





## What is in your Messenger this Month?

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## Editorial

**By Mike McConnell**

Welcome to your May edition of the Messenger. Although it seems to have been unseasonably cold this Spring, I have every confidence that by the time you're reading this edition of the magazine, the first signs of Summer will be with us. Certainly, we have the two May Bank Holidays to look forward to! Though Bank Holidays do little to guarantee good weather! In your Messenger you will find other signs that Summer will soon be with us, as the first details of the Meppershall Summer Fair are announced. Let's all hope that the weather will be as kind as last year.



In last month's magazine we devoted considerable space to the Planning Process and the proposed development behind the Village Hall by Croudace Homes. I am sorry to say that we were not able to mention the development proposed at 100 High Street (the subject of a letter on page 3), where the application was submitted a few days after we went to press. If you are interested, there is still time to review the plans and submit a comment, since the deadline is 6<sup>th</sup> May.

This month's magazine includes another interesting summary of the results from the Village Forum Survey, this time dealing with our sense of community. My reading of the results is that we all yearn to be engaged with our village community and in Meppershall we have the opportunity to satisfy that wish, as we want. I would just remind readers that the Messenger is here to provide a forum and our Letters Page is open to anyone wanting to share a viewpoint. Just contact the magazine (see page 40) or leave a hard copy at the shop.

The steadily increasing proportion of us that are internet users may be interested in the article submitted by David, our village webmaster. He describes the new Meppershall Calendar on the website, which now includes the activities of many of our clubs and groups. In some respects it is like our own Calendar of Events, which appears on the page before (ie. Page 21), however you can make the Calendar from the website appear on your smart phone – something we can't yet do with the Messenger!

Finally, I am indebted to Paul Savuto who has written a timely piece for this edition picking out the key points from this year's budget.

## Readers' Letters

Dear Editor,

I have recently been sorting through the Toddler Group equipment that has been kept in a cupboard in the village hall. The Parish Council are very kindly allowing the toys to be stored in their lockup for the time being so that Preschool can make effective use of the space.

I would like to take the opportunity however to remind the Messenger readers that this equipment exists along with a £200 bank balance should there be a group of mums/dads/carers out there who would like to get involved in resurrecting a baby and toddler style group. It was with regret that the decision to discontinue Meppershall Tots was taken last October and I was inundated by residents, especially former users, saying what a shame it had been.

If anyone is interested and would like to find out more they can contact me on 07947 949695.

Regards, Angela Ridley

Dear Sir,

I'm sure many Meppershall residents will have been in hearty agreement with the sympathies expressed so well by Roger Crawford in the April "Messenger". What of course he couldn't know was that by the time his letter reached publication planning consent was being sought for yet another large urban housing estate at Bury Nurseries\*, this one to include lethally dangerous access at the narrowest part of the High Street less than 50 metres from the school. This means that the minimum number of extra houses presently under consideration for Meppershall is around 120, against the present number of about 550. Roger's letter rightly urges us to think about the sort of place we wish to live in - sadly thinking about it is all we'll be able to do because there seems to be little we can in reality do to stop the tide of speculative and highly profitable "development" from overwhelming us. In the same issue you will have read the article by David Lamb. The fact that he is from the "Development Management Regeneration and Business Directorate" should tell you all you need to know. Central Beds Council is an abject failure as a Planning Authority, and its weakness wholly undermines the local democratic process. Does anyone remember the "Localism Agenda"? It seems to have gone the same way as the Cones Hotline.

I'm sorry to be so pessimistic, and I would certainly urge everyone concerned to lobby their elected representatives as hard as they can, but it seems that Meppershall as a village will soon be a thing of the past.

Philip Gilbert  
94 High Street

**Editorial Note:** \*This is application [CB/16/01012/OUT](#) on the Central Bedfordshire website. The comment period ends on 6<sup>th</sup> May. At time of writing 49 comments had been received.

## Covers By Request

The cover this month shows the second Wanderbus, which was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Last year, Wanderbus won an award from Department for Transport (Rural Minibus Fund) to finance the additional bus. Based in Meppershall and run entirely by volunteers, Wanderbus has now increased the frequency of existing routes and is offering new routes including Biggleswade and St Neots (on Market Day, the second Thursday of the month) with a monthly excursion trip to Cambridge (on the fourth Thursday of the month). See timetable in the March Messenger or on the Meppershall village website for details.

### **Appeal for Help**

Your Meppershall Messenger needs help managing its advertising. This is a crucial task that ensures that the magazine continues to arrive through our letterboxes each month, free of charge. No previous experience is necessary, as full training will be given. If you think that you could help, please contact any member of the team.

## **Update on the Housing Development behind the Village Hall**

The Developers, Croudace Homes Ltd staged an exhibition of their plans on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall. What was different this time was that the plans on show covered the housing development as well as the new Village Hall. There was a range of drawings and artist's impressions showing the "street scene" from different viewpoints, details of types of houses and of their layout and height. There was also a series of diagrams showing the phases of the development of the temporary Village Hall and the New Village Hall and their access roads. All the drawings that were on show can be found on <http://meppershall.org/index.php/18-village-hall/32-village-hall-links-page>

Christopher Evans of Croudace was on hand to answer questions and he can be contacted on [Christopher.Evans@Croudace.co.uk](mailto:Christopher.Evans@Croudace.co.uk). Questions that he was not able to answer concerned the precise timing of the different phases because the definite start date will not be known until Planning Permission has been granted: that constitutes the starting gun for the whole development, which will take approximately 2 years.

The Exhibition was part of the Community Consultation, stage 1 of the process outlined in last month's Messenger. Feedback forms were available for visitors to the Exhibition to let Croudace have their views but the window for the public to express their views directly to CBC Planning Dept does not open until the Planning Application has been formally submitted, which is expected to happen later in April. The Village website, [www.meppershall.org](http://www.meppershall.org) has a section dedicated to this development, including direct links to the plans and illustrations that were featured in the exhibition. This website will let you know as soon as the planning application is submitted and will tell you when and how you can express your views to the planners.

