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Boring job? Not at Bedfordshire Police

Bedfordshire Police offers a career that gives you the opportunity to make a real difference within the community.

Every day is different. We are a small and busy force that offers a lot of experience due to the wide range of crimes we see compared to other forces in the UK. You are not just a number at Bedfordshire Police. You will develop with close-knit teams and there will always be someone to support you through the ups and downs of policing.

As a police officer, you will handle things most people never experience in their lives. Your mental, emotional, and physical capabilities will be tested and you must maintain a professional approach throughout, no matter what the situation.

It's a challenging 24/7 service and you will work a range of shifts, including nights. You might miss celebrations, birthdays, or holidays, but you will get the satisfaction of working in a job like no other.

You'll be part of a unique organisation, working with inspiring colleagues who understand the risks and rewards of the job.

You'll be highly trained and well-supported throughout your service as you help people through some of the most difficult situations in their life.

You will support victims and witnesses and provide reassurance in your community.


Everyone at Bedfordshire Police takes personal responsibility to help create an inclusive workplace, where police officers and staff respect one another, feel valued for their differences and can be themselves. We are committed to providing reasonable adjustments, wherever needed so everyone feels welcome and can flourish.

As a frontline officer you could make the difference to someone every day.

If you think being part of a team that helps to keep the public safe and tackles crime day-to-day is for you, then a role with Bedfordshire Police could be your next career step.

We're recruiting now. To find out about the different routes into policing and apply to join, visit our website: **www.beds.police.uk**


You can also follow us on **Facebook** by searching **Bedfordshire Police** for more news and recruitment updates.



**BORING
JOB?**

**NOT
HERE**

Investigate your new career
SEARCH BEDS POLICE



The image features a young woman in a dark police uniform with a 'POLICE' badge and a handheld radio. The background is a red graphic with white and yellow text. The Bedfordshire Police crest is visible in the bottom right corner.



**BORING
JOB?**

**NOT
HERE**

Investigate your new career
SEARCH BEDS POLICE



The image features a man in a dark police uniform with a 'POLICE' badge and a handheld radio. The background is an orange graphic with white text. The Bedfordshire Police crest is visible in the bottom right corner.



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A patch test may be required 48 hours prior to some colour services, and some colour services will need to be quoted on consultation.


Please contact me to book and I hope to see you soon.

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07428225857




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Root tint	£40
Full Head tint	£60
Balayage	£105 POC
Foilyage	£125 POC
Toning	£20



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Kids Cut:2-10,10-16	£15/£20
Restyle	£45
Dry Cut	£25
Curles/waves	£25
Blow Dry	£25

Editorial by James Read



Our cover this month features a striking photo, taken in the Open Garden event hosted by Tony Edwards. More of your pictures are shown inside... Tony raised over £360 for St Mary's Church and Moggerhanger Hospice, so well done, Tony and your team of helpers. Thank you to whoever was in charge of the weather (!) and everyone that went along to enjoy Tony's wonderful display. A prize of afternoon tea for two for the best photo submitted to us was donated by Mount Pleasant View Bistro. They chose the picture featured on the cover, showing some beautiful allium flowers. Congrats to Debra, the winning photographer! Enjoy your afternoon tea!

As always this issue of the village magazine features lots of things to do locally and lots of chances to get involved in all sorts of things. Can you sponsor Meppershall FC? Can you be a volunteer driver for the Gnomes? Will you join the litter pick in September? We're doubling up on quizzes, with the regular social club quiz (page 14) as well as the annual Village Quiz run by the Friends of St Mary's (page 8 - village hall, 26 September).

If the summer months make you long for traditional English things, try Mondays at St Mary's for cake and drinks, 10.00-12.00 (starts 27 July, p22). The village hall Cake Café returns on Saturday 11 July (p20). If those don't suit you, remember All Saints church in Shillington runs a very nice cream tea service throughout the summer months on Sunday afternoons, 3.00-5.00PM – an ideal spot for stopping off on a walk or bike ride.

