



**MEPPERSHALL FOOTBALL CLUB
FIRST MATCH – SEE REPORT INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Contents

Editorial By James Read	2
Letters – World Cleft Awareness Day	3
Birthdays	4
Meppershall Social Club.....	5
Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire - Update	5
Meppershall Golf Society.....	6
A Message From Meppershall Munchkins by Melanie Choonos..	8
Parish Boundaries: Creating, Merging, Changing, Renaming	8
Meppershall Good Neighbours	9
Parish Church Of St Mary The Virgin (Church Of England)	10
News From The Bell Tower	13
Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers	13
Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust Bike & Hike 2025.....	14
Shefford Community Choir	15
Look Out For Voting Information In August.....	16
The Players @ STMA	17
Nature Recovery In Bedfordshire.....	18
Elizabethan Gardens By Donna Cameron	19
Trugs And Trowels (Campton Gardening Club) – August-September.....	20
Personal Finance: Tax Planning By Paul Savuto	21
August /	25
September.....	25
Crossword	25
Bedfordshire Cancer Support Group.....	26
Shefford Osteopathic Clinic: Why Do We Get Injured?	27
Crossword Solution For July	27
Wanderbus 2025 Excursions	29
Useful Contact Details In Meppershall.....	30
The Team And Collation Dates.....	32

Editorial By James Read



It felt like the right time to change the photo of the editor – so here I am, wishing you a wonderful summer, with my walking hat slung around my neck, a bright blue sky opening up overhead and the long lazy month of August slowing things down just a little bit.

Not so lazy for some, however. There's huge respect for the people who have revived the village football club, Meppershall F.C., and managed its first friendly game against Flint United. A good-sized crowd gathered to watch the two teams hammer out a draw on

Sunday 20th July. Meppershall F.C. will compete next season in the Hitchin Sunday League. They had initial sponsorship from A.S.M. Windows (proudly displayed on the strip) and Waks Personalised Gifts. The team continue to seek support and I hope many of us can get along to give them a cheer on the Centenary Playing Field next season. Meanwhile, good luck with the training lads, and congrats especially to George Prowle for driving the team forward. You can find the team's page on Facebook to keep up with their news and fixtures. We also need a match reporter to write a short report for each issue of the village magazine – could that be you? Please get in touch.

If you are spending some down-time this summer thinking about how to get more active, there are a few ideas in the pages of this issue and lots going on at the village hall. The newly-formed Meppershall Golf Society still has some openings for members (page 6). The Second Sunday Strollers are always out there somewhere on the footpaths for miles in every direction, coming together on (you guessed it) the second Sunday of each month (see page 13). Also, the annual regional bike and hike event – raising money for an important local heritage charity based on every church visited by biking or hiking on Saturday 13th September – sees churches opening their doors to travellers. Whether it's out-of-the-way corners of the countryside or town centre churches, a network from Barnet to Bedford emerges each year to let you create amazing routes that offer beautiful, friendly cycling and walking journeys (page 14).

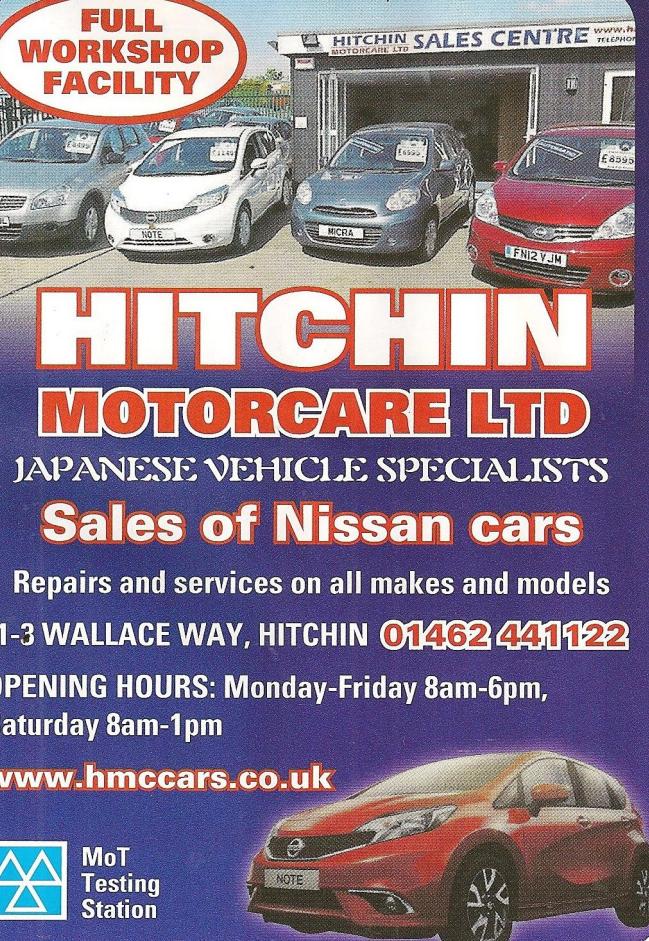
If you'd rather be still and enjoy the natural world around you, there's lots happening in the garden (pages 19-21). Beyond gardens, in the wild, a crucial piece of public opinion research is going on to support Bedfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (page 18). Please do use this consultation opportunity with CBC to give your view on the protection of our natural environment. Are there ways to improve biodiversity by *developing* parts of our area? Surely the overriding concern right now has to be stopping any further reduction of mature hedgerows, open pasture, wild margins, pockets of woodland and thickets caused by more intensive land use, over-enthusiastic land management at the edges or wholesale redevelopment (page 18).

We are very grateful to the Neighbourhood Plan team for their update (page 5) – with a huge response from the village and some clear indications of local preferences and opinions when it comes to the future of this place and its surroundings. Another area to watch carefully is the CBC review of Parish boundaries (page 8) – which could ultimately bring advantages or disadvantages to villages like ours. Funding challenges are driving communities to pool resources, but strong local voices remain the beating heart of rural England. More power to those voices. Meppershall voices. Which reminds me did I mention the choir (page 15) or singers at the social club (page 5)...?

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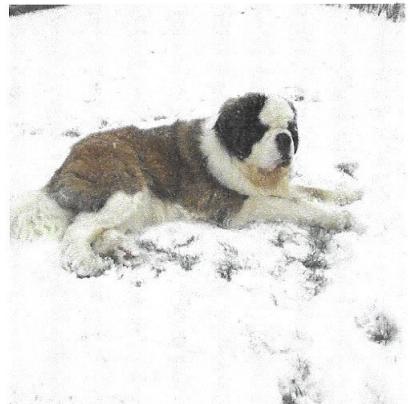


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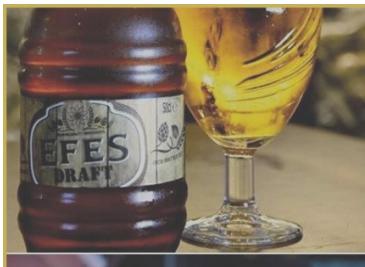
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Letters – World Cleft Awareness Day

Dear Editor,

Just a little reminder how a small donation can turn a family's unhappiness into joy and give a child a chance to live a normal and happy life.

Thank you for thinking about one of the misfortunes that happen to children, that can be rectified successfully.

Tony Smith

Raising awareness and celebrating strength and resilience in the cleft community

Thank you Tony for sharing information about the charity 'Smile Train' which has received an outpouring of positive feedback from the cleft community about the importance of the very first World Cleft Awareness Day.

Worldwide, around 1 in 700 babies are born with a cleft lip and/or palate. While clefts are common and treatable, access to the years of comprehensive care needed (including surgery, emotional and social support) remains out of reach for many.

The very first World Cleft Awareness Day took place on Sunday, July 20, 2025. It shone a spotlight on the entire cleft journey—from diagnosis at birth or before, through surgeries, speech therapy, orthodontia and dental care, emotional support and beyond. The goal is to increase understanding, reduce stigma, foster inclusion and amplify the voices of the millions of people around the world affected by clefts.

A cleft lip or palate occurs when certain body parts and structures do not fuse together during foetal development. It is one of the most common birth differences.