## Meppershall Village Hall Development

Below is an update from Croudace Homes which was read to the Parish Council meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

*Croudace Homes would like to thank everyone who was able to join us at the village hall on either Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April or Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April. We felt that both events were very productive and appreciate everyone's comments at this developed stage of our process. For anyone who was not able to join us at the village hall, images of our exhibition have been put up on the [www.meppershall.org](http://www.meppershall.org) website.*

*The main difference between this current scheme and our previous scheme is that we have taken note of local residents' concerns regarding traffic along the High Street and we have included a raised table road construction at the junction with the High Street. The proposed raised table is the largest we can do around the junction and it occupies an area from the edge boundary of 2 High Street to the beginning of the bus-stop. There is also an area next to the raised table which will be landscaped to create an attractive environment around the raised table.*

*With everyone's comments considered we are now finalising our drawings and reports for a submission by the end of this month. Once the application has been submitted and registered by Central Bedfordshire Council, it will be available for everyone to see and comment on the council's website.*

A couple of issues were raised at the meeting which have been sent to Croudace Homes :-

- *The Parish Council wish to keep the small copse in the proposed burial ground, possibly as a green burial area. Please can you confirm that this will be retained.*
- *The meeting was happy about the provision of a traffic calming table at the proposed junction. Concern was expressed about the noise generated by the type of construction used recently in Shefford. These tables in Ivel Road, constructed by a developer, have a brick paver top and the rumble of traffic is causing a nuisance to residents. In Meppershall residents will be even closer to your proposed table, therefore please can you ensure that no excess noise is generated by any new surface that you construct.*



## **Parish Council Report 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

During the informal part of the meeting Tony Brown Central Beds Councillor reported that Charles Whitbread had been appointed High Sheriff of Bedfordshire by the Queen.

The report on boundary changes due to the reduction in MPs for the next Parliament has been received and the average number in a Constituency will be 74,769. It is likely Mid Beds Constituency will remain.

If the proposals on the table pass public consultation, 2016/17 will be the last year of the 24/7 bus pass in Central Beds as it plans to join the vast majority of other authorities going to 9.30am-11.00pm use. Also, over half of the bus services in Central Beds receive a subsidy, which cost £1.3m a year.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Planning**

The planning application to increase 5 Rectory Road to a two storey house has been approved.

The new application for 38 dwellings on land behind 100 High Street was discussed and the Council unanimously agreed to object to the application because the majority of the buildings are outside the existing envelope, on the grounds of sustainability following the development behind the Village Hall, the outline permission for 6 dwellings near Shefford Road, the proximity to a 24/7 farm, and the position of the road junction so close to the school.

#### **Finance**

The accounts for 2015/16 will be available at the May meeting.

#### **Highways**

The highways contractor to CBC has changed, with Jacobs taking over; time will tell if it was a good decision.

CBC highways has agreed to start planning work in regards to making the keep clear marking outside the school enforceable with a 20mph in that vicinity and the matter of the signs towards the Church. Work will be undertaken to improve the bridleway from the end of the existing tarmac in Hoo Road.

### **Environment and Leisure**

The contract to replace the Jubilee seat and to refurbish Archie's seat is about to be let now the better weather is here.

Old Road Meadow – the contractor is about to spray the weeds in this area. The Council agreed to send the maintainer of the allotments on a course so he could undertake the work in future

The Allotment Field – a complaint had been received from a resident near the gate into the allotments complaining about the noise the gate makes. A Councillor had visited the site and stated that the noise was less than the dogs barking a few doors away. Even so there would be a check to see if any of the noise can be reduced.

The Village Plan Review is continuing with regular updates in the Messenger.

It is hoped that by the time you read this a decision on whether the Sugar Loaf is a village asset will have been made.

The next meeting of the Council is the Annual Statutory Meeting where the various positions on the Council are filled for the following year and is on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

Peter Chapman, Chairman Meppershall Parish Council –  
[chairman@meppershall.org](mailto:chairman@meppershall.org)

## Meppershall Village Forum

### **#LOVE MEPPERSHALL**

Since the last issue of The Messenger, we have published the results from our second questionnaire on Community and Engagement. The top findings have been published on our Twitter page (@mepvilforum ) and on the Meppershall Village Forum Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/meppershallvillageforum](http://www.facebook.com/meppershallvillageforum) ), as well as on our new Village Forum website which can be found at the following address: [meppershallvillageforum.wordpress.com](http://meppershallvillageforum.wordpress.com).

Don't forget, you can either type this address in to access the website directly or go to the village website ([meppershall.org](http://meppershall.org)) and click on the Forum link there. On the Village Forum website, you will not only find details of our top findings from this questionnaire, but also a link to a PDF containing a more detailed analysis of the results. You can also see the results from Questionnaire One and the timetable for future surveys.

If you don't have access to a computer, the top findings for Questionnaire Two are reproduced below and if you would like the full detail of the survey, please contact Paul Smith on 07715 572362.

Our sixth questionnaire on Housing and Employment accompanies this issue of The Messenger and is also available online. You can find the link at any of our online sites, as detailed above. Please do keep your answers coming by completing and returning the questionnaires by whichever method is easiest for you. The more input we receive, the more useful our conclusions will be!

Thank you.

The Village Plan Review Group

[forum@meppershall.org](mailto:forum@meppershall.org)

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## Questionnaire Two Results - Community and Engagement

### - Our Top Findings

#### **1. The meaning of community**

Community was defined in terms of:

- a small group in close geographical proximity
- a sense of care and support, safety and belonging
- people doing things together, for each other and for the common good.

#### **2. An engaged community**

4 out of 5 respondents said that they were involved at a level that works for them, with a further 17% wishing to be more involved.

80% of respondents got involved, at least as users and beneficiaries of community activities.

Also, with 43% of respondents contributing by volunteering, Meppershall was in line with national statistics (Community life survey, Institute for Volunteering Research, 2014-15).

#### **3. Some difficulties in having your say**

2 out of 3 respondents did not communicate anything to the community in the past 12 months. Those who did used the methods identified in Questionnaire One (e.g.: Messenger, social media...), plus the Parish Council.

1 out of 3 respondents did not participate in any group discussion and 3 out of 10 did not give their opinion on any community matters over the past 12 months.

Of those who did express their views in the past year, 9 out of 10 felt they could do so freely but only half felt that their views were taken into account.

#### **4. Preferred consultation methods**

The preferred consultation methods, from most liked to least liked were:

1. Public information meeting followed by the opportunity to share your views anonymously
2. Community forums, i.e. public meeting with public discussion
3. Anonymous surveys
4. Small working groups, workshops, or focus group
5. Posting your views on a website, blog or social media, as a named contributor.

#### **5. A desire for much greater involvement with local and unitary government**

Respondents wanted to be involved with the Parish Council and with Central Beds Council 2 to 4 times more than they currently are.



### **A Fundamental Truth of Village Life**

Below is one of 52 responses to question #26 in the third Forum Group survey. The Group felt that all these responses were relevant for the CBC Planning Dept when considering applications for housing developments, and the Parish Council agreed that all the responses should be forwarded to CBC. We felt that this particular response beautifully expressed a very fundamental truth.