Also, check out the article on digital landline transition, plus the online security advice from Lucy and financial planning with Paul. Alongside Donna's beautifully illustrated gardening tips (lavender this month) you'll find my personal favourite article in this issue – how to use everyday household waste as top-grade fertilizer for your plants (thank you Maryika and the Trugs & Trowels gang for that one!) Enjoy the summer!

Letters

Dear Editors,

Just a quick email to let you know that my friend Roxy Smith is raising £1000 to support Fin and Jess, who have a parent impacted by terminal cancer. They'd really appreciate your support. Roxy, along with Gemma, embarked on the National Three Peaks Challenge, starting at Ben Nevis on 19 June and concluding at Snowdon on 20 June. This journey was more than just a physical challenge; it was a heartfelt mission.

This moment is dedicated not only to creating lasting memories for Jess and Fin but also to bringing together everyone who wishes to join us in this meaningful climb. They are raising funds with the permission of Mum, Mandy, focused on supporting the future of Jess and Fin, rather than donating to charity alone. In light of an incredibly difficult situation that cannot be changed, the goal is to provide some stability and hope for their future through your generous support. Your contribution will help create precious memories and offer tangible assistance where it matters most.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Read more here: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/roxy-smith-1>. Thank you for your support,

Mel Gladding

SOME OF THE PICTURES SUBMITTED FROM THE OPEN DAY AT TONY EDWARDS GARDEN.

OVERALL TONY RAISED OVER £360 FOR HIS CHARITIES:- ST MARYS CHURCH AND ST JOHNS SUE RYDER HOSPICE, MOGGERHANGER THE WINING ENTRY IS ON THE COVER.









Dear Editor,

Have our local MP and Ward councillor done all they can to get Meppershall High Street resurfaced? I note it is not included in the latest Central Beds off road resurfacing plan!

However, Church road in Shillington is included. Are we once again the poor relations or has someone got shares in local puncture and suspension repairs companies?

My humour, however, does not help with unnecessary repair bills. Can someone please plant flowers in the pot holes or at least highlight them in yellow paint?

Note, Shefford has got an increasing number of 20mph roads - why not Meppershall? Where has the Government pot hole money gone?

Regards

Helicopter Owner!

Thank you to the contributor of this amusing letter, which makes a serious point. Our roads in Meppershall could go for a year or more without repair, as things stand in the current Central Bedfordshire Council plans.

Is there something you want to share with us – do you want to be part of the village discussion here in the pages of The Meppershall Messenger? Why not drop us a line at mepp.messenger@gmail.com.

Meppershall FC – Another Sponsor Needed

As we know, the newly recreated Meppershall FC had a great first season back in competition, 2025-6.

But now they need help – maybe from you?

Having a local club playing regularly has so many benefits to the village. For those playing, representing the village, enjoying their sport and being part of a close-knit team is very rewarding. For people watching, the side is a celebration of the competitive spirit of the village and our place in a wider community of towns and villages in rural Mid Bedfordshire. For the whole village, the side makes the most of the new football pitch as well as the social club during home games. And it doesn't cost much, but there are some costs...

ASM Windows (<https://www.facebook.com/A.S.MWindowsLtd>) has stood alongside the team as the primary sponsor, helping to those cover costs. Their support is rock solid, but the team need another sponsor as they plan for next season and begin to budget for strip, equipment etc. ***Are you a local business seeking to put your company name at the heart of a high-profile community initiative – to be known as a supporter of local people? If so, Meppershall FC would love to hear from you!***

Contact Meppershall FC, or find George Prowle, on Facebook (or we can connect you).



Meppershall Village Hall

Charity Number 300052



Notice of Annual General Meeting

**To be held on Monday, 17 August 2026 at 7PM at
the Village Hall, Meppershall, SG17 5AB**

AGENDA

1. Receive and approve the minutes and summary of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 28 July 2025
2. Receive and approve the draft report of the trustees and treasurer for the year to 31 March 2026 (summary income and expenditure)
3. Update on activities and works in hand at the Village Hall
4. Election of trustees
5. Any other business:
 - Notified before the meeting
 - Arising at the meeting

**All welcome to attend or become involved in
managing and operating our Village Hall**

News From The Village Hall

It is an important and exciting time for Meppershall Village Hall and we are looking forward to our Annual General Meeting on 17 August 2026. If you have any relevant items you wish to be discussed at the meeting, please forward them to trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk before 10 July 2026.