A cleft is a serious medical condition. Clefts can cause difficulties eating, breathing, hearing, and speaking, and can lead to life-threatening complications if left untreated.

"World Cleft Awareness Day is about more than raising awareness—it's about celebrating the strength and resilience of the global cleft community," said Susannah Schaefer, President & CEO of Smile Train. "By founding and leading this observance, Smile Train is creating space for cleft-affected individuals and their families to be seen, heard and supported."

"People often think of clefts as a single surgery, when in reality, the journey can last decades," said Iva Ballou, Manager, Community Development for Smile Train. "Being cleft affected, I've undergone numerous surgeries connected to my condition. World Cleft Awareness Day is an opportunity to educate the public and advocate for equal access to care for everyone, everywhere."

The next World Cleft Awareness Day will take place on July 20, 2026. Read more and donate at: <https://www.smiletrain.org.uk/> and visit www.cleftday.com.

Birthdays

We were recently asked about our policy for publishing birthday announcements. In general, if you want something announced, we will be delighted to announce it! We no longer publish specific dates for birthdays (for security/privacy reasons) but we love honouring your special days, whether young or old. The Meppershall Messenger team also tries to provide a cake for those really special milestones – such as Margaret's 90th, pictured here!



Here's a lovely photo of Margaret G celebrating her 90th birthday in July, and enjoying a Meppershall Messenger birthday cake! Everyone on the team wishes you wonderful times ahead in your new decade, Margaret. Happy Birthday!

In August, we send warmest birthday wishes to Joan B who will be 89.

Looking back to June, we send belated congratulations to Marj F on her 92nd birthday in June!

It is a privilege to share in the inspiration and joy that the many older members of the village community give to us – congratulations to everyone celebrating a special milestone.



Meppershall Social Club



We would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to fill in either the online or a paper suggestion form, and a lot of your suggestions have already been acted upon, and more detail will be on our website in September. Any comments that were not really anything to do Social Club have been forwarded to the correct organization or committee.

Here are upcoming events for the next few months:

Sun 10th August 1-5 Summer children treasure hunt and activity afternoon £2 per Child and BBQ on the Patio

Sat 16th August Lucia will be singing in the bar from 8 – 9pm

(A young talented singer from the village please come and show your support.)

Sat 30th August MicMaster Karaoke 8-11pm.

Sun 14th September Monthly Quiz £1 person with 50% prize money.

7:30pm start.

Sat 20th September Music Quiz 8pm sharp start £2 person

Teams Max. 6 Cash prizes for 1st 2nd and 3rd place.

You can keep up to date with upcoming events on our website, meppershallsocailclub.co.uk, and on our Facebook page. The committee are looking for volunteers to help organise and help run future events - if you are interested please contact **Gemma Chapman on 07968 529282**.

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire - Update

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to say a very big “Thank You” to everyone who completed the Questionnaire survey recently (and to the Messenger team for delivering it to every home in the village).

We had almost **500** responses!

Which, to be honest, is a lot more than we expected to get, and is a measure of how much people care about the village, and its future. Amazing response...simply amazing.

The results are being collated and formatted for inclusion in the update to the Neighbourhood Plan, where the responses will be used to support the Plan Policies, and indicate the views of the residents to the various topics included.

Without going into detail, I can tell you that the overwhelming majority were firmly against any more large-scale developments. In fact, many of you were quite clearly against ANY more housing developments, of *any* size, anywhere at all, ever. Many of you actually wrote comments on your survey forms saying just that. And these views will be reflected in the updated Plan, rest assured. But the Plan will have to make allowances for small developments, although we will make every attempt to preclude large-scale, unsustainable and inappropriate developments, which is the view of most of you.

It was fascinating to read the responses – and we read them ALL – and to see what matters to you. Many people would like more choice for shopping; another pub, perhaps, or a restaurant. Certainly the café is missed, and healthcare/doctors/dentists conspicuous by their absence in the village. The woeful state of the roads and footpaths were noted by most of you (some action by Central Beds, but not enough!), and the scarcity of public transport highlighted. The lack of facilities for young people was also an issue for many, and one which will not be easily solved without volunteers.

But the one standout for us was how much the rural nature of Meppershall *matters* to you.

How much you value the open countryside around us, the walks and views that are quite literally on our doorstep, the closeness to nature, and how important it is that this should be preserved for future generations.

Which is the absolute point of a Neighbourhood Plan – to identify what is important to the residents, and to do as much as possible to preserve this. And we'll do our utmost to keep Meppershall the way it is for you.

Thank you all again,

Meppershall Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Meppershall Golf Society

We are delighted to announce that the Meppershall Golf Society has been formed.

On the 7th of July we met at the Sugar Loaf with members that had signed up to the society and formed a committee.

We have 31 members so far and will cap membership at 50. If you are interested in joining our Society, please get in touch. It is intended to be fun, competitive and above all, social. It's a great way to get to know people from the village and surrounding areas whilst getting out in the open air and improving your golfing ability.

Our 1st event is almost full, and we'll be playing at Mount Pleasant on 9th August.



Dates for the Diary:

- 06 Sep – Stevenage Golf Complex (confirmed)
- 04 Oct – Mowsbury Golf Club (to be confirmed)
- 01 Nov – Pavenham (to be confirmed)
- 06 Dec – Chesfield Downs (to be confirmed)

Following the winter break we aim to re-start back in Mar-Apr 26 with monthly events (1st or 2nd week / weekend of the month).

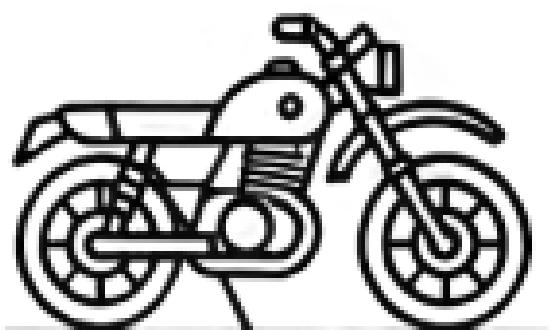
Membership fees £10 PA – Additional to green fees all players will pay additional £5 to help build up funds for deposits.

If you would like to know more about the Society please get in touch. I'm please to say that the Parish Council have provided email contact addresses. Thank you! We also hope to have a Facebook page up and running in the coming weeks.

Email: mgs.chairman@meppershall.org Tel: 07807 674 609

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A Message From Meppershall Munchkins by Melanie Choonos

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Consistency is often key for little ones so we always aim to remain open throughout the school holidays but do keep an eye on our Facebook page for any last minute closures though.

When mum and I started the group we aimed to make it a relaxed group for everyone to enjoy. We are always keen to hear your thoughts and suggestions so please do let us know. There are many ways you can do this - We have a suggestion box located on the sign in desk, speak to one of our volunteers or drop us an email at meppershallmunchkins@gmail.com

As always, a huge thank you to our team of volunteers. Your additional help and support really does keep the group running and is very much appreciated. If any one would like to join our team of volunteers please do get in touch.

Dates for your diary

- **Emily Daniel Photography** will be with us for some mini shoots on **Tuesday 19th and Friday 22nd August**. More details and a booking link can be found on our Facebook page.
- **Tappy Toes Bedford** will be ending the session on **Tuesday 26th August** with a free demo.

Meppershall Munchkins Baby and Toddler Group

A fun and friendly stay and play at Meppershall Village Hall.

Snack and squash for children & hot drink and biscuits for adults included.

Walk ins are welcome.

Payment via cash or bank transfer



Parish Boundaries: Creating, Merging, Changing, Renaming

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has launched a consultation to shape how local areas might be represented and governed in the future. The "Community Governance Review" aims to make sure town and parish councils work effectively for the communities they serve. It is looking at creating, merging, changing or renaming parishes or changing their style (e.g., village, community), as well as changing the number of councillors in a parish. It will consider grouping smaller parishes together to share resources. We can all give our views – the consultation is in its first stage, gathering feedback on current arrangements until 1st September 2025. Later in 2025, CBC will consult on draft recommendations. Find all the info and give your input at: https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/306/your_voice_matters/2021/community_governance_review_2025_-_stage_1

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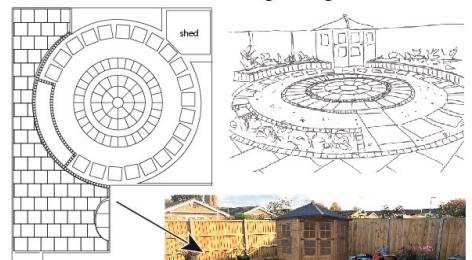
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When is it best to call us?