"Residents must ask themselves why they chose to live in a village. It is often about quiet, countryside, basic amenities, community feel. Then the consequence is that the fabric of social life in a village revolves around people: people setting up clubs, people doing things, people volunteering their time, money and commitment. What defines a town is less about people and more about things: facilities, amenities, shops, services... that you pay for, rather than roll your sleeves up and do yourself. If you chose to live in a village, you chose to be a doer, so start doing!"

Bedfordshire and Luton  
Casualty Reduction Partnership  
Working together to reduce road casualties

# Bedfordshire **RideSafe**

## **FREE** ASSESSMENT



Assessments are open to **full motorcycle licence holders**. Each assessment lasts around 2 hours with skills being assessed by an Advanced Police motorcyclist. Places can be booked through contacting:

[ridesafe@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ridesafe@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk) or  
[alison.smith@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alison.smith@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

### **Dates for the free assessments:**

Sunday 3 July 2016 at Kempston Fire HQ  
Sunday 25 September at Luton Fire station  
Sunday 16 October at Kempston Fire HQ

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## Shefford Leisure Group - May 2016

By Enid Pamment

What a wonderful afternoon our annual 'Get Together' turned out to be. The sun was shining whilst over 70 people congregated to Mount Pleasant Golf Club for afternoon tea.

For this occasion prior to the event we visited shops and business in Shefford requesting their support and we really are so touched at their generosity, not one person refused! We were able to display a bumper raffle table which raised a magnificent sum of £270.00.



Representative Rebecca Eastwick from Keech Hospice Care for Children gave a short talk before showing two short videos on the birth of Keech and how it has grown plus the famous garden that Alan Titchmarsh and his team built during the Summer of 2015. Keech Hospice has always been our pet charity so we were able to present our cheque from Shefford Leisure Group for £1,000.00. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported us.

NB: Since the event a letter of appreciation has been received from Keech thanking everyone for their support..

Our final trip for March was a visit to London and The Shard and an afternoon Thames cruise on the City Cruises boat, where we enjoyed a cream tea. The sun shone throughout, the vision from the top of The Shard was superb, Many of us walked up the final flight of steps to the very top. The viewing platform was equipped with a bar where one could enjoy a glass of champagne! We then made our descent and we were soon ground level, leaving time to browse the gift shop before re-joining our coach where our driver Peter was waiting to take us to The Millennium Pier so we could board our boat, soon to be waited on with beautifully served sandwiches, fresh cream scones and a variety of delicious cakes. Everyone agreed it was a superb day out.

### *JUST A REMINDER*

A few of our readers asked if I could organise a visit to Keech Hospice Care for Children. The date of our visit is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. If you are interested in attending, please contact me as soon as possible as there are only limited places available. Rest assured you will not be disappointed!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS (At a Glance) 2016

Dutch Waterways River Cruise	Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> April - Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> May
A Taste of Leicestershire	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May ( <i>Sold Out</i> )
Dad's Army/Bressingham Steam Museum	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Guys & Dolls MK Theatre (Matinee Performance)	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June
Visit to Keech Hospice Care (limited seats)	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
Sandringham Flower Show	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July
BBC Country File Live - Blenheim Palace	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> August
Cotswolds - Chavenage House	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August
A Day by the Brighton Seaside in August	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> August
Sunny Afternoon - MK Theatre (Matinee performance)	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> August
Twist & Shout at Wickstead Park, with lunch and afternoon tea	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September
Torquay - TLH Hotels - The Derwent Hotel	Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> October
Thursford Christmas Spectacular (Matinee)	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November
Turkey & Tinsel - Eastbourne Daish's 'Flagship' Hotel The Claremont	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December to Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December
<i>NEW</i> : Anglesey Abbey - Winter Lights	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Oh What a Christmas Cracker, at Wickstead Park	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December

## LONDON SHOWS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE (with Stevenage Group Travel)

(Coach leaving Shefford at 11:15am, unless stated otherwise)

JERSEY BOYS – Frankie Valli & Four Seasons - Piccadilly Theater – Stall Seats	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June
Brick Lane Musical - Entertainment with afternoon cream tea	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June, leaving Shefford at 10.15am
WICKED – Apollo Victoria Theater – Stall Seats	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June,
BEAUTIFUL - Carole King Musical - Aldwych Theatre, Stall Seats	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
MAMA MIA – Novello Theater – Stall Seats	Thursday 30 <sup>rd</sup> June
SHOW BOAT – New London Theater – Stall Seats	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July, leaving Shefford at 10.30am
THE RAILWAY CHILDREN – Kings Cross Theater (built around the train track!)	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July, leaving Shefford at 10:45am
BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL CHRISTMAS SHOW	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November, leaving Shefford at 10:15am

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).

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## Notices

### **A Note of Thanks**

**Mrs Doreen Downing** would like to extend a note of thanks to all friends and neighbours for their kind words and sympathy for the loss of her husband of 63 years, **Keith Downing**.

The kindness you have shown has helped tremendously during this difficult time.

A sincere thanks to you all.

Doreen Downing and family.

### **NOTICE**

#### **THE MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER AGM**

The above AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May in the Training Room of The New Meppershall Care Home, 79, Shefford Road. All residents of Meppershall are welcome to attend and to tell the Magazine Committee what they think of The Messenger and how it could be improved.

#### **Maureen and Richard Cole**

Are having a service of thanksgiving and blessing on their 50-years of marriage at St Marys Church at 12 pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

All the friends they made in the village during the 42 years they lived in Meppershall are warmly invited.

## Bake it like Berry – Meppershall Bake-Off

As promised in the last edition of the Messenger, here are the much anticipated categories and set recipes for Bake Off 2016. Due to the overwhelming success of last year's Bake Off, we have expanded the number of categories and also we now have a third judge from the WI who will be looking forward to a tasty tart... Drum (or Swiss!) roll, please...

Cakes	1. Victoria Sandwich – Open to all. <b>Set Recipe</b>
	2. Marmalade Cake – School Year 9 & under. <b>Set Recipe</b>
	3. Birthday Cake. Ingredients, flavours and decoration entrants own choice. Open to all.
Men Only!	4. Chocolate Beer Cake – Any age. <b>Set Recipe</b>
Bread	5. Sourdough Loaf - Open to all.
	6. Focaccia – Can include different flavours. Open to all.
	7. White Loaf (any shape) – Open to all
Tray Bakes	8. Flapjacks - School Year 9 & under
	9. Brownies – Open to all.
	10. Your favourite sweet tray bake – open to all
Pastry	11. Double crust seasonal fruit pie - own choice of filling.
Mini Baker	12. Decorated Gingerbread. Two age ranges; (i) Pre Schoolers and (ii) Reception- School Year 4
Show Stopper	Theme: <b>'Rio 2016'</b> 50% points awarded for presentation 50% for cut/taste. The show stopper must be connected to the Olympic Games. Can be in the form of cake, biscuit, bread etc...let your imagination hop, skip and jump!
Preserves*	(a) Jar of Citrus Marmalade
	(b) Jar of Fruit Curd – own choice of fruit
	(c) Jar of Jam – own choice of fruit
	(d) Jar of Chutney – own choice of ingredients
	*Preserves are open to all.