If you would like to volunteer or join the committee please get in touch.

Nominations for the role of trustee are requested by 19 July 2026 and should be sent to trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

We are progressing with the solar panel installation (special thanks to Ray Wood and Community Lottery Fund) and continue with the very successful cake bakes - thank you to everyone (especially Mandie Edwards and Barry Gatenby) who have been baking and attending these important community events which raise important funds for the Hall.

Diary date

Having spoken to regular attendees, we will be holding a **TABLE TOP SALE, including a cake bake on Saturday 14 November 2026 from 12.00 until 4.00PM.**

Please contact jsales999@gmail.com to book a table - £12 each – the deadline for booking a table is 31 October 2026.

Personal Finance by Paul Savuto

Are your family ready for the largest intergenerational transfer in history?

The world is on the brink of an unprecedented transfer of wealth. A notable World Wealth Report, which gauges the opinions of over 6,000 global high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs), highlights a 'staggering \$83.5tn in wealth' will pass to younger generations by 2048. Other research suggests the figure could be even higher. In the UK alone, around £7tn is forecast to transfer between generations by 2050.

The report, entitled 'Sail the great wealth transfer,' explores the transformation of the wealth management topography as Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z are set to take control of this growing pool of assets. Strong equity market performance has driven sustained growth in HNWI wealth, further increasing the value of assets likely to be passed on.

The scale of this transfer brings challenges. Research shows that up to 70% of wealthy families lose their wealth by the next generation and as many as 90% by the third. Without careful planning, wealth can quickly erode through poor decision-making, tax inefficiency and lack of financial education. This is where proactive advice and structured planning play a vital role in preserving wealth. Transferring wealth is about far more than handing over a lump sum. It's about securing your family's long-term financial wellbeing, aligning wealth with your values, and preparing future generations to manage it responsibly. Open communication is essential, even if conversations

about money feel uncomfortable at first. Being transparent about your intentions, goals and expectations can help prevent misunderstandings and conflict later on.

Breaking the process into manageable steps can make it far less daunting. We can support you at every stage, including:

- Identifying your beneficiaries and clarifying who you want to benefit
- Selecting the most appropriate wealth transfer structures, such as trusts and lifetime gifting
- Developing a tax-efficient strategy to minimise Inheritance Tax (IHT) and other liabilities
- Facilitating family discussions to ensure everyone understands the plan
- Helping educate future beneficiaries so they are prepared to manage their inheritance
- Reviewing and updating your plan regularly to reflect changing circumstances.

Proposed changes to the IHT treatment of pensions from April 2027 may accelerate the pace of wealth transfer. This makes now an ideal time to review your plans and consider whether lifetime gifting or other strategies could help reduce future liabilities. With the right guidance, the great wealth transfer can be more opportunity than risk, for your family.

Salary sacrifice – things to consider

Salary sacrifice is one of the most effective pension planning tools available, particularly for higher earners. It allows you to exchange part of your salary for increased pension contributions, reducing both Income Tax and National Insurance (NI) in the process. The November Budget confirmed that from 6 April 2029, the NI advantages of salary sacrifice will be restricted, making the current rules more valuable in the years ahead. Under a salary sacrifice arrangement, your employer pays part of your salary directly into your pension. This means you don't pay Income Tax or employee NI on that amount, and your employer also saves on NI – a saving that is often shared through additional pension contributions. It can also help reduce your taxable income for thresholds such as the higher-rate tax band, the High Income Child Benefit Charge and the tapering of the personal allowance above £100,000.

What's changing?