Our phone is manned Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

If you need to call us out of these hours you will be able to leave us a message.

Our phone holder will get back to you in our normal hours.

Please do give us as much notice as you can.

Thank you.



Give us a call on 07760 793921

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:

Chris Valentine 01462 815971 John Archer

PCC Secretary:

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A Message From St Mary's...

I am not sure if Jesus ever had anything we could call a holiday - but Jesus often left the crowds who followed him, and went away to a quiet or a desolate place.

We are moving into August and September - and holiday time for so many of us. Firstly holiday time for all those families and teachers and others who must take their holidays during the school summer vacation, and then as we move into September, holiday time for those who wait to take their holidays when schools return - and prices go down, at least a little.

I wonder what kind of holiday you enjoy? Are you a sun-seeker - either on the beach or beside the pool? Do you like to escape on a cruise liner with all its luxury, variety of restaurants and entertainments? Do you like to explore the incredible variety of our natural world - hot or cold - jungle, rainforest, volcanic areas or mountains and glaciers? Or do you like to delve into times gone by and explore the grandeur of the past - pyramids and palaces, remnants of lost peoples and communities? Do you like to bike and hike - or curl up with a book? Are you mostly looking for adventure.... Or a change and a rest?

I don't know if Jesus ever had a holiday - but in Mark 6:31, for example, after he and his disciples had been so busy serving the crowds that they hadn't eaten Jesus said to his friends, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile!"

Jesus needed time away from the crowds to rest and eat, to look after his physical needs. But he also needed time to attend to his spiritual needs - to pray, to 'touch base' and spend quality time with his heavenly Father. Time and again Jesus slipped away to a lonely place - only to turn it into a sacred space where he could talk to his Father and his Father could talk to him.

If you go away this summer, wherever you go for your holiday I hope that you find sacred spaces - stunning moments - where you see the heavens declare the glory of God and the earth show forth his handiwork (Psalm 91). Places where you see the truth of Job 12:7-10 which reads: "But ask the animals, and they will teach you; and

the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."

The Diocese of St Albans designated 2025 as a year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing, and resting together with God is one of its central themes this year.

I hope and pray that at home or away you do find time to rest with God, that you come to know him more fully and find yourself truly renewed and refreshed.

P.S. If you are holidaying at home, do look out for Mondays at St Mary's - 28th July and 4th, 11th and 18th August, 10am to 12 noon— all welcome for tea, coffee, toast and a craft activity. Also you will find Second Sunday Stroll walks on August 10th and September 14th with James and Miriam and the Second Sunday Strollers, plus Rectory Teas on Tuesdays (5th August and 2nd September) - principally aimed at people who are "retired or semi-retired." If you're interested or want more information, please phone Roni on 07533 376880.

God bless,

Rector Roni

Church Events In August and September

Usual Pattern of Services

Sundays	11.00am	Morning Worship every Sunday Holy Communion: 2 nd and 4 th Sundays
Every Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Church open to visit	10.00-4.00	Private prayer and quiet time – the church open for you to sit and visit each day (subject to ongoing works).
Online services:	9.00am	Morning Prayer using 24-7's Lectio 365 App 7-days-a-week
	9.00pm	Night Prayer/Compline from the C. of E. Daily Prayer App, 7-days-a-week
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Find us on YouTube:	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjDLGAY8GI6afkO8iALYOA	

Forthcoming Services

Sunday 3rd August 11am	Morning Worship.
Wednesday 6th August	Sorry no mid-week Communion
Sunday 10th August 11am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 13th August 9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday 17th August 11am.	Morning Worship.
	Continued...

Wednesday 20th August 9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday 24th August 11am	Holy Communion
Weds 27th August 9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday 31st August 10.30am	Benefice Communion in *St Michael's Shefford*

Wednesday 3rd September	Sorry no mid-week Communion
Sunday 7th September 11am	Morning Worship
Weds 10th September 9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday 14th September 11am	Holy Communion
Weds 17th September 9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday 21st September 11am	Morning Worship
Weds 24th September 9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday 28th September 11am	Holy Communion

Please note '9and9' continues daily on our Facebook page.



News From The Bell Tower

The bellringers at Meppershall have been busy practicing and have also welcomed two newbies who are learning the ropes.

In June Meppershall hosted ringing practice on a Friday evening for Clifton who have been having work done on their tower.

We also had the honour of ringing at the wedding of one of our organists.

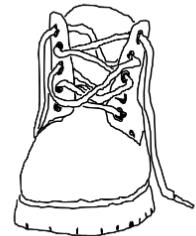
On Tuesday 5 August, from 7.30pm, Meppershall are hosting ringing practice for Henlow while their bells are being rehung.

Bellringing is a popular hobby as well as a service to our village. It has been practiced for over 300 years in 5,000 churches and by 30,000 bellringers in the UK. Anyone between the age of 10 and 80 can learn to ring. Bellringing is not done by 'other people' but by normal people like us!

If you'd like to find out more about learning to ring, feel free to join us on a Thursday evening, 7.30pm to 9pm so you can see bellringing first hand - or contact Gillian on 07778 449051, email: meppershall@bacbr.org.uk.

Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers

Firstly, can we say a big thank you to Alan and Ann for leading July's hike, circumnavigating Shillington in a loop to and from Meppershall with a decent group of strollers. James and Miriam are back and pleased to be leading a couple of further summer hikes as follows...



Sunday 10th August 2025: we're off to The Raven in Hexton – leaving the church gate in Meppershall at 2.00PM and hiking through Shillington, crossing Hanscombe End Road and walking beside Model Farm, arriving in Hexton over the area marked on OS maps as 'Hexton Common'. The Raven is a great place to finish for some summer refreshments. It is around 5.5 miles in total. Get in contact to share a lift back to Meppershall, or for more info.

Sunday 14th September 2025: a loop of Campton, Shefford Hardwicke and Polehanger – leaving the church gate at 2.00PM and coming past the village hall (another starting off point if you prefer) at 2.10PM. This is a loop of around 5 miles if you start/end at the village hall, 6 miles if you start/end at church. We'll leave Meppershall via Crackle Hill and walk through Campton to Campton Plantation. At the edge of RAF Chicksands we turn back eastwards, through Shefford Hardwicke Farm and on through Shefford itself to return to Meppershall via Polehanger Farm.

And if you want more hiking... Saturday 13th September: as always, Meppershall will field a team in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Bike & Hike event, in support of Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust. Over 600 churches will be open across the two counties for you to visit on foot as a hiker or on wheels as a biker. Lots of fun, our team has sometimes covered more than 60KM and chalked up dozens of churches. If you are up for it, please let get in touch (phone 857836) or via our facebook page, Meppershall Strollers. Read more at <https://bedshertshct.org.uk/bike-n-hike/>.

Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust Bike & Hike 2025

Support Team Meppershall here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/meppershall25>

To get involved, call James on 857836.



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Bike 'n Hike

Saturday 13 September 2025

9am to 5pm



For more information please make contact:

James (857836 - or via the
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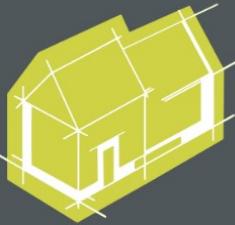
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Meppershall Football Club - First Match!

By George Prowle



This was our first ever competitive match, and considering that it WAS our first game, we were delighted to manage a 1:1 draw against the much more experienced Flint United team from Luton.

Naturally we know there that there would be (and realistically I suppose there always will be!) some room for improvement, but overall, this was a really good result for a brand-new team, who can be proud of themselves.