## Get Your Bake On!

This year's set recipes are as follows:

### Victoria Sandwich

- 3 medium eggs weighed in their shells (probably 6oz/170g)
- The weight of the eggs in butter/soft margarine
- The weight of the eggs in caster sugar
- The weight of the eggs in self-raising flour
- Raspberry jam to fill – home-made or shop bought



1. Set oven Gas mark 4, or 180c (160c fan oven)
2. Grease and base line the bottom of two 17cm/7" sandwich tins
3. Cream butter/margarine and sugar
4. Beat the eggs then gradually add to the mixture beating well each time
5. Sieve the flour and fold into the mixture with a metal spoon
6. Divide equally between the 2 tins and bake 25mins in the middle of the oven
7. They are ready when they are golden, shrunk from the sides of the tin and spring back when touched
8. Remove from the tins and fill with raspberry jam when cold to avoid jam bleeding into the cake
9. A light dusting of caster sugar on the top will finish it off nicely!

### Marmalade Cake (Yr 9 and Under)

- 170g soft margarine
- 2 eggs
- 340g self-raising flour
- 1tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground cloves
- 30g cornflakes, crushed
- 170g golden syrup
- 5tbsp orange marmalade 1tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp grated nutmeg
- 150ml milk
- 30g demerara sugar



1. Preheat oven to 180c (fan 160c) or gas mark 4
2. Grease and base line a 20cm square or 23cm round tin
3. Beat the margarine and syrup together, and gradually add the eggs, beating well
4. Mix in the marmalade, flour, baking powder and spices with enough milk to provide a stiff consistency

### Marmalade Cake Cont'd...

5. Spoon into the prepared tin and level the top of the mixture.
6. Sprinkle the top with the crushed cornflakes and demerara sugar
7. Bake in the centre of the oven for approximately 1 hour, until the cake is just shrinking away from the tin. Leave in the tin for 5 minutes before turning out to cool on a wire rack

### Set Recipe – Chocolate Beer Cake – Men Only Category

- 175g self-raising flour
- ¼ level teaspoon baking powder
- 1 level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 275g dark brown soft sugar
- 110g spreadable butter
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 50g cocoa powder, sifted
- 200ml sweet stout



#### For the icing:

- 110g dark chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa solids), broken up
- 2 tablespoons sweet stout
- 50g spreadable butter
- 110g icing sugar, sifted
- 25g walnut pieces, finely chopped

#### To decorate: 8 walnut halves

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180°C, gas mark 4
2. You will need two 20cm loose-based round sponge tins, greased with base liners plus two wire cooling trays
3. Sift the flour, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda into a roomy mixing bowl, lifting the sieve quite high to give the flour a good airing as it goes down.
4. Add all the other ingredients, except the stout. Using an electric hand whisk, combine them for about one minute until you have a smooth creamy consistency.
5. Finally stir in the stout, a little at a time, until it's all incorporated.
6. Divide the mixture between the two prepared tins and bake near the centre of the oven for about 30–35 minutes. They are cooked when you press lightly with your little finger and the centre springs back.



### Chocolate Beer Cake Cont'd

7. Remove them from the oven and after about 30 seconds loosen the edges by sliding a palette knife all round then turn them out onto a wire cooling tray.
8. Carefully peel back the lining by gently pulling it back.
9. Lightly place the other cooling tray on top and flip them over so that the tops are facing upwards (this is to prevent them sticking to the cooling tray).

### To make the icing:

1. Melt the broken chocolate with the stout in a bowl set over a pan containing 5cm of barely simmering water, without the bowl touching the water.
2. When it's melted (5–10 minutes) take it off the heat. Beat in the butter and leave it to cool a little before beating in the icing sugar with an electric hand whisk.
3. Transfer a third of the icing to a separate bowl and stir the chopped walnuts into that.
4. After the icings have cooled to a spreadable consistency, sandwich the cake with the walnut icing, then spread the remaining two thirds of the icing on the top of the cake, using a palette knife.

Finally, decorate with a circle of walnut halves. Leave the icing to set completely before storing in an airtight tin.

Whether you're a complete beginner or have entered before, I do hope you find this year's classes something to inspire you to enter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on [alli.roberts@hotmail.com](mailto:alli.roberts@hotmail.com) or 07889 066071.

**Tips from the top...** Have no fear – the WI is here! Top tips and comments from previous years to ensure your bake rises to the top...

*Victoria Sandwich: Prepare the baking tins by base lining them and greasing the sides lightly and then coating with a dusting of flour, shaking out any excess loose flour.*

*Whisk the margarine or butter with the caster sugar until pale and creamy, this allows air to be incorporated and encourage a well risen cake.*

This year I am awarding a prize for 'Best in Show – that is the most points awarded overall regardless of class, category or age...

**Go on folks, give it a dough ;-D**

Alli Roberts ([alli.roberts@hotmail.com](mailto:alli.roberts@hotmail.com))

Meppershall Village Fair Committee Member and Bake Off Co-ordinator extraordinaire!

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## Meppershall Calendar of Events

**May (See also the calendar on the village website)**

Day	Date	What's on	When	Where
Sunday	1	Junior Church	11:00am-12:00pm	Meppershall Academy
Thursday	5	Evergreens	2:15-4:00pm	The Sugarloaf
Saturday	7	Karen's Karaoke	8:00pm	Social Club
Sunday	8	Paul Carne's Quizz Night	7:30pm	Social Club
Sunday	8	Second Sunday Stroll	2:15 pm	St Mary's Church gate
Monday	9	Annual Statutory Parish Council Meeting	7:45pm	Village Hall
Tuesday	10	Rectory Tea	2:00pm-4:00pm	The Rectory
Thursday	12	GNOMES Coffee morning	10:45-11:45am	New Meppershall Care Home
Thursday	19	Evergreens	2:15-4:00pm	The Sugarloaf
Friday	27	The Messenger AGM	7:30pm	New Meppershall Care Home

## June

Day	Date	What's on	When	Where
Thursday	2	Evergreens	2:15-4:00pm	The Sugarloaf
Saturday	4	Karen's Karaoke	8:00pm	Social Club
Thursday	9	GNOMES Coffee morning	10:45-11:45am	New Meppershall Care Home
Saturday	11	Car Treasure Hunt & Barbecue	4.30pm	Social Club
Sunday	12	Paul Carne's Quizz Night	7:30pm	Social Club
Thursday	16	Evergreens	2:15-4:00pm	The Sugarloaf
Friday	17	Meppershall Players: "What's Hapnin"	7:30pm	Village Hall
Saturday	18	Meppershall Players: "What's Hapnin"	7:30pm	Village Hall
Saturday	25	Meppershall Summer Fair	1:00pm-5:00pm	Village Hall Playing fields

## The Meppershall Calendar

« < April 2016 > »						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Combining Events from the Calendars of Meppershall Village Hall, St. Mary's Church, Meppershall Academy and other organisations. Just click on a date to see What's On.

meetings on that day or month. These pages can also be accessed from the main menu at the top of every page.



