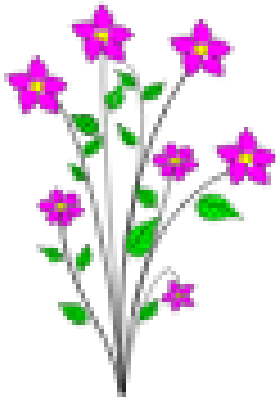
Crest on the wall of the
Manor House, Church
Street.

Now where is What'sit No.12?...



THE MEPPERSHALL GARDEN CLUB

(MGC)



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

Email address:
meppershallgardenclub
@hotmail.co.uk

Have you noticed how lovely the flower bed in front of the Village Hall is looking? A few years ago Meppershall Garden Club decided, with the support of the Parish Council to plan, design and plant a sustainable herbaceous border using easy going perennials and bulbs. Over time it has developed and changed, gaining new plants from members' gardens and determined but welcome self-set additions like valerians and poppies. There are also two beautiful golden yellow roses planted by the Brownies. Now it only requires occasional weeding and dead-heading. We enjoy it and hope you do too.

The parents and staff at Meppershall Academy have also got together and have worked wonders with bright, child friendly planting and painting. The result of which is a welcoming, attractive playground and school building which makes everyone smile.

Walking around it's wonderful to see so many well tended and amazing gardens, planters and hanging baskets. The Churchyard, Old Road Meadow and the Allotments are all cared for by volunteers who work hard to make a difference. We are lucky to live surrounded by open countryside in such a green and pleasant village.

If you would like to find out more about joining Meppershall Garden Club contact details are shown opposite.

Jacqui Plumley

NOTICE BOARD

A sincere thank you to Jacqui for delivering the Messenger to Gregory Close, Coneygate and The Acers. We wish you and the family well in your new home.

We need a new volunteer to take over this round of 65 copies every other month - that's only 5 times a year!

*Please contact Colette (815585 / 07831 111062) if you are able to help.
Many thanks.*

My husband and I wish to thank all our neighbours and friends for the many 'Get Well' cards and kind words after Maurice's heart attack in January, also offers of help with transport and shopping. We are grateful to the prompt attention of Paramedic Terri from Shefford and the East of England Ambulance team from Biggleswade who quickly took Maurice to Lister Hospital A.C.U. (Acute Cardiac Unit). After a stent operation and nine days in Hospital is now making progress. We wish also to thank my sister Joan and our three sons and their families for their great support at this time.

Barbara and Maurice Horwood

The Meppershall Messenger is free through your door because of the support of the advertisers. The Messenger is seeking an

Advertising Manager

to volunteer to take independent responsibility for seeking new advertising accounts. No experience necessary, training available

Apply to: messenger.editor@meppershall.org



10th to 13th August 2015
St Mary's Church — 10am till 2pm
The fun Christian Holiday club
for those aged 5-12

Stuff you should know!

We really look forward to meeting all our Superheroes in August.

Please read the following and keep it as a handy reminder!

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

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

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

If you have not received confirmation by Tuesday 4th August please contact Dawn on 01462 816962.

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

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

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



NEW RECRUITS WANTED!

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A SUPERHERO?

EVER WONDERED WHAT YOUR

SUPER POWER WOULD BE? JOIN US AS FOR AN SUPER ADVENTURE!

MONDAY 10TH - THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST 10 AM - 2 PM

Tick the days you wish to attend:

Mon 10th	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tues 11th	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weds 12th	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thurs 13th	<input type="checkbox"/>

To secure your place, please return form and payment by Monday 3rd August to

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

£3 per day

Cheques preferable (made payable to Meppershall PCC)

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

Name of Child Age

Address

Parent's Name

Home phone number

Mobile (Emergency Contact)

Allergies / Medical conditions

If possible could I be with my friend

(We can only attempt to satisfy requests where possible, and on a first come basis, but we are all very friendly!)

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

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

I understand that this takes place on an open site.

I give/do not give permission for my child to be photographed.

Signed Date

E-mail (for confirmation and future events):

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

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

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

Bring your parents and please join us for our celebration service on Sunday 16th August and come and hear all about our adventures! 11am-12noon

Lewis' Further Adventures

A Komodo Dragon visited.

Quite a hullabaloo in one of the gun sites, a Komodo dragon wandered into the site on the prowl for food; it was a monitor lizard about six feet long - only half grown. A couple of Gurkhas were on the site at the time and wanted to turn it into a tasty dinner. However they were persuaded by the gun sergeant to wrap it up in a tarpaulin, to hand over to the local Land Dyaks, it was a fearsome looking beast and naturally everyone had their photos taken, posed alongside the creature. It was most unusual to find a Komodo in Sarawak so the local conservation team were very pleased to have it.