Our man of the match this week has to be our keeper, Archie Zimmerman. He kept out so many of Flint's shots on goal to keep us in the game, and enabled us to keep the scoreline level at full time, so thanks and well-done Archie!

Our next fixture will be against the Plough FC from Langford, on the 10th of August here at Centenary Field, so please come along and support the new Meppershall FC.

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Look Out For Voting Information In August

Don't lose your voice on decisions affecting us all in this region – make sure your electoral registration details are up to date.

Every year, Central Bedfordshire Council keeps the electoral register up to date by identifying residents who are not registered or have recently moved, so they can be encouraged to register. If you have provided an email address, you will receive an email from cbcelectoralregistration@notifications.service.gov.uk; CBC asks that people respond to the email as soon as possible. For everyone else, a letter addressed to the household will be sent in early August. But if you're not currently registered, your name will not yet appear on that letter. The easiest way to register is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Marcel Coiffait, Electoral Registration Officer at Central Bedfordshire Council, said: "We want everyone who is entitled to vote to be able to do so. Making sure you provide the necessary information, by electronic methods where possible, when it is needed, will ensure the process runs smoothly."

All local authorities are required to data match their current electoral registers with the records held by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). CBC recently conducted the national data matching exercise with the DWP, matched its data with Council Tax records and found that over 80% of all households in Central Bedfordshire were accurately matched in the electoral register.

People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the voter registration messages from Central Bedfordshire Council and check the details. Across Great Britain, 92% of people who have been at their property for more than sixteen years will be registered to vote. That drops to 36% if you've lived at an address for less than one year.

The electoral register lists the names and addresses of everyone who is registered to vote in public elections. The register is used for electoral purposes, such as making sure only eligible people can vote. The open register is an extract of the electoral register but is not used for elections – it can be bought by any person, company or organisation. You can ask for your name and address to be removed from the open register – this does not affect your right to vote.

Aged 16 or over?

Importantly, after recent government decisions, you are eligible to register to vote if you are aged 16 or over. You can register to vote if you're a British citizen or an Irish citizen. Also, you can register if you have permission to enter or stay in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man (or if you do not need permission) so long as you are a citizen of the Commonwealth, Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal or Spain, or a citizen of another EU country, who has had permission to enter or stay (or not needed permission) - since 31 December 2020, and this has continued without a break.



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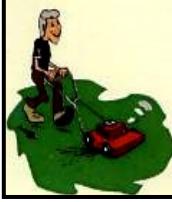
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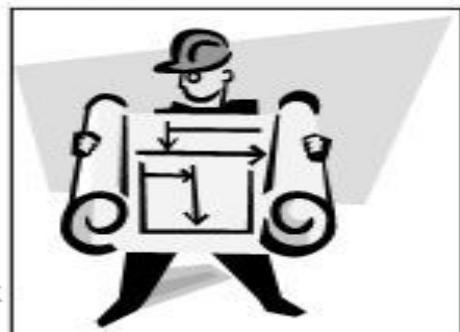
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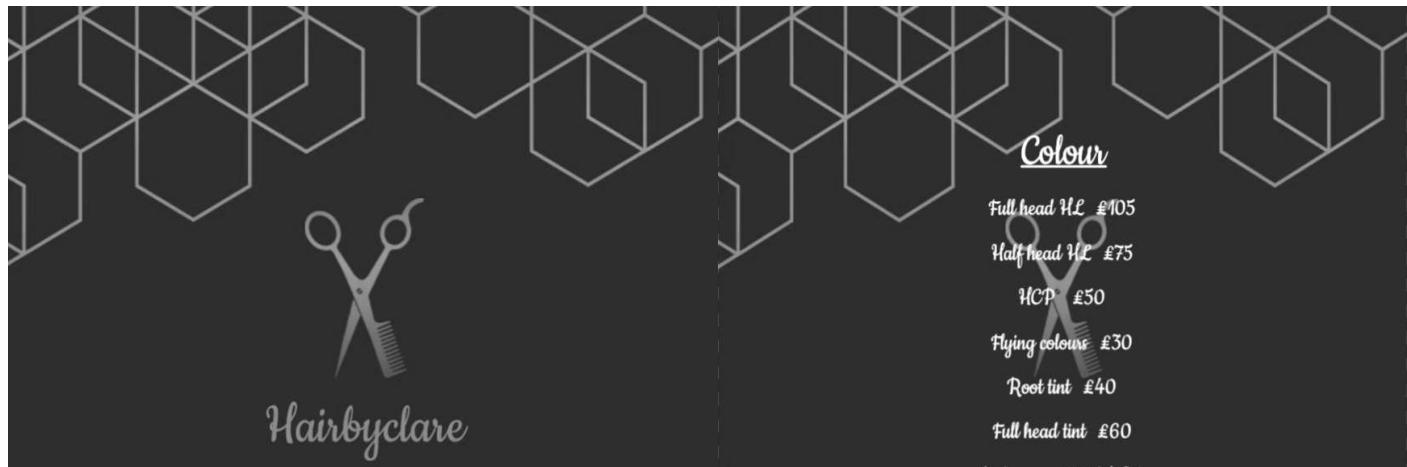
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The Players @ STMA
August / September 2025



Our 2025 pantomime is cast and rehearsals are already underway. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 1st September for 'A Christmas Carol' the Panto, at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/themepershallplayers

Tickets are £10 & £5 (concessions under 18yrs/over 60s)

This retelling of a classic story by Charles Dickens is a fun-for-all-the-family production. Can Scrooge, a penny-pinching miser, see the error of his ways? Or will the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future fail in their mission to open his eyes to the welfare of his fellow man and the joy of Christmas? Performances will take place on Saturday 6th & 13th December at 3pm & 7.30pm.

Although the Panto is now cast, we are still open to new members, so if you're over 18 years old and want to join the Players (on or off stage), pop in on Monday evening at the STMA and say hello. Membership is free.

The Players' last meeting before our summer break will be on Monday 11th August, 7.30pm-9.30pm. We return on Monday 1st September 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Monday 18th August 2025 **PLAYERS SUMMER BREAK NO REHEARSAL**

Monday 25th August 2025 **BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY NO REHEARSAL**

Dates for your 2025/2026 diary:

Monday 1st September, 7.30pm-9.30pm Players Rehearsals resume

Saturday 6th December 2025, Panto - A Christmas Carol - performances at 3pm & 7.30pm

Saturday 13th December 2025, Panto - A Christmas Carol - performances at 3pm & 7.30pm

Saturday 25th April 2026 The Big Quiz & Cabaret evening (quiz starts at 7.30pm)

Find the Players on Facebook (The Players @ STMA) and Instagram.

The Players meet every Monday evening at 7.30pm at the STMA (Shefford Town Memorial Association Hall), 10 Hitchin Road, Shefford SG17 5JA. Membership is free and we welcome people 18 years and over who have an interest in amateur theatricalities, whether it be on stage or off, indulging in all areas of theatrical performances (set building, costumes, directing, acting, make-up, song & dance, etc.)

Interested? We look forward to meeting you.

Karen Mitchell (Players' Secretary) 01462 816336

Nature Recovery In Bedfordshire

A public consultation is happening to help shape the Bedfordshire **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)** – and your views are important. Why not visit the website and give some input? Go to <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/lnrs> and click on the Bedfordshire LNRS link.

The Bedfordshire LNRS consultation website is really fascinating – including a Local Habitat Map and – importantly for Meppershall – a proposal for farmland and hedgerows. Further proposals on the site cover local wildlife sites; woodlands, trees and orchards; neutral and calcareous grassland; heathland and acid grassland; rivers, wetlands and ponds; built up areas; and priority species.

The Bedfordshire LNRS is a key part of the government's Environment Improvement Plan 2023, which has the goal of reversing the decline of nature and enhancing the benefits it provides—such as cleaner air and water, climate resilience, and improved health and wellbeing.

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has been appointed the responsible authority for Bedfordshire's LNRS and is collaborating with Luton Borough Council, Bedford Borough Council, and various other stakeholders. The LNRS outlines a shared, long-term vision to restore and enhance nature across Bedfordshire.