From April 2029, only the first £2,000 per year of pension contributions made via salary sacrifice will remain exempt from NI. Any amount above this will still receive Income Tax relief, but NI will be payable. While this change is still a few years away, it creates a clear planning opportunity. Contributions made between now and 2029 continue to benefit from full NI efficiency, making this a valuable window. For those who can afford it, this may mean increasing salary sacrifice, using bonus sacrifice, or bringing forward planned contributions. The aim isn't to rush decisions, but to be aware that the rules will become less generous over time.

The big picture

Salary sacrifice works best as part of a wider, long-term strategy. Reviewing your position now can help ensure your pension contributions remain tax-efficient, affordable and aligned with your broader retirement and lifestyle goals.

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, 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.

Friends of St Mary's Meppershall – Village Quiz

The Friends of St Mary's Meppershall is an independent charity raising money for the church building. With some new trustees now appointed, we recently confirmed our decision to fund work to the church bells in 2027 for around £10,000. Our 2026 quiz is a fundraiser in support of this important task. We'd love to see you at this annual village event. Contactless payments are now possible, these will fund the project directly with the church. Any cash on the night will go to our charity (raffle cash only).

THE MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE QUIZ

— OUR ANNUAL EVENT RETURNS FOR 2026 —
With renowned quizmasters
Graham and Jenny.



Raffle and
prize draw
(cash only)!

NOW WITH
CONTACTLESS
PAYMENT OPTION
FOR ENTRANCE!



Saturday

26th September 2026

Meppershall Village Hall
7pm bar, for 7.30 start



Raffle prizes
kindly
accepted!

Teams on tables of 6 people
£7 pp – Tables £40

Book via James & Miriam Tel. 857836

Don't have a team? Give us call, we'll find a team for you!

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S MEPPERSHALL CHARITY NO. 1028048

Budgens

OPEN: Mon– Sat: 7AM—8PM
Sun: 8AM—8PM

Big range, big brands, *great* prices
Costa Coffee now serving.
Check out our monthly specials for
even *better* value!
See you soon....

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from just £5.35 per
month – including
10% disc off
spectacles



Clifton Road, Shefford - Established 1979

NHS & Private Opticians

Family-owned Opticians for the whole Family

Spectacles – Contact Lenses – Comprehensive Eye Care

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Eyes and Ears plans
Available from £10.40
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10% disc off hearing
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JAI KITCHEN FITTERS
DESIGN-SUPPLY-INSTALL

Design First. Built to Last

Luxury Kitchens & Bespoke Interiors



At **JAI Kitchen Fitters**, we design, supply & install premium kitchens and bespoke interiors across **Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire**.

✓ Kitchens ✓ Offices ✓ Bathrooms ✓ Media Walls ✓ Bedrooms

Book Your Free Design Consultation



☎ 01462 226 550 🌐 jaikitchenfitters.co.uk

📍 Based in Meppershall - Serving surrounding areas





MEPPERSHALL ACADEMY PRE-SCHOOL



**APPLY
NOW FOR
SEPTEMBER
2026**

Come & meet our fantastic team, explore our large setting offering all-weather outdoor opportunities and see our happy learners in action!

Call 01462 813293

or email

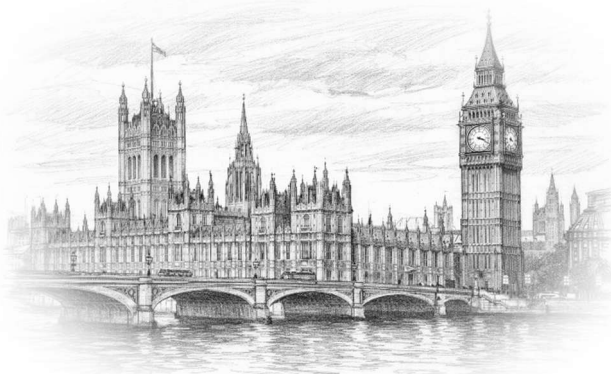
office@meppershallacad.org

Start your child's learning journey at Meppershall Academy Pre-school! Our caring and passionate team provide the perfect foundation for your child's future, guiding those first curious steps all the way through a seamless transition into Reception. We provide a nurturing space for your child to explore and discover the world, from sparking curiosity through play to building essential social skills.