I had my own problems, one of the Radars had developed a ticking noise from its Foster Scanner which was of quite unique design, no spare scanners were held in the Far East Theatre. The Scanner was mounted on the top front of the equipment, and was made by the Reinforced Plastics Company, based at Filton. An outer cone some 1.5 metres in length contained an inner cone which rotated at some 1,200 rpm, microwaves were fed into the narrow end of the cone from the transmitter unit and thence through slots in the cone which had barrier teeth some 3mm by 10mm in length mounted in them. Similar teeth were mounted on the inside of the outer cone which enabled the distribution of the microwaves, the angled cone allowed the microwaves to be radiated from the reflector as an angled beam without any external rotation of the scanner. The ticking appeared to have a frequency of 1200 and by conjecture was being caused by the barrier teeth hitting each other. There was nothing for it but to strip the whole unit to gain access to the internal rotor, how I wished I had visited the manufacturer at Filton, however the problem was mine now. We moved the FCE 7 into the shelter we had built, the two halves of the outer cone were held together by some seventy 4BA screws and washers and nuts, a laborious task to remove. Once the upper half of the cone was removed the inner cone was exposed, the area where the teeth had been rubbing was evident, also there appeared to be excessive end float on the inner cone.

Using feeler gauges the amount of end float was established and it proved to be some four thousandths of an inch. Our salvation came in the form of the foil sealing the fifty tins of cigarettes which were free issued. Using a scalpel, two pieces of foil were cut out to fit the end of the inner cone. The worn teeth were carefully dressed with a needle file and on re-assembly and test the ticking was no longer evident. We were back up to our full complement of serviceable systems.

A few nights later there was a lot of dashing around at the central control vehicle. It was 22.00 and guns were already free, the long range radar picked up a slow moving target approaching from the border with Kalimantan, it appeared to be following one of the rivers. Orders came out on the Regimental radio net for all guns to be set to Tight. The aircraft was interrogated with I.F.F. but no reply was received, eventually the aircraft was visually recognised as a Piper Cub, its identification letters were checked and it turned out to belong to a Mission which was normally replenished by Indonesia !

The days, weeks and months dragged slowly by, apart from the daily downpours and a very high work load, there was little to alleviate the tedium. The girls back at Hubbelrat had been busy. By fair means or foul, they had raised sufficient money to purchase a reel-to-reel tape-recorder. Each family was allowed a three inch diameter reel to record all their members of the family. It was approaching Xmas and to receive these tapes was a tremendous morale boost. I purchased two recorders at a very good price from the local dealer in Kuching and all the lads had their tails up.

On Xmas Eve I arranged for all the R.E.M.E. chaps to have a slap up dinner of many courses with plenty of Tiger beer. My fellow AQMS Tiffy and I manned the fort in case we had any emergency failures cropping up, the lads appreciated it.

It so happened that there were no callouts, Twink and I put our feet up on the bench in the RRV and did sod all, naturally the next day we told the lads what a ghastly night we had.

We were now on the last knockings of our tour, the Battery Commander put out an edict that all Passports had to be handed in to the Battery Office, supposedly for checking prior to our return to the BAOR. I refused to do so because I had purchased my passport some years before and all the family members were listed in it. The Battery Office was renowned for mislaying and losing critical documentation so I held my position, I also photo-copied the page which laid out in plain English that the passport was the property of the Foreign Office and was to be looked after by the holder at all times. The B.C. sent off a signal to the senior R.E.M.E. Officer in Singapore saying that I was insubordinate in my actions and I should be returned to Singapore for Court Martial. Fortunately the R.E.M.E. S.O. took the view that I was correct and the matter was dropped, subsequently a number of passports went missing from the Battery Office and the B.C. was hauled over the coals.

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

To be continued.



On 10th June we held our 'Sports Day' outside for the first time. Thank you to the Hickey family for allowing us to use their fantastic garden, especially Sam and Aoife who shared their climbing frame. The children were really excited on the day and loved having a picnic on the lawn, followed by completing a circuit of obstacles, and then races in front of their families. Well done to our mini athletes who were in different coloured teams, and all worked really hard. We hope everyone who attended enjoyed the whole experience. Thank you to the fundraising team for organising refreshments!