Bedfordshire's historic landscapes and diverse habitats and species are to benefit from a new, locally-led plan to help reverse a decline in nature and support wildlife recovery across the county. Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and Luton Borough Council are developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), which identifies areas of opportunity to carry out nature recovery actions, and your voice is essential in shaping it.

The consultation runs until Sunday, 7 September, 2025.

Councillor Tracey Wye is CBC Executive Member for Sustainability and Climate Resilience. She said, "Being surrounded by thriving, nature-rich landscapes is often what draws people to live in Bedfordshire - it is so important for our health and wellbeing. This plan is an essential step towards restoring habitat and diverse ecosystems across the county by mapping out areas for nature restoration. We need everyone's input to make it work, whether you are a farmer, a resident, or a business owner, your perspective matters."

Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Planning and Prosperity at Bedford Borough Council, Cllr Andrea Spice, said "This strategy is a direct call to action for us all to protect, restore and connect these vital habitats, not just for wildlife, but for the health, well-being and future resilience of our communities."

The LNRS will inform decisions about land use, development, farming, and investment. In and around Meppershall and neighbouring villages, some of our greatest nature is in the farming landscape, in the long, mature hedgerows, treelines and wild field margins. Let's see it protected and enhanced.

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MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE HALL
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STARTING XI

- 1** Archie Zimmerman
- 2** Connor Stone
- 5** Lewis Baker
- 4** Paul Donald
- 3** Jack Dearden
- 6** Cam Ballantyne
- 7** Ryan Hayhurst
- 11** Tobin Marshall
- 16** James Metcalfe
- 10** Regan Marshall (C)
- 9** Stuart Gibbs



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Recently I was lucky enough to visit Kenilworth Castle which is home to a very impressive Elizabethan Garden. It was installed for a visit made by Elizabeth to the castle in 1575 by Robert Dudley, to impress her - and he pulled out all the stops!

On dropping down from the castle you arrive upon a terrace to survey the intricately laid out knot garden. Elizabethan gardens were heavy on

scent and this did not disappoint. On a fine summers day the air was filled with the heady fragrance of Honeysuckle and Roses.

Gardens of this period served as both functional and decorative spaces. They cultivated medicinal plants, plants used for dying clothes, some for eating and some for the home.

They would separate the garden into four beds. A kitchen garden, a physic garden with herbs for medicinal purposes, an orchard and a pleasance. A Pleasance was an area for 'Gillyflowers' - a term used to refer to perfumed perennials. Popular at the time were Carnations, Pinks and Sweet Williams. Pleasances were places of recreation to refresh both the mind and soul.

They would all be enclosed by hedges or a wall and then separately be edged with evergreens such as Thyme or Germander.

Some Manor House gardens were very elaborate, for instance with knot garden designs, and would have a terrace to view from above.

Also some would have arbours with fragrant flowers and sculptures and sun dials.

Cottage gardens would be less grand and much more about practicality of growing for food.

We can learn a lot about what flowers were grown from reading Shakespeare. He frequently refers to plants of the time in his plays – for instance in the terms “gilding the Lily” or “a rose by any other name.”

He mentions over 50 plants in his works - including Thyme, Rosemary, Lavender, Daisies, Daffodils, Columbines, Mint and Oxslops.

Also looking at paintings of the time, flowers often appear as posies or as stylised designs on clothing.

Gardening was rising in popularity and gardening books were starting to be written, so we can glean more info from these also.

A local Elizabethan garden to visit is Hatfield House. The Old Palace was the childhood home of Elizabeth I and it was here she learnt of her accession to the Throne. Visiting these places you really do get a sense of stepping back in time. We are literally walking through a garden in which Elizabeth I enjoyed the same things as we do today – it is truly magical. So, visit one this summer and you won't be disappointed. You'll return with ideas for your own gardens!

Donna x

Jobs In the Garden For August and September

Prune Wisteria	Sow Hardy Annuals
Dead head flowers	Mow area of wildflower meadows
Water regularly	Net Blackberries
Keep Camellias and Rhododendrons well watered	Take softwood cuttings of Penstemons
Trim Lavender	Collect seed
Prune Rambling Roses	Harvest sweetcorn
Keep ponds topped up	Cut out fruited canes of Raspberries
Lift and pot up Strawberry runners	Sit back and enjoy your hard work

Trugs And Trowels (Campton Gardening Club) – August-September

Happy summertime everyone! We have exciting news for our next few meetings:

- **August 4th:** visit from Historical Herbalist Kayleigh Sinclair from R.H.S. Wisley talking about the evolution of medical plants, folklore and key discoveries throughout history.
- **September 1st:** hand-tied Dahlia demonstration.
- **October 6th:** Helen from Wonkey Baskets returns.

Everyone welcome. £3.50 inclusive of refreshments. Free and swap table.

Here are some top tips to see you through the summer:

General pruning techniques for perennials:

1. Deadheading - remove all spent flowers which encourages new blooms and prevents seed production.
2. Cutting back - cut stems back to the base or to a node (where a leaf meets the stem) to promote new growth and blooms.
3. Shearing - cut back entire plants to promote new growth.

General tips:

1. Cut just above a node which helps the plant heal quickly and reduces the risk of disease.
2. Use clean tools - between cuts and pruning help to reduce disease spreading.
3. Prune at the right time after blooming for spring bloomers, or in the fall or early spring for summer bloomers.
4. Don't over prune - just necessary to keep shape and promote blooming.

Some perennials respond well to after pruning, like salvia, catmint and geranium, others may need different techniques so check specific needs to your plants.

Post-pruning care: apply water and fertiliser lightly after pruning to support recovery.

Best perennials for full sun as our climate temperatures are on the rise:

1. Black eyed Susan (Rudbeckia): Bright yellow petals with dark centres.
2. Bee balm (Monarda): Red pink or purple flowers attract pollinators.
3. Salvia: tall spikes of blue, purple or red flowers.
4. Yarrow (achillea): fern like foliage with white or yellow blooms.
5. Coreopsis: dainty flowers in shades of yellow, pink or purple.
6. Lavender: fragrant purple flowers and silvery foliage.
7. Russian sage (Perovskia): silvery grey foliage with small blue flowers.
8. Sedum: succulent with white, pink or yellow bloom.
9. Coneflower (Echinacea): large showy flowers in pink, purple or white.
10. Daylily (Hermocallis): vibrant trumpet shaped flowers in various colours

Maryika Wilding 01462 851729

Personal Finance: Tax Planning By Paul Savuto

Whilst we'd all probably agree that paying tax that goes towards providing the important services we all rely on, such as the NHS and schools, is the right and proper thing to do, no one needs to end up paying more than their fair share. Each year, the government announces the tax allowances and exemptions that we are entitled to and it makes sense to maximise their use in meeting our individual financial goals.

HOW PROFESSIONAL ADVICE CAN HELP

Most of us face being taxed on our income, our capital gains and in some circumstances, the value of our estate when we die. Taxation can be complicated, and the rules, reliefs, exemptions and allowances often change, so it is worth seeking advice to be clear on how taxes work and the most efficient way to arrange your finances. In our experience, many people can easily find themselves paying too much tax. That's why it's important that your financial position is regularly reviewed to ensure that you don't miss out on opportunities that could reduce your tax liability.

TAXATION BASICS

In the UK, the tax year runs from 6 April through to 5 April. Each of us has a 'Personal Allowance'. This is the amount we can earn without paying any Income Tax. For the

2024-25 tax year this is £12,570. If you earn more than your Personal Allowance, you pay tax at the applicable rate on all earnings above the allowance, but the allowance itself remains untaxed. Those who earn over £100,000 will find that their Personal Allowance reduces by £1 for every £2 of adjusted net income above the £100,000 limit.

TAX BANDS

For the 2024-25 tax year, if you live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, there are three Income Tax bands – the 20% basic rate, the 40% higher rate and the 45% additional rate. If you live in Scotland, there are six Income Tax bands – the starter rate of 19%, the 20% basic rate, the 21% intermediate rate, the 42% higher rate, the advanced rate of 45% and the 48% top rate.