On your local website [www.meppershall.org](http://www.meppershall.org) there is now a Meppershall Calendar which aims to provide a resource for all organisations in the village to display information about their meetings and events.

Clicking on the name of the month or any date will take you to a page containing the information about events and

On the Events Calendar page the left hand panel is a listing of the next 10 events. In the centre you can display a day, week, month or year. There are also links to print or email the information.

At present the calendars from the Meppershall Academy, St. Mary's Church and the Village Hall are displayed and automatically updated each night. There are individual colours associated with each

calendar and links above the title so that a user can filter down to one calendar in their view.

If your group has a web-based calendar that you wish to add please contact me. If you would like to have a few dates added manually then that is possible, either by myself or by a member of your group logging into the system to add them.

For anyone wishing to add the Meppershall Calendar to their own web based calendar on their phone, pad, PC or Mac then you can find a Subscribe link in the main menu. David [webmaster@meppershall.org](mailto:webmaster@meppershall.org)

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# The Meppershall Players



Due to unforeseen circumstances the planned production of “A Mid-Summer Night’s Dream” has been postponed until Spring 2017. In its place we will be performing a Three Act Play directed by Charlotte Goddard entitled “What’s Hapnin” : A Comedy by Karen Mitchell.

The action takes place on the stage at the Village Hall in Little Hapnin, where the local drama group are determined to put on productions despite all the obstacles placed before them. These obstacles would probably not be as large if certain members of the group did not have delusions of grandeur.

Come and see the fearless and sometimes clueless thespians of Little Hapnin as they go from one catastrophe to the next in true “the show must go on”- style. Tickets are £10 Concessions £8, performances on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Curtain up 7.45pm.

Friday night is a charity performance in aid of Shefford Methodist Church, who are in dire need of a new roof for part of their building which is used a great deal by the local community,

Tickets will be on sale from Wed 6<sup>th</sup> April from the Players’ every Wednesday evening at Meppershall Village Hall 7.30pm till 9pm, until Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June when they will be on sale at Roger’s Bakery.

The Meppershall Players are on Face book (Meppershall Players Community) Insta-gram, Twitter, Meppershall Village Hall Website, the list is endless also the Player’s notice board in the front foyer of Meppershall Village Hall.

The Players are always welcoming to new members. Every one pitches in to make our rehearsals and productions fun. We encourage people to have a go at any part of a theatrical production they feel they want to participate in.

If you want to see what we’re about, just drop in to the hall any Wednesday evening. You don’t need a formal invitation, just walk in and say hello (we really are a friendly bunch).

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

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## Where My Caravan Has Rested

By Denis Neilson

### Australia Trip (Part 9) – The Great Barrier Reef and Townsville

On the road again and listening to the news on the car radio. It was full of speculation that the recently appointed Governor General of Australia would resign, and was accompanied by the usual witch hunt and probing by the media. Just the same as here in the UK. Denials, convincing support, accusations and personal attacks, it had them all. He stood down a few days later and then about 2 weeks after that he resigned. Apparently in his previous appointment as Bishop of Brisbane he was accused of covering up the antics of his ministry and failing to report sexual misdemeanours. Allegedly he transferred the naughty ones to other areas of his diocese using the principle of move it and it will go away. Less international or of interest to the majority was an event at our next campsite. It was a police raid on one of the log cabins for hire on the campground. Guys in white overalls and rubber gloves entered a cabin and eventually emerged with boxes whilst 2 uniformed ladies escorted a handcuffed girl into a police car and drove off. It was like CSI! We assumed drugs but it could have been anything and even might have been a scene from a TV crime series. Who knows? We never found out!

Once we reached the lagoon off the cay, the sea was reasonably smooth but the wind kept up. However, it was all worth it. The island was paradise. The birds (Noddy Tern, Little Tern and Crested Tern) flying there are only found on the Reef. Also, being a cay, it is built on coral so the "sand" is dead coral and is like walking on bones. We had a trip in a glass bottomed boat and a walk around the island. By this time we were feeling a lot better and we tucked in to a superb lunch. After lunch we went snorkelling. Neither of us had done any of this before so it turned out to be more of floating on the surface with our mask



in the water and just looking. If we tried anything more ambitious then it was water down the tube and into the mouth followed by coughing and spluttering. The colourful fish and the differing corals were just amazing. I came face to face with a Grouper, and through the mask it was magnified, I am not sure who scared who more. What an ugly fish it is, and it probably thought the same about me. Later in the afternoon another glass bottomed boat trip and saw bright blue starfish, huge turtles and lots of colourful fish of varying sizes. We had an uneventful and quicker return trip because the wind was behind us so we were running with the sea and not fighting it. As we travelled back we were told that fertilizer, washed down from the cane plantations, was killing the reef and that it used to be more colourful

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than it was today. It looked pretty colourful to me so it must have been even more fantastic before. Pollution, we were told, gets less the further north you go.

We thought we would have a treat so bought some green prawns. I started to clean and shell them at a fish cleaning slab on the campsite. Within seconds, I had company in the form of a wild turkey which made several attempts to get at my prawns. The thing was not cowed by a severe sounding "shoo" nor by inaccurately thrown stones but being chased with a brush finally deterred him. So now you know, wild turkeys are partial to a prawn or two but not keen on brushes!

As we travelled northwards we would stop here and there and take walks in woodlands and open ground and mostly it was quiet and uneventful. One hears about Australia having all the most deadly killers in insects, snakes etc. but we had only seen jellyfish as we walked along the beaches. So it was a shock when we came across this snake in our path. It was about a metre long, thin and green with brown markings and yellow underneath. Being brave, we stood stock still really not knowing what to do. Fortunately the snake slithered off into the undergrowth and, after a reasonable time to let it get on its way, we continued on ours with an air of caution and aware of every movement and sound around us. It was later identified by a local as a yellow bellied tree snake. Safe as houses he said!