A new committee has now been elected as of 20th May 2015. Thank you to Laura Hing, Angela Ridley, and Rebecca Taylor for taking up positions as officers, and to Michelle Browning, Vanessa Freakley, and Sara Brinkley for joining the committee of 2015/16. Thank you to all those on last year's committee who stepped down, and to our super fundraising team for all their hard work. Without your commitment there would not be a pre-school.

What's happening in July?

1st July - Teddy Bears picnic at The Rectory and a look around St Mary's Church with Reverend Roni.

7th July - Pre-school children are going to watch Meppershall Academy's KS2 dress rehearsal of their production.

8th July - Teddy Bears picnic at Meppershall Academy for children starting there this September.

17th July - Leavers show with all children taking part. We will be sad to see them go, but know they are now ready for big school. Today is also the last day of term and we finish at lunchtime. We hope all our families have a fantastic summer holidays!

We are now enrolling for September. If your little one has turned 2 and is ready to make new friends and enjoy our stimulating, safe environment, 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 & 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, or visit www.meppershall-ps.co.uk to find out more about the Early Years Foundation Stage and exceptional care we offer.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

RIP

We were saddened to hear that Trevor Thorley died on Thursday 4th June aged 77.

Birthdays in July:

Alan Pritchard, will be 85 on the 1st

Birthdays in August:

David Drummond will be 91 on the 3rd

Penny Trundle will be 76 on the 3rd

Ida Taylor will be 97 on the 14th

Congratulations to all of the above.



Mary Mitchell, left, pictured on the occasion of her 80th Birthday on 27th May, with her birthday cake and card from the Messenger.

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

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

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Solution to Su Doku 1419

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

A very happy birthday to those of you celebrating birthdays in July

Charlotte Rose who will be 8 on the 3rd
 Charlotte Watson who will be 14 on the 12th
 Joshua Wright who will be 15 on the 13th
 James Metcalfe who will be 13 on the 14th
 Scott Metcalfe who will be 11 on the 17th
 Elysia Warner who will be 10 on the 20th
 Cameron Maxwell who will be 13 on the 26th
 Kerys Henderson who will be 13 on the 26th

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

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

Church Road, off Campton Road, Meppershall

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



Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman

01462 339962 – ronigoodman@gmail.com – usual day off Monday

Churchwardens:

Dawn Abbatt 01462 816962

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

PCC Secretary:

Anne Parsons 01462 813333 Email: annie10639@gmail.com

Things to Watch Out For...

Bishop Alan of St Albans – visiting St Michaels Shefford to lead a service of confirmation this month (8th July).

2nd Sunday Stroll – this month it's a simple loop from the church and back, around the hill between Meppershall and Shillington, ending with refreshments at the church (12th July).

Jonathan Gorsky – a renowned Jewish guest speaker at the Bible Society Action Group meeting on Monday 13th July at St Michael's Shefford.

SPARKS – 10-13 August – volunteers needed! Call Dawn on 816962.

A Message from St Mary's...

You know that feeling you get when you go in to the office to find that a favourite colleague is on holiday? You wonder who will do the things they usually do, and who you will chat with when you go to get a coffee. Or that feeling when you visit the house of a friend who is away on their summer break somewhere? Watering their garden, collecting their post, but not saying 'hi – how are you?' like normal.

It's like that at church this week as I write this message. Rector Roni is away, and although services take place, locking and unlocking the church carries on, and jobs around the churchyard continue, it's not the same. We miss her!

They say “absence makes the heart grow fonder.” Often when people are away, our minds turn to all the things we like about having them around. It helps us make sure we don’t take them for granted. When they return, we appreciate them even more. But it can be equally important to stop and think about what is left when an important person is away.

So after locking the church and bringing the chickens in, my moment to stop and think arrives. A ruby red summer sun is sinking amid a blaze of horizon gold behind the Rectory, out across the Mid Bedfordshire landscape. Its evening glow has caught the church tower at this time of year for a thousand years, wrapping it with a rich mix of stark shadow and golden-red light.

It is a moment bigger than anyone experiencing it – bringing its peace, mystery and inspiration. It has stirred the souls of so many people before, over a thousand summers and more. It will always be this way. It is a treasure uncovered amid day-to-day life.

The passing of Trevor Thorley brings an absence that will be felt by many, in so many ways. His proud, poised hosting of concerts at St Mary’s; his solid singing in the choir; his courtesy and warmth to all around him; his loyalty and contribution to village life over 5 decades: truly, it will not be the same without him. Our deepest love and sympathy go to Janet and family.

The bible has some advice for times like this: “We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinth.4v18).