Updates From Our MP, Alistair Strathern

Aston Villa: European Champions. Hitchin Town: Promoted. I hope everyone in Meppershall had as good a May as I did following Aston Villa and Hitchin getting big football wins! With good things coming in threes, I can only hope it bodes well for England's chances of bringing it home at the World Cup this summer...



Locally, it proved as busy a month as ever on everything from securing investment in our area to hosting our latest engagement events and attending some fantastic community events and festivals. A highlight was of course the chance to catch up with the team at the Meppershall Messenger's AGM. Thank you to all the volunteers who make this fantastic community resource possible.

This month I held another one of my Men's Mental Health Walks in Henlow. As men, sometimes it can be a struggle to open up to one another, and share our insecurities. I want to bring organisations, groups and individuals together for some really positive conversations. Thank you to everyone who came down to Henlow Lakes for a nice walk. I'll be announcing more of these events soon.

I have received lots of correspondence recently on Stagecoach's changes to its bus timetable. Its No 9 series of buses have gone to one every two hours between Bedford and Stevenage. I have written repeatedly to Stagecoach to oppose fully this change and launched a petition to gather support. Thank you to the 500 plus people who have signed. New Government powers on busses that I have campaigned for will make it easier for councils to stick up for our area in the future, but they won't take effect in time to prevent these changes. So your support is crucial in helping me push Stagecoach to change course.

In Westminster I hosted a debate to continue our campaign for action on the blight of unadopted housing estates across our towns and villages. Up to 90% of new build estates, including the ones near Meppershall and across Bedfordshire, are not adopted by the council, meaning residents pay service fees to a private, unaccountable company on top of council tax. Having secured a commitment from the Government to act, they now need to work at pace to deliver this.

I'm grateful too to all the parents, families and young people in Meppershall who engaged in my forums on social media regulation and special educational needs reforms over the last month. These are vital topics that we need to get right, and your feedback has been vital in helping me make the best case for bold action.

A huge thank you as always to everyone who has engaged with me over recent weeks too. Your feedback, support and challenge is always invaluable. If you have any suggestions or questions relating to my work, or wish for personal help, my inbox is always open at alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk



**Good
Neighbours
Offering
Meppershall
Excellent
Services**

Meppershall Gnomes

Good Neighbours Offering Meppershall Excellent Services.

Your local team of insured and DBS checked volunteers.

Give us a call on 07760 793921

email us gnomes.secretary@meppershall.org

**Our volunteers are here to answer your call -
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm - every week. (Not inc Bank Holidays)**

These are some of the things we can help you with:

Collecting prescriptions. Occasional shopping.
Transport to health appointments. Befriending. Small urgent DIY jobs.

If you are not sure if we can help, do give us a call.

If we cannot support you we can offer advice on how to get the help you need.
Please give us as much notice as possible.

Thank you.



07760 793921

Gnomes Coffee Mornings.

The 3RD Tuesday of the Month.

Social Area of our Village Hall, 10.30 to 12 noon.



Our next Coffee Mornings are Tuesday 21st July and 18th August.
Everyone welcome – meet friends whilst having a cuppa and a chat.
If you would like a lift, do give us a call a few days before.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Volunteer car schemes are one of the most cost-effective means of enabling people with mobility difficulties to retain their freedom and independence. These services are an essential part of the transport system in helping people access vital public services, particularly to NHS appointments.

Without such services people would need to rely on costlier forms of transport and we would be likely to see a growth in missed appointments, with the associated risks to health and wellbeing and additional public service costs that can come with that. In addition, Volunteer Car Schemes provide important social contact for people who are experiencing loneliness and isolation for those who would otherwise struggle to make social contact.

Here in Meppershall, where transport links are minimal, your good neighbour group the GNOMES provides this service but we are hampered by a shortage of drivers. As a result, we sometimes have to tell clients that we cannot help on this occasion. This often means that the client has to miss the appointment or get a taxi which can cost £50 or more for an appointment in Bedford. Others are more fortunate, with relatives, friends or neighbours to take them. It is to those relatives, friends and neighbours that we make our appeal.