It was beginning to heat up now and along with the extra warmth came the flies in the day and tormenting midges in the evenings. Fortunately we found a lagoon which was jellyfish free so we had a couple of days using that, more as a refuge from the flies and biting gnats. The positive thing to come from this enforced water activity was an improvement in our snorkelling ability! Now we could dive below the surface, all we had to learn was how to hold our breath. We never did master that so we must have looked like trainee dolphins, going down and coming up at rapid intervals. During a visit to a State park a Ranger enquired how we were enjoying Australia. We said we were enjoying it very



much except for the flies. He said that we could not blame the flies as they, like us, needed water. With our sweat and the liquid in our eyes we were a very reliable source of a scarce commodity and therefore very attractive to them. So much for sympathetic Aussies! Anyhow to counter the flies we purchased hats, not the ones with corks on them, but with netting. We looked strange but it solved the problem. ...to be continued

# Meppershall Summer Fair

## Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016

1pm-5pm

Free Entry

**Keep this date free and come along for an afternoon of fun.**

The team are working hard to make this the best fair yet.

**We will see the return of 9 times British aerobatic champion Mark Jefferies. Mark performed a stunning and breath taking acrobatic display last year. The display at 3pm, is not to be missed.**

**Wymondham Falconry will be joining us this year and will be displaying their wide range of birds.**

**Another new attraction this year are the Hemlock Morris Dancers  
The Meppershall Bake Off will be returning for its third year.**



Other entertainment will include:

Classic Cars

Beer Tent and new for this year, Champagne Tent

Tea Tent



Children's Entertainment including fairground rides and inflatables

Have a go at Maypole Dancing and Circus Skills

Scruffs Dog Show

Lifestyle Marquee with crafts and unique wares

Grand Raffle

Live music from RF2

Shefford Majorettes

And lots more

Its your village fair, let's make it the best yet!

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

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Facebook: [Meppershall Summer Fair and Autumn Fireworks](#)

Twitter: [@MeppershallFair](#)



We finished the spring term with our usual Easter activities. We decorated bunny and chick gingerbread biscuits, we had an easter egg hunt and played easter themed games.

Our badge this term has been the Stargazing badge and the girls have enjoyed learning about the planets and making their own solar system mobile. We will be finishing off this badge with a visit to Bedford Observatory later this year.

This term is definitely Snowy Owl's favourite time of year at Brownies, as now we can make use of the lighter evenings to get out and about. This month we have a 2p walk planned, which involves turning left and right based on the spin of a coin and seeing where in the village we end up. The brownies then need to find their way back so we could be gone some time! We also hope to get out in the play area behind the village hall if the weather allows us to!

Other things we have planned for this term include a St George's themed meeting, involving knights, dragons and princesses.

We also have our very own version of Brownies' Got Talent. Past years have shown us that the brownies really do have an amazing amount of talent and it is always a really enjoyable evening with a vast array of different acts.

We also have an indoor campfire evening planned. We will sing some of Snowy Owl's favourite campfire songs and toast marshmallows, as in my mind you can't have a campfire without toasted marshmallows.

Next half term we will be celebrating the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and doing Rio Olympic theme activities to name a few.

If you are interested in your daughter joining Brownies or volunteering yourself, then please contact Snowy Owl (Suzanne) on 07817 392325 .

## **Budget 16 March 2016 - Highlights by Paul Savuto**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This was the third Budget within the space of 12 months. It threatened to be the most difficult of the trio because of constraints imposed by June's EU referendum and disappointing economic numbers. Nevertheless, the Chancellor managed to produce several surprises, some are detailed below.

### **RISE TO THE PERSONAL ALLOWANCE**

The tax-free personal allowance is to rise to £11,500 in April next year, and at the same time, the threshold at which people will pay 40% tax will rise from £42,385 to £45,000.

### **LIFETIME ISA**

The announcement of a new savings vehicle was perhaps the most surprising feature of all, with it following news of a [Help to Save](#) scheme. The Lifetime ISA will be available to those aged under-40 and will allow them to save up to £4,000 per year, and in doing so they'll receive a 25% top-up from the Government. Savers can pay in until they're 50 years old and the money can be used towards a house deposit or for a pension – the latter requires the money to be held in the ISA until at least the age of 60, although it can be withdrawn earlier upon forfeit of the bonus and a 5% charge.

### **ANNUAL ISA ALLOWANCE TO INCREASE**

In another savings-related move, the Chancellor announced that the ISA allowance will rise to £20,000 from next April, up from the current tax-free limit of £15,240.



## **CAPITAL TAXES**

The higher rate of capital gains tax (CGT) will be reduced from 28% to 20% and the lower rate will reduce from 18% to 10% with effect from 6 April 2016. The 28% and 18% rates will continue to apply to carried interests and to chargeable gains on residential property. Think about the timing of your disposals for both gains and losses.

## **STAMP DUTY LAND TAX**

The extra 3% stamp duty land tax (SDLT) will apply to purchases of additional residential properties from 1 April 2016.

## **BUSINESS TAX**

The corporation tax rate, which is currently 20% and due to fall to 19% in 2017, will be reduced to 17% from 1 April 2020.

For a free financial health check, please contact Paul Savuto, AFPS, Chartered Financial Planner. DGS Independent Financial Advisers Ltd. 07834 499595 or email [ps@dgsifa.com](mailto:ps@dgsifa.com). I'm based in Meppershall and I'll be happy to talk to you.

*It is important to take professional advice before making any decision relating to your personal finances. Information within this article 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. The value of investments can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested. The past is not a guide to future performance and past performance may not necessarily be repeated. If you withdraw from an investment in the early years, you may not get back the full amount you invested. Changes in the rates of exchange may have an adverse effect on the value or price of an investment in sterling terms if it is denominated in a foreign currency.*

## Significant Events

### RIP - Keith Downing



Keith Downing passed on 26 March 2016 at Bedford Hospital, aged 86. A former resident of Stonden, who moved to Meppershall in 2000. The funeral took place on 11 April in Luton. Sadly missed by his son Simon, daughter Sally and all the family.

### Wedding

The marriage of Paul Langridge and Beata Vlicna took place at St Mary's Church Meppershall on Saturday 9 April

### Birthdays in May:

Margaret Taylor will be 83 on 15<sup>th</sup> May

Fifi Simkins will be 82 on 27<sup>th</sup> May

Mary Mitchell will be 81 on 27<sup>th</sup> May

Doreen Pritchard will be 81 on 31<sup>st</sup> May

Many congratulations to all those with birthdays this month.