So in Trevor’s physical absence, we reflect on those unseen things. His spirit, manner, approach to others, his industriousness and sheer hard work to support and drive some wonderful village events and to chair the Friends of St Mary’s charity - examples to inspire many in the future: treasures amid day-to-day life. They are eternal.

James Read, Churchwarden

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

Date	Time	Service / Event
Weds 1 st July	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 5 th July 5 th after Trinity	11.00am 11.00am 10.45am	Parish Communion Junior Church at the School TeenTableTalk at the Rectory
Weds 8 th July	10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Communion Confirmation Service at St Michael's, Shefford, with Bishop Alan of St Albans, all welcome.
Friday 10 th July	9.00- 9.30pm	Silent Together – join friends to sit for a few minutes to enjoy the tranquillity of the church
Sunday 12 th July 6 th after Trinity	8.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Second Sunday Stroll – meet at the church gate for a short loop of 2-3 miles from the church via the Watertower and Chibley Farm. Returning to church for refreshments.
Monday 13 th July	7.45pm	Bible Society – all welcome – Jonathan Gorsky, a Jewish speaker: 'The Jewish Heritage of Peter, Paul and the New Testament Church' – at St Michaels, Shefford.
Tues 14 th July	2-4pm	Rectory Tea – chat and a cuppa – all welcome
Weds 15 th July	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th July 7 th after Trinity	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion All Age Family Service
Weds 22 nd July	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sat 25 th July	9.00- 9.30am	Celtic Morning Prayer
Sun 26 th July 8 th after Trinity	11.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 28 th July	2-4pm	Rectory Tea – chat and a cuppa – all welcome
Weds 29 th July	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 2 nd August 9 th after Trinity	11.00am 11.00am 10.45am	Parish Communion Junior Church at the School TeenTableTalk at the Rectory

BANANA SPLITS**JULY 2015****SERVES 4**

150ml (5 fl oz) fresh double cream
4 large bananas.
Dairy ice cream.

25g (1oz) chopped nuts.
4 glazed cherries
Hot chocolate sauce
or hot fudge sauce.

METHOD

- 1) Whip cream until softly stiff.
- 2) Peel bananas and split lengthways. Quickly sandwich together with spoonfuls of ice cream.
- 3) Place on 4 individual dishes then top with whipped cream.
- 4) Sprinkle with nuts and put a cherry in the centre of each.
- 5) Serve immediately with chocolate or fudge sauce.

CHOCOLATE SAUCE

175g (6oz) plain chocolate
20g (1/4oz) butter.
45ml (3tbsp) water.

45ml (3tbsp) golden syrup.
5ml (1tsp) vanilla essence.

METHOD

- 1) Break chocolate into small pieces.
- 2) Place in a small pan with butter, water and golden syrup.
- 3) Heat gently until chocolate has melted.
- 4) Remove from heat. Add vanilla essence and stir to mix. Serve hot.

FUDGE SAUCE

25g (1oz) plain chocolate
15g (1/2oz) butter
30ml (2tbsp) fresh milk, warmed.

100g (4oz) soft brown sugar
15ml (1tbsp) golden syrup.
2.5ml (1/2 tsp) vanilla essence.

METHOD.

- 1) Break up chocolate. Put into a basin standing over a saucepan of hot water. Add butter.
- 2) Leave until chocolate and butter have melted, stirring once or twice.
- 3) Blend in milk. Transfer to pan. Add sugar and golden syrup.
- 4) Stand over a low heat. Stir until sugar has dissolved.
- 5) Bring to the boil. Boil steadily without stirring for 5 minutes.
- 6) Remove from heat . Add vanilla essence and mix well.
- 7) Serve hot.

*Recipes are kindly supplied each month by Brenda Putwain.
Benda 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 12th of the month for publication at the end of that month. Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

DISCLAIMER

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

THE TEAM

Editor	Mike McConnell	2a Gregory Close	811814
		Email: mike.mcconnell@virgin.net	
Assistant Editor	David Turner	2 Campton Road	813613
		Email: davidturner25@hotmail.com	
Advertising and Distribution	Colette House	90 Fildyke Road	815585
		Email: colettehouse@gmail.com	
Production Co-ordination	Enid Pamment	112 High Street	851397
		Email: enid.pamment@gmail.com	
Treasurer	John Thompson	16 Brookmead	812983
		Email: jthompson244@btinternet.com	

<u>Collating Dates for your Diaries</u>					
<u>2015</u>					
July	27	Double	October	26	
August	None		November	30	Double
September	28		December	None	
			January 2016	25	

Please note that dates in the above table indicate the month in which the collating will take place, at 2.30 pm in the Sugar Loaf. The issue being collated will relate to the following month.