Volunteer with us and become a registered driver – it will cost you nothing and for every journey you do you will be entitled to the approved mileage allowance. All we ask of you is that you maintain your vehicle in a roadworthy condition and that you advise your insurer that you are a volunteer driver which, in our experience, does not incur any additional premium. As a volunteer you will not be obligated to any set hours or days. We send out a “round robin” to all our drivers for each transport request we receive. Only those drivers who are free to accept the task are asked to respond. So, you decide your own time and availability.

If you feel able to volunteer with us, then please do get in touch. You can call us on 07760 793921 or email gnomes.secretary@meppershall.org in the first instance and leave your details for a member of Group to contact you.



Thank you.



Meppershall Social Club

Summer is in full swing at the club, and we're delighted to share a few updates and upcoming events for the village.

Opening Times

We're now open from 4pm on Fridays for the summer!

-
- **Monday:** 6pm-11pm
 - **Tuesday:** 6pm – 11pm
 - **Wednesday:** 6pm – 11pm
 - **Thursday:** 6pm – 11pm
 - **Friday:** 4pm – 11pm
 - **Saturday:** 2pm – 11.30pm
 - **Sunday:** 1.30pm – 10:00pm
-



Whether you're popping in for a quiet drink, catching up with friends or enjoying the sunshine, everyone is welcome.

We have the World Cup final on 19th July! Results of the sweepstake will be given.

Weekly Friday Bingo

Our popular **Bingo Night** takes place **every Friday evening**. It's a great way to start the weekend, with a friendly atmosphere, plenty of laughs and the chance to win some cash prizes. New players are always welcome, so come along and join in the fun.

Food & Drink Quiz – Saturday 18th July, 8pm

Put your knowledge to the test at our **Food & Drink Quiz**. Entry is **£2 per person**, with teams of up to **6 people** and a **£50 prize** up for grabs. Gather your friends and join us for a fun evening of questions, laughs and friendly competition.

Pirates & Mermaids Activity Afternoon – 22nd August, 1pm–5pm

Families are invited to set sail for our **Pirates & Mermaids Activity Afternoon**. There will be plenty of craft activities to keep young adventurers entertained.

Entry is **£3 per child**

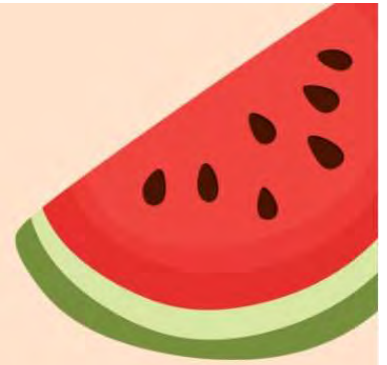
15th Aug family karaoke 7pm onwards!

Monthly Quiz Night

Don't forget our regular **Monthly Quiz**, held on the **second Sunday of every month** (except August). Teams of up to **6 people**, **£1 per person** to enter, with proceeds split **50/50 between the winning team and our chosen charities**.

For the latest news, events and updates, visit meppershallsocialclub.co.uk and follow the **Meppershall Social Club Facebook page**.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Club soon!