TAX-FREE SAVINGS

ISAs represent a tax-efficient way of saving or investing and the annual allowance for 2024-25 is a generous £20,000. Saving for children is encouraged too, through a Junior ISA (annual allowance £9,000). There are several different types, including the Lifetime ISA which is designed for those aged 18 to 40, wanting to save for their first home or their retirement. You can contribute up to £4,000 in each tax year as part of your £20,000 overall limit. Contributions and government bonuses can continue up to age 50. We can help you maximise your annual £20,000 allowance and recommend the right plans, taking into consideration your financial goals.

INVESTMENTS

ISA allowances can be used to make investments as well as savings. We will always consider your tax position when deciding where you should put any money that you want to invest for the future. We can explain how Capital Gains Tax (CGT) works, and how best to use your annual personal exemption (£3,000 in the 2024-25 tax year). We will also take into consideration the tax-free dividend allowance (£500 in the 2024-25 tax year) and be able to explain how dividend income over that level is taxed. For those with substantial funds to invest who are prepared to accept a higher level of risk, then Enterprise Investment Schemes, Venture Capital Trusts and Seed Enterprise Investment Schemes all come with Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax benefits.

PENSION PLANNING PAYS

One of the key attractions of paying into a pension is the tax relief available to savers. Basic rate taxpayers receive 20% tax relief on their contributions. Higher rate taxpayers can get up to 40% relief and the figure for additional rate taxpayers is 45%, which in both instances can be claimed through their tax returns. Scottish taxpayers paying tax at 21%, 42%, 45% or 48% will also need to claim their tax relief through their annual tax returns. Generally, the annual allowance for pensions is £60,000, however, if you start to take money from a defined contribution pension, the amount you can pay in without penalty may reduce. This is known as the Money Purchase Annual Allowance or MPAA for short. The MPAA will not be invoked if you just take your pension commencement lump sum (PCLS), among other exemptions. The MPAA for 2024-25 is £10,000.

Pensions can be complex, that's why many people seek help. We can help ensure not only that you maximise the use of your allowable contribution limits, but also ensure

that when the time comes to take your pension, you do so in as tax-efficient a way as possible. The good news is that you can take 25% of your pension pot from age 55 (rising to age 57 in 2028) in the form of a tax-free lump sum.

INHERITANCE TAX

Many people are concerned that on their death, their families will be faced with a sizeable bill for Inheritance Tax (IHT). Where the tax is payable, the rate applicable is 40%, although this can be reduced to 36% if you leave at least 10% of your net estate to charity. However, with careful planning it's possible to reduce the level of tax payable. The nil rate band is £325,000 per person and where a main residence is passed to a direct descendant there is an allowance of £175,000 in this tax year. We can explain how you can use your annual IHT allowances to make small gifts each year. If you wish to give away more substantial sums during your lifetime, we will be able to explain how you can do this tax-efficiently. If you survive for seven years after making the gift, it will be outside of your estate for IHT. The Lifetime Allowance (LTA) on pensions, previously £1,073,100 for the 2023/24 tax year, was removed completely from 6 April 2024. Since the abolition of the LTA charge the previous April, pension benefits are now subject to Income Tax at the individual's marginal rate. With the abolition of the LTA came the introduction of two new allowances which limit tax-free lump sums paid from registered pension schemes – the lump sum allowance (LSA) and the lump sum and death benefit allowance (LSDBA): LSA – a fixed cumulative limit of £268,275 (25% of the 2023/24 LTA) on the tax-free cash that can be paid as pension commencement lump sums (PCLS) and on the tax-free part of uncrystallised funds pension lump sums (UFPLS) LSDBA – a fixed cumulative limit of £1,073,100 (the 2023/24 LTA) on the total amount of the tax-free part of lump sums and lump sum death benefits payable to and in respect of a member. In addition to the PCLS and tax-free elements of UFPLS, tax free elements of serious ill health lump sums and lump sum death benefits use up this allowance. For both allowances, those with old- style Lifetime Allowance protections will have higher allowances (noting that the window for new applications for Individual Protection 2016 and Fixed Protection 2016 will close from 5 April 2025).

PLANNING YOUR WEALTH FOR THE FUTURE

Tax planning involves taking sensible steps to reduce the amount of tax you pay. However, whilst tax-efficiency can have a vital part to play in successful saving and investment, it's important not to let it be the sole driver of your savings or investment decisions, or to steer you away from achieving your core financial goals. Working with us can help you put in place the right plans for your future to safeguard your wealth.

GET IN TOUCH

DGS IFA Ltd are Independent and Chartered Financial Advisers. I am a Chartered Financial Planner with over 30 years financial services experience, so you are in safe hands. To discuss your financial situation and to discuss your plans and goals, please contact me, Paul Savuto, AFPS, Chartered Financial Planner. DGS Independent Financial Advisers Ltd. 07834 499 595 or email ps@dgsifa.com, I'll be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you have. FCA 225814. Please note: This blog is for general information only and does not constitute advice. The information is aimed at retail clients only.

Some Important Tax Rates For 2024-25

Tax-free Savings for Individuals

	ISA ALLOWANCE	£20,000
	JUNIOR ISA ALLOWANCE	£9,000
	LIFETIME ISA	£4,000

The government has published a consultation on a new UK ISA (£5,000 allowance, invested in UK equities)

Dividend Taxation

£500 tax-free Dividend Allowance
Dividends above this level will be taxed at:
8.75% (basic rate)
33.75% (higher rate)
39.35% (additional rate)

Income Tax Allowances

Income Tax Personal Allowance **£12,570**

There is one Income Tax Personal Allowance regardless of an individual's date of birth

The following Income Tax rates apply for 2024/25 for the UK (excl. Scotland):

Basic Rate	20%	£0-£37,700
Higher rate	40%	£37,701-£125,140
Additional rate	45%	£125,140+

Where your adjusted net income exceeds £100,000, the Personal Allowance reduces by £1 for every £2 of adjusted net income above **£100,000**

Personal Savings Allowance

	Up to £1,000 of savings interest tax free to basic rate tax payers
	and £500 for those who pay higher rate tax
For additional rate tax payers the allowance is nil	

Pension Annual Allowance

The Annual Allowance is **£60,000** for 2024/25

£1 of Annual Allowance is lost for every £2 of adjusted income over £260,000. The minimum tapered Annual Allowance is £10,000

Other Pension Allowances

The Lifetime Allowance and charge have been abolished, replaced by the Lump Sum and Death Benefit Allowance (LSDBA) of **£1,073,100** and the Lump Sum Allowance (LSA) of **£268,275**



State Pension

Flat rate State Pension increased to **£221.20pw** from 6/4/24

(35 qualifying National Insurance years needed)

Old State Pension increased to **£169.50pw** from 6/4/24

Capital Gains Tax

Annual personal CGT exemption **£3,000**

Levied at **10%** on gains within the basic rate Income Tax band, or **20%** for gains in the higher rate Income Tax bands



Residential property gains at **18%** within the basic rate Income Tax band, or **24%** for gains in the higher rate Income Tax bands

Inheritance Tax (IHT)

Nil-Rate IHT band **£325,000**

40% IHT payable above this threshold

or **36%** if you leave at least 10% or more of your net estate to charity

Additional main Residence Nil-Rate band (RNRB) when a residence is passed on death to a direct descendant.

For the 2024/25 tax year the allowance is **£175,000**

This will be subject to a maximum estate value of £2m

Other IHT-free gifts, include:

Gifts between UK domiciled husband or wife or between civil partners;



Small gifts to other recipients up to **£250** each in a year



Total gifts up to **£3,000** in a year (can be carried forward one tax year)



Gifts in consideration of marriage or civil partnership ranging from **£5,000** from each parent of the couple, to **£1,000** from anyone else



Failed chargeable lifetime transfers and potentially exempt transfers may receive taper relief on the IHT payable.

It is important to take professional advice before making any decision relating to your personal finances. Information within this document is based on our current understanding of taxation and HMRC rules and can be subject to change in the 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. No part of this document may be reproduced in any manner without prior permission.