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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## Meppershall Social Club – May and June

\* BINGO Every Friday Night

Doors open 6.45pm eyes down 7.15pm

Members free, Non-members £1 entrance fee

\* KAREN'S KARAOKE Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 8pm-Late, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 8pm-late. Sing-a-long to your favourite songs, at this fun for everyone evening in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere

\* PAUL CARNE'S QUIZ NIGHT Sunday 8<sup>h</sup> May 7.30pm start. Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm start. Paul Carne our resident quiz master, with a highly entertaining quiz for all the family

£1 per person entry fee, no set number in team (you can have as few or as many as you like in your team)

50-50 split of entrance fee, half to charity half to the winning team. Non Members welcome

SNOOKER at the Social Club, with two well maintained tables Club members can play every evening when the club is open.

For more information pop into the Social Club any evening, or contact The Club after 8pm on 01462 817359. Club opens 8pm; we look forward to seeing you

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June Car Treasure Hunt & Barbecue 4.30pm for 5pm start.

Entry fee £5 per person includes food. Great fun for all the family

More events at the Club in next month's issue

MEMBERSHIP for 2016 is due now (pick up a form at the Club)

Meppershall Social Club 01462 817359 after 8pm

.

## Film Review – Hail Caesar

By Carlie Newman

Let's all welcome **HAIL CAESAR** (cert.12A 1hr 46 mins.), a very funny comedy. The Coen brothers' take on the Hollywood of the early 1950s is full of wonderful bits of movie life.



The story is centred around Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin), the studio executive who is trying to cope with a number of potential disasters. We have Ralph Fiennes in the part of British director, Laurence Laurentz being forced to use the starlet, Hobie Doyle (Alden Ehrenreich) - who is definitely more used to playing a cowboy - in a smart comedy. Unable to speak his lines

properly, Hobie is subjected to an hilarious scene where director Laurentz makes him repeat the line, "Would that it were so simple," over and over.

Then there's a well-staged water ballet starring Scarlett Johansson, who is pregnant and needs to find a husband fast. We see, too, Channing Tatum in a well-executed dance routine for a film musical.

The main story concerns the making of a grand biblical epic called 'Hail Caesar! A Tale of the Christ' starring George Clooney. He plays Baird Whitlock, a somewhat dopey, but highly paid movie star. When he is drugged and kidnapped and a ransom demanded, Mannix becomes involved with some rather unusual communist villains.

The Coens bring in a variety of references from old Hollywood movies. There is a most amusing duo of characters from Tilda Swinton. She plays sisters Thora and Thessaly Thacker Distinguished mainly by their hats, they are rival columnists, both looking for a juicy scandal for their newspaper columns.

It's an all-round hilarious film. The movie is greatly helped by Roger Deakins' cinematography which is particularly notable in his filming of the aquatic ballet, which is shot in long takes from above, reminding us of the old Esther Williams movies. Good, too, to see Clooney, still handsome, but now playing an unintelligent movie star. Brolin copes well in his juggling of the different story lines and the smaller parts are all completely distinctive.

Highly recommended. Go see! **Rating \*\*\*\***

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## **Birthdays in May**

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

Summer Bridger who will be 10 on the 1<sup>st</sup>

Alex Watkinson who will be 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Grace Finedon who will be 8 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Laura Stock who will be 15 on the 4<sup>th</sup>

William Brinkley who will be 4 on the 7<sup>th</sup>

Edward Brinkley who will be 4 on the 7<sup>th</sup>

Harrison Isaac who will be 10 on the 10<sup>th</sup>

Louie Curtis who will be 11 on the 11<sup>th</sup>

Adam Palmer who will be 15 on the 12<sup>th</sup>

Sophie Palmer who will be 15 on the 17<sup>th</sup>

Alfie Harris who will be 8 on the 17<sup>th</sup>

Isabella Lambley who will be 13 on the 17<sup>th</sup>

Darcey Sheppard who will be 15 on the 19<sup>th</sup>

Jennifer Ridley will be 5 on the 21<sup>st</sup>

Lily Hefford who will be 8 on the 21<sup>st</sup>

Rees Davies who will be 11 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Chloe Thorne who will be 14 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Eilis Fleming who will be 9 on the 31<sup>st</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)

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## Pre-School Ponderings - May



At pre-school we are really enjoying all this fine weather. We can now spend more time outside playing in our enclosed area, or at the park, or digging at our allotment. All that exercise and fresh air will invigorate them and wear them out! This term we will be asking the children about their favourite stories, and asking them to bring them along and share with us. We will also be creating activities that link to popular stories like 'The Gingerbread Man', 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. We have also been getting the children more involved at our 'Healthy Snack Bar'. Children already help us prepare the snack area and snack learning about health, hygiene and handling suitable knives safely, but now they make more decisions about what fruits or vegetables we offer each day and even help plan the menu for the following week. We often discuss the benefits of healthy eating, and this is another great way of empowering them to make healthy choices throughout their lives.

Looking forward to Meppershall Summer Fair on 25<sup>th</sup> June. Meppershall Pre-school will be running a stall, and encouraging all our families to enter the Meppershall Bake Off! Next month we will give you more information about what we will be doing at the fair so you can come along and have some fun. Last year's Summer Fair was spectacular, so the event organisers have got their work cut out this year to make it even better!

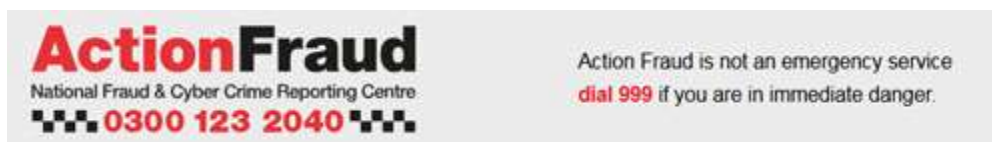
We now only have a few places left to fill at Meppershall Pre-school. If your little one has turned 2 and is ready to make new friends and enjoy our stimulating, safe environment, or if you would like to enrol them for September please ring Tamsin our fantastic leader during session time on the number 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 [tamsin@meppershall-ps.co.uk](mailto:tamsin@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.**

## Fake Email Addresses

Information included on behalf of Action Fraud (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau)



Alert message downloaded from <https://www.actionfraudalert.co.uk>

Also forwarded by e-mail subscription from <https://www.bedsalert.co.uk/>

This alert is a reminder to be aware of emails that appear to have been sent from a legitimate organisation. Fraudsters often use fake email addresses designed to encourage recipients to open attachments or links. You are advised that if you are in any doubt as to the origin of an email, do not open it. Consider that emails can be spoofed and used to generate spam to recipients far and wide. If you receive a spam email, you MUST NOT open it. Instead, delete it from your email system to avoid infecting your device. If you have opened an attachment from a spam email, you should get your device checked over by a professional and change the passwords for all your bank, email and online shopping accounts.