FOOD & DRINK QUIZ



£50 PRIZE!! £2 PER
PERSON. MAX 6 IN A
TEAM



**SATURDAY
18TH JULY
8PM
PROMPT**



Take A Trip From Meppershall: Wanderbus Excursions

2026 EXCURSIONS — 4th THURSDAY OF THE MONTH		
Call 0300-123-3023 or e mail: thewanderbus@gmail.com for more info or to book your seat.		
Full payment 21 days before departure. A cheque to Wanderbus, 5 The Pastures, Upper Stondon, Beds SG16 6QB or a bank transfer (Account details to be advised later). Cancellations 14 days before excursion date. Refunds will be discretionary.		
DATE	DESTINATIONS & ENTRANCE FEE (Correct at time of print)	BUS FARE
23rd July	Delapre Abbey, Northants £12.00 p.p. incl private tour	Bus Fare £12.50
		Pick up 10.00/10.30
		a. 11.30 d. 15.30
<i>The Abbey is a former Cluniac nunnery founded in 1145 with a rich history spanning nearly 900 years. Once a family home and battlefield site, it has evolved into a stunning heritage destination offering a glimpse into its fascinating past. Beautiful gardens surround. Cafe for hot/cold food & drinks. Option to pre-order on arrival.</i>		
27th Aug	Hertford Castle & Old Town Free entry	Bus Fare £10.00
		Pick up 11.00/11.30
		a. 12.30 d. 15.30
<i>Following the Christmas Trip several passengers requested a summer trip to the Castle grounds and time to wander the streets of the old town.</i>		
24th Sept	Mountfichet Castle, Stanstead Mountfichet, Essex £16.00 OAP / £18.00 Adult p.p.	Bus Fare £12.50
		Pick up 10.00/10.30
		a. 11.30 d. 15.30
<i>Castle & Norman Village of 1066. Explore the Castle and roam through the Norman village hidden behind the walls and explore the many houses. Experience the ambience of an ancient bygone lifestyle including the House on the Hill Museum. Restaurant serving a wide range of food.</i>		
22nd Oct	Battle of Britain Bunker & Exhibition Centre, Uxbridge £12.50 / £10.00 OAPs p.p.	Bus Fare £12.50
		Pick up 10.00/10.30
		a. 11.45 d. 15.35
<i>The Battle of Britain Bunker housed RAF Fighter Command's No 11 Group Operations Room throughout the Second World War. The bunker is a series of rooms on two levels some 60feet underground. The Operations Room with its large scale maps, squadron display boards, , balloon and weather states, is exactly how it was when Winston Churchill visited on 15th Sept. 1940. NB There are 76 steps into the Bunker but no rush! Cafe and Exhibition centre</i>		
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Why "Password123" Isn't Enough Anymore By Lucy Standbridge

Over the last few months, we've looked at physical tech safety with QR codes and social safety on Facebook. This month, I want to talk about something we all deal with daily, usually accompanied by a heavy sigh: **Passwords**.

We've all been there. You try to log into an account, only to be told your password needs an uppercase letter, a number, a special character, and the blood type of your first-born child. So, you create something complicated, immediately forget it, and end up resetting it anyway. Or worse, you use the same password for everything, just changing a number at the end.

Unfortunately, scammers know we do this, and old-school passwords just aren't cutting it anymore.

The Problem with Passwords

Hackers don't sit and guess your password character by character. Instead, they use automated computers that can try millions of combinations in seconds. If a major company suffers a data breach, lists of leaked passwords go straight onto the internet. If you use the same password for your online banking as you do for a random clothing website you used once, a hacker now has the keys to both.

Human beings are terrible at remembering hundreds of unique passwords, and so, I use two solutions to make my password-remembering life easier.

Your New Best Friend: The Password Manager

If you take one piece of advice from this article, let it be this:

Get a password manager.

A password manager is a secure, digital vault that sits on your phone or computer. It generates incredibly strong passwords for you (like `h7$K9#mP2!qR`) and logs you into your accounts automatically.

The best part? You only ever have to remember **one** master password to unlock the vault itself. It completely removes the stress of remembering anything else. Highly rated, reputable options like *Bitwarden* or *1Password* are incredibly user-friendly and offer excellent free versions. Alternatively, Google Chrome has its own inbuilt one in the browser.

What on Earth is a Passkey?

You might have noticed websites like Amazon, Google, or Apple recently asking you to "Create a Passkey."

Think of a **Passkey** as a digital key that replaces passwords entirely. Instead of typing anything, a passkey uses your phone or computer's built-in security - like your fingerprint (Touch ID) or facial recognition (Face ID) - to prove it's you.