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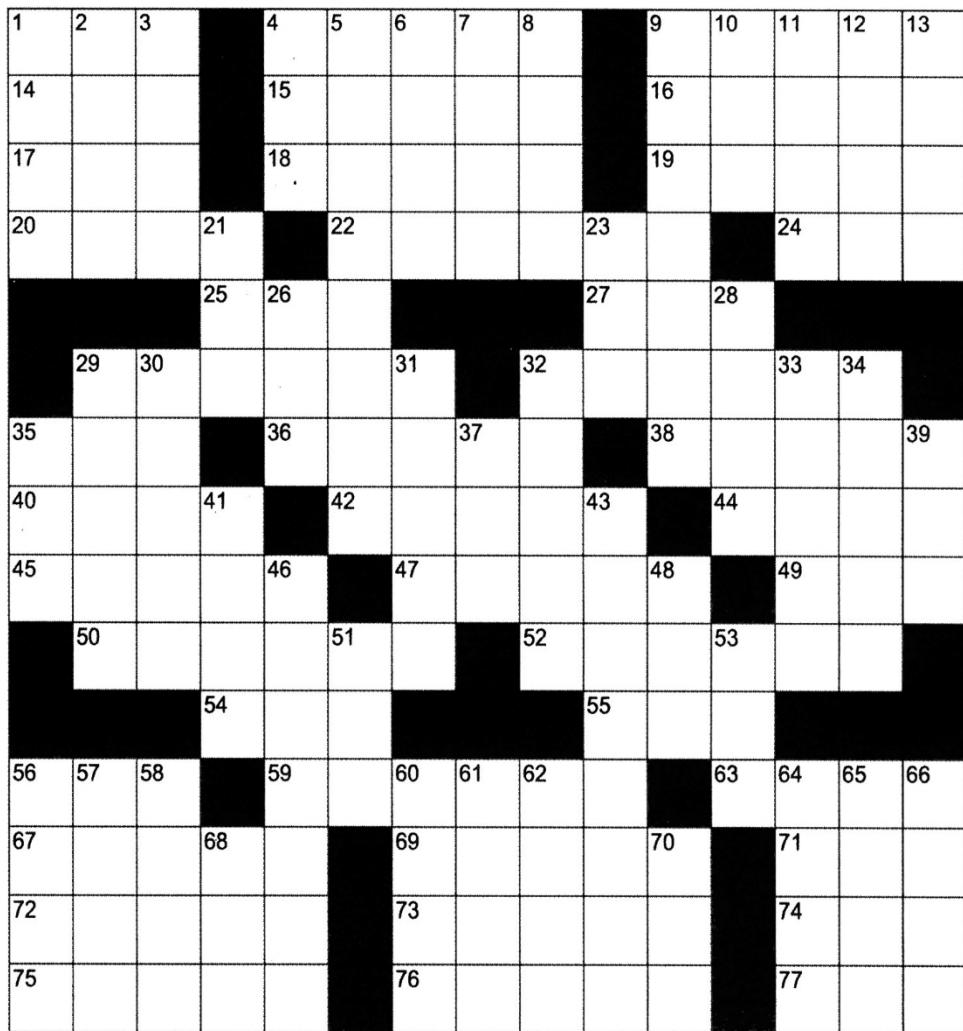
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August /
September
Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 American College of Physicians (abbr.)
- 4 __-garde
- 9 Sandy area at the edge of the ocean
- 14 Holding or giving off great heat
- 15 Small boat with pointed ends that is moved by using a paddle
- 16 National bird
- 17 Government agency
- 18 Fried bread
- 19 Kitchen seat
- 20 Plateau
- 22 Absence of values
- 24 Exercise place
- 25 Rodent
- 27 Lease
- 29 Dissertation
- 32 Wall recess
- 35 That girl
- 36 Place with many rooms and beds where people pay to stay
- 38 Laughing dog

40 Extremely long time periods

42 Bird homes

44 Take a picture

45 African ground squirrel

47 Dickens' "__ of Two Cities" (2 wds.)

49 Enact

50 Blue-penciled

52 Rebel

54 Sticky black substance

55 Last month of year

56 Expression of surprise

59 Spread

63 Sticky black substances

67 Start

69 Avert

71 Down

72 Mustang

73 Food from heaven

74 Luau dish

75 Place where cattle, horses, or sheep are raised

76 Lament

77 Short-term memory

DOWN

1 Excuse me!

2 Get by

3 Parent teacher groups

4 American Cancer Society (abbr.)

5 Period of rest from school or work

6 After awhile

7 Taboo

8 Seethe

9 Adjure

10 Consume

11 Eager

12 Disgust with excess

13 Steering mechanism

21 To be

23 Sick

26 Fire remains

28 Children's love

29 Troika

30 Perceived

31 Word with home or in

32 Marriage site

33 Briable

34 Make into law

35 Gender

37 Eastern Standard Time

39 Inclined

41 Lawyer dress

43 Luging

46 Faithful

48 Evening

51 Gray sea eagle

53 Halloween mo.

56 Shorten (abbr.)

57 Goddess

58 Competition at the Greek games

60 Glory

61 Elliptical

62 __ Ranger

64 Swiss mountains

65 Basic

66 Move through the water by using parts of the body

68 Incorporated (abbr.)

70 Part of a week



Mid Bedfordshire Cancer Support Group

Supported by
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



We are meeting Face to Face and Online

Informal cancer group for patients, families, friends, carers who wish to meet others for support, sharing & information. People with valuable experience and from relevant organisations have been of great benefit to us all.

We meet on the first Saturday of every month -

Meppershall Village Hall, Walnut Tree Way,
Meppershall, Shefford, Central Beds, SG17 5AB

**Do join us on
from 11am-1pm either in person
or via zoom.**

For Zoom log in details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3348518015>

Meeting ID: 334 851 8015

Password: cancertalk

We are always available to speak to individuals anytime.



midbedscancersupport@survivingcancer.co.uk



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Shefford Osteopathic Clinic: Why Do We Get Injured?

Why do we get injured?

Our bodies are amazing! Various systems throughout the body are constantly working very hard, many of which we are oblivious to. When we exercise and move, we stress our tissues causing damage. We need rest to allow our muscle fibres, tendons and ligaments to repair and become stronger. If we cause too much damage in one go – or allow too little time for that recovery – then niggles start.

If you're feeling pain, something needs to be addressed and corrected.

Tips to prevent injury:

- 1) **Increase activity by 10% a week.** Keep your weekly runs the same distance, increasing your weekend run by 10% each week. Increase weights only as your technique allows to avoid too much damage to tissues.
- 2) **New equipment.** Initially, mix your old and new equipment (bike, trainers, racket) but avoid increased training intensity during this transition.
- 3) **After you've been ill or injured** reduce your training initially; give your body the chance to catch up.
- 4) **Rest days** - we recommend 1–2 rest days per week.
- 5) **Change only one variable** of your training each week. Time, distance, speed, weight... master one, then begin to challenge another aspect.

Plus – try some Sports Therapy when you need a bit more help along the way. You'll feel the difference! Visit www.SheffordOsteo.com for more details or to book an appointment online - or call us on 01462 811006. Enjoy your hobbies and live life!