Protect yourself:

- Do not click or open unfamiliar links in emails or on websites.
- Make sure you install and use up-to-date anti-virus software.
- Have a pop-up blocker running in the background of your web browser.
- If you have opened an attachment and 'enabled macros' it is very likely that all your personal data will have been breached. You MUST change all your passwords for personal accounts, including your bank accounts.
- Ensure Adobe, Flash and any similar software is up to date on your computer.

If you think you have been a victim of this type of email you should report the email to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) If you do make a report please provide as much detail as you can about the email and any effects it has had on your computer. Additionally if your Anti-Virus software detects any issues in relation to this email please provide us with the details.

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## Message from St. Mary's Services & Events

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

Church Road, off Campton Road, Meppershall

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



#### Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman

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

#### Churchwardens:

Dawn Abbatt 01462 816962

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

#### PCC Secretary:

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

### Things to Look Out For...

**New Second Sunday Service** – 11.00am, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May see article below for details! Come and be part of something new.

**Ascension** – 7.30pm, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May – a special evening communion with celebration refreshments afterwards.

**Second Sunday Stroll** – 2.15pm, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May – meet at church for an afternoon walk, hoping to see late spring bluebells and bright yellow fields at a special village location – a couple of miles, finishing with tea.

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

Following our Annual Church Parochial Church meeting - we move on again with renewed enthusiasm.

You may have noticed the large pile of grave spoil and “stuff” cleared from the far corner of the Churchyard, ready to re-use that area. In order to improve its appearance and respectability we will also be mending the fence planting new shrubs. I would like especially to thank everyone who helped with the April Churchyard clear-up, and our mowers who are already planning the cutting of the grass again this year. In fact I want to thank everyone who helps look after the Churchyard and keep it tidy. Visit [facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall](https://facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall) - you'll see the effort really appreciated, for example by families with relatives buried here but who live elsewhere.

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As you may already know we recently asked Neville's to come and check the safety of all the memorials (gravestones) in the Churchyard. In their survey, a few needed immediate attention, others were becoming wobbly and may need attention in the near future. I will be seeking to make contact with the families of graves noted in the survey - please keep an eye on your family memorials, they need care and maintenance from time to time, and contact me if you think yours might be causing concern at the moment.

If you need advice relating to memorials, just ask me or see "St Albans: A guide to the Churchyard Regulations 2004" at [stmarysmeppershall.org.uk](http://stmarysmeppershall.org.uk).

This is also a good place for me to say how grateful we are still to Christine Bartlett for completing an up to date survey of the Churchyard and how much we miss her. She was so efficient in keeping our records for us, (including the Electoral Roll and the Book of Remembrance) and was a mine of interesting information about the churchyard.

Looking forward, we want to make Church an "easy habit," so from May we are starting an 11am service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month (a Second Sunday Special) – a slightly different service of Morning Worship. All welcome, and (Strollers) don't panic – the Stroll will just start a little later!

The pattern of services for the forthcoming months will therefore be:

- 1st Sunday: 11am Communion, JC (School), TeenTableTalk (Rectory)
- 2nd Sunday: 8.30 Communion, 11am 2nd Sunday Special
- 3rd Sunday: 8.30 Communion, 11am Morning Worship
- 4th Sunday: 11am Communion, JC (Vestry)
- 5th Sunday Benefice Service with breakfast (here or at St Michael's)

If in doubt, just check the Messenger or [stmarysmeppershall.org.uk](http://stmarysmeppershall.org.uk) (*What's On* section) to confirm!

In Church, this year May brings with it a number of celebrations. Ascension Day (May 5th) is traditionally celebrated on a Thursday, the 40th day after Easter, when we remember Jesus ascending into heaven and going to his Father. This is followed 10 days later by Pentecost or Whitsuntide (May 15th), when we remember the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples and giving them the courage and boldness to spread the good news about Jesus; because of that it is also thought of as the Birthday of the Christian Church! Pentecost completes the celebration of Easter. However it is immediately followed by Trinity Sunday (May 22nd) which celebrates the Christian understanding of one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So May is a veritable feast of feasts you might say! See you there...? **Rector Roni**

**Services and Events – May 2016** *At St Mary's unless stated below*

Date	Time	Service / Event
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 6 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	10.45am 11.00am	Teen Table Talk at The Rectory Parish Communion
Weds 4 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> May Ascension Day	7.30pm	<b>Ascension Communion</b> with celebration refreshments
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 7 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	8.30am 11.00am 2.15pm	Holy Communion <b>New Second Sunday Service</b> – the easy habit <b>Second Sunday Stroll</b> – meeting at church to see Meppershall's best crop of bluebells and golden fields, a couple of miles, ending with tea.
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> May	2-4pm	Rectory Tea – chat and a cuppa – all welcome
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00pm	<b>Silent Together</b> – join friends to sit for a few minutes to enjoy the tranquillity of the church
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> May Pentecost/Whitsun	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion All Age Family Service
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> May Trinity Sunday	11.00am	Parish Communion
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> May	2-4pm	Rectory Tea. "Getting serious" with a cuppa
Weds 25 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00am	<b>Celtic Morning Prayer</b>
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am 11.00am	All welcome for breakfast, before... <b>United Benefice Service</b> – with our friends from St Michael's Shefford.
Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> June	10.00am	Holy Communion



## **St. Mary's Meppershall Junior Church**

Jesus is risen! Alleluia!

Some things are just plain difficult to believe.

When Jesus told his disciples he would die and rise from the dead – they found it difficult to believe and quite honestly I don't blame them. I mean once you die that's it surely.

But Jesus knew he was going to be betrayed by one of his disciples. He knew that he would be denied 3 times, yet he didn't run or hide or condemn anyone. He just let it all happen and died a painful death on the cross.

'Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do'.

When He rose again, the disciples still found it hard to believe He had risen. Some of them found it difficult, even after they had seen Him.

Jesus made a promise! Jesus kept that promise! Jesus is risen indeed!

Join us Junior Church to hear some of the miracles that our Saviour performed before He ascended into Heaven.

Junior Church will be meeting in the School Hall on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 11am until 12noon.

Please do join us!

The Junior Church Team

## The Team

### 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>				
	<b><u>2016</u></b>			
May	31	(Tuesday)	September	26
June	27		October	31
July	25		November	28

***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.***

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