The UK Government's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) is now actively promoting passkeys, stating they are far more secure than traditional passwords. Because there is no password written down anywhere, a scammer cannot steal it from a company database, and they cannot trick you into revealing it. To log in, you simply click "Use Passkey" and scan your face or thumbprint. It takes less than two seconds.

How to Transition Safely

Moving away from old habits can feel daunting, but you don't have to do it all at once:

- **Start Small:** Download a password manager and let it save your credentials for just one or two non-essential accounts first, like an online shop, and build up from there.
- **Say Yes to Passkeys:** The next time a major website offers to set up a passkey, give it a go. It feels strange the first time, but it is much faster.

July's Tech Jargon Buster

- **QR Code:** Those little black-and-white pixelated squares you scan with your smartphone camera to go straight to a website without typing.
- **Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** A double-check for your security. It usually means typing in your password, and then entering a temporary code sent to your mobile phone to prove it's really you.
- **Passkey:** The newest security upgrade. It completely replaces passwords and typing by letting you log into websites using your phone's fingerprint or face scanner.

If you'd like to ensure your business website is ready to accept secure modern logins, feel free to drop me a line or catch me for a chat!

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July Update from Meppershall Munchkins

We hope everyone is enjoying the summer so far! Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Meppershall Munchkins. We love being part of such a wonderful community and look forward to welcoming families throughout the summer months.



Toy Sale Coming Soon

We will be holding a Toy Sale soon with the date to be announced soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for further details.



Summer Holiday Closures

Please note that Meppershall Munchkins will be closed on the following dates:

- Friday 31st July
- Tuesday 4th August
- Friday 28th August
- Tuesday 1st September
- Friday 4th September

There may be additional closures over the summer depending on volunteer availability. Any updates will appear on the Meppershall Munchkins Facebook page.



Volunteers Needed

Our group relies entirely on the kindness and support of volunteers. We are always grateful for help with setting up, tidying away and supporting sessions.

From September, some of our amazing volunteers, will no longer be able to help at Munchkins. We will therefore be looking for additional regular volunteers to help us continue providing our sessions.

If you feel you could spare some time, whether regularly or occasionally, please come and speak to us. Every bit of help makes a huge difference and helps keep this wonderful group running for local families.

Regular Sessions

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For updates, including emergency closures and summer holiday announcements, please check the Meppershall Munchkins Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you all soon for plenty of fun, friendship and community!

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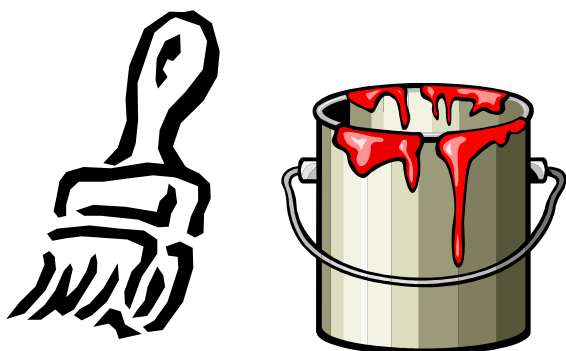
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Please do not put your cakes in any containers that you would like returned as we cannot guarantee you will get them back.

Please put a note with your cake if you have used nuts.

Any questions email - events@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

This is a community event & proceeds will go to running similar community events at Meppershall Village Hall.

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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:

Anne Parsons 01462 813333 Email: annie10639@gmail.com

A Message From St Mary's...

We are approaching July this year from a warm and wet late spring and early summer. There is so much green everywhere as I write - and the word "verdant" from the hymn "The King of Love my Shepherd is," keeps coming to mind

*"Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul He leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth."*

It is not a word, in truth, that I use much in conversation! But it is a word that calls to my mind the kind of lush green that we are experiencing just now. In my garden, it has been a great year for roses, and poppies, for field scabious, rose campion and feverfew... (It's amazing what PlantNet knows!). I know another heat wave is forecast - and maybe many of us are looking forward to Summer holidays at the end of July and into August.

For many of our young people this is a huge change time - a time both of excitement and uncertainty.

So many of the younger children will