**Crossword
Solution For July**

MEPPERSHALL - WANDERBUS

Bookings & Info : Tel :0300-123-3023 www.wanderbus.org.uk



RR = Return
on request

TIMETABLE - VALID FROM 2nd September 2024

Time/Days have changed – please check & new W16 Stevenage

As from 2 nd September 2024		"Stops at all Bus Stops on Request"	
W2 BEDFORD	- 2nd Wednesday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Shefford Rd, / High St., / Rectory Rd. - all stops		09.00 / 09.02	RR
Interchange Retail Park		09.40	12.15
St Pauls Square / Corn Exchange		09.55	12.00
W3 BIGGLESWADE	- Every Monday	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd / High Street, / Shefford Rd., - all Stops		09.36 / 09.40	RR
Biggleswade – A1 Retail Park		10.10	12.15
Station / Town Centre - pick up Church St. Bus Stop o/s Asda		10.15	12.10
W5 BIGGLESWADE - A1 Retail Park/Town Centre - Every Friday		OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd / High St. / Shefford Rd – all stops		10.00 / 10.03	RR
Biggleswade A1 Retail Park / Station & Town Centre		10.25 / 10.30	
Church St bus stop o/s Asda / A1 Retail Park			12.10 / 12.15
W6A CAMBRIDGE	- 4 TH Wednesday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Shefford Rd. / High St. / Rectory Rd. - all stops		08.48 /08.52	RR
Cambridge, Downing St. – o/s John Lewis		10.15	14.10
W8A ST ALBANS	- 1 st Wednesday of Month		
Shefford Rd. / High St. /Rectory Rd. – all stops		08.48 /08.52	RR
St Peters St. o/s Santander Bank / pickup opp Bank Stop 13		10.15	14.00
W10 ST NEOTS	- 2 nd Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd. / High Street, / Shefford Rd. All stops		09.18 / 09.20	RR
St Neots - Market Place		10.15	12.20
W11 MILTON KEYNES	- 3 rd Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd. / High St., / Shefford Rd. - all stops		09.08 / 09.10	RR
MK - Midsummer Blvd / M&S (Stop J3) / o/s John Lewis Stop E3		10.10	13.15
W12 HITCHIN	- Every Tuesday	OUT	RETURN
Shefford Rd. / High Street / Rectory Rd - All stops		09.18 / 09.20	RR
Bancroft Stop D		10.05	
Bancroft Stop G (Outside Oliver Bonas)			12.10
W14 WELWYN GARDEN CITY	- 1 st Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd. / High Street, All stops		09.14	RR
Shefford Road, All stops		09.16	RR
WGC Central Bus Station		10.00	12.15
W16 STEVENAGE	- 3 rd Wednesday of each Month		
Rectory Rd. / High St. / Shefford Rd. – all Stops		09.34 / 09.37	RR
Tesco Extra, The Forum Centre (opp Station)		10.05	12.10
M&S, Roaring Meg Retail Park		10.10	12.05

EXCURSIONS – 4TH Thursday of Month – call For Details – 0300-123-3023

E: Thewanderbus@gmail.com Web: www.wanderbus.org.uk

Buses available for PRIVATE HIRE – Call for Quote.



2025 Excursions

4th THURSDAY OF MONTH!

Call **0300-123-3023** or e mail: thewanderbus@gmail.com for more info or to book your seat.

Full payment is required 10 days before departure. A cheque to Wanderbus, 5 The Pastures, Upper Stondon, Beds SG16 6QB or a bank transfer to: CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code 40-52-40, Acc No. 00013118 Name: Wanderbus Ltd (Use your name in Reference). Cancellations must be made within 7 days or refunds will be discretionary.

	PROGRAMME OF VISITS (<i>prices correct at print time</i>)	BUS FARE
28TH AUG	Althorp House, Northants. £23.00 House & Gardens	Fare £15.00 Pickups 10.00/10.15 a.11.15 d.15.30

Althorp has been home to the Spencer family for more than 500 years, and contains a fascinating variety of pictures, furniture, ceramics and fine interiors. Located in beautiful surroundings, it houses an exhibition commemorating the Life of Diana, Princess of Wales.

25TH SEPT	Whipsnade Zoo, Dunstable Concession £26.50.	Fare £10.00 Pickups 09.45/10.15 a.11.00 d.16.30
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Explore the world of wildlife like never before at Whipsnade Zoo, the largest in the UK. Experience thousands of amazing animals and learn how, as a ZSL conservation zoo, we are protecting their future.

23RD OCT	Milton Keynes Museum. Entry £17.50	Fare £10.00 Pickups 11.00/11.15 a.12.15 d.15.30
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The Museum is made up of a number of buildings and barns. Explore 'old' Milton Keynes with Victorian farmhouse, Street of Shops, Telephone Gallery, Hall of Transport, Print Room and a café! A surprising and highly interesting museum.



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/// what3words Walking Storeroom Octopus

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Useful Contact Details In Meppershall

DEFIBRILLATORS – outside School, Village Hall and Budgens

DOCTORS, DENTISTS, PHARMACIES

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Dr Baxter & Partners

Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive, Shefford SG17 5FS

Appointments 01462 810034

General queries, prescriptions etc. 01462 818620

Lower Stondon GP Practice

109 Station Rd Lower Stondon SG16 6JJ 01462 850305

Shefford Dental Practice, 34 High St Shefford 01462 814020

Shefford Dental Clinic, 99 Hitchin Rd Shefford 01462 648465

Jardines Chemist, 7 High St Shefford 01462 813283

Shefford Pharmacy, Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive 01462 818633

Police: **Emergency 999, non-emergency 101**

Hospitals

Bedford Hospital 01234 355122

Lister Hospital, Stevenage 01438 314333

Luton and Dunstable Hospital 01582 491166

Utilities

Gas Emergency 0800 111999

Anglian Water 03457 145145

Electrical (power cuts, overhead cable down etc) 0800 3163105

(Or 105 from a landline)

Central Beds Council 0300 300 8301

CBC Councillor for Gravenhurst, Meppershall, Shillington:

Blake Stephenson blake.stephenson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

hello@blakestephenson.uk

0300 300 8526

Parish Council Clerk

Alessandre Marabese clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk

Member of Parliament:

Alistair Strathern MP C/O House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

020 7219 6004

alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk

St Marys Church

Rev. Veronica Goodman, The Rectory, Church Road 01462 339962

See full details in the church pages of The Meppershall Messenger

Library: High St Shefford 0300 300 8067

Tuesday – Friday 9am – 6pm, Saturday 9am – 4pm, closed Monday & Sunday

Whitbread Wanderbus service

Stephanie Kirby thewanderbus@gmail.com

Food and Supplies

Budgens Stores, Post Office, High Street

Rogers Bakery, High Street 01462 813398

The Sugar Loaf, 25 High St 01462 239231

Schools

Samuel Whitbread Academy, Clifton 01462 629900

Redborne Upper School, Ampthill 01525 404462

Henlow Academy 01462 813733

Robert Bloomfield, Shefford 01462 628800

Meppershall Academy, High Street 01462 813293

Meppershall Pre-School Village Hall, Ella Carey-Butler 07816 357159

meppershallps@gmail.com

Meppershall Munchkins, Melanie Choonos

meppershallmunchkins@gmail.com

Organisations

The Players @ STMA, Karen Mitchell 01462 816336

Meppershall Good Neighbours (GNOMES) 07760 793921

Meppershall Brownies, Suzanne Brightwell 07817 392325

Shefford Guides, Angie Griffiths 07957 462519

Shefford Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)

Kathy Georgiou 01462 629313

HATS Drama Group, Linda Winfield lin.winfield5@gmail.com

Meppershall Village Hall Trustees trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

Meppershall Village Hall Bookings bookings@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

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* Subject to availability.

The Team And Collation Dates

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Editor welcomes contributions to the Messenger, whether as letters, articles or notices. Contributions should preferably be as attachments to e-mail (address below) but handwritten contributions may be submitted. Contributions should run to not more than one A5 page (except by prior arrangement) and should ideally be received by the Editor not later than the 12th of the month, for publication at the end of that month (or by the later deadline date publicised by email or Facebook). 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

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PRODUCTION DATES AND DEADLINES

The table below shows the dates for collation of the magazine. The collation team generally meets at 2.30pm in the Village Hall on the collation date. Printing takes place 7 days prior to collation. The deadline for submissions is two Fridays prior to collation. Please look out for updates and alterations to usual plans when occasionally necessary. Can you spare some time to help produce the magazine? We would love to have you on the team! Use the contacts above to find out more.

Issue date	Collation date	Issue date	Collation date
October 2025	Tues 30 th September	May 2026	TBC
November 2025	Tues 28 th October	June 2026	TBC
Dec-Jan 2025-6	Tues 2 nd December	July 2026	TBC
February 2026	TBC	Aug-Sept 2026	TBC
March 2026	TBC	October 2026	TBC
April 2026	TBC	November 2026	TBC
Contact John Thompson to confirm arrangements (contact information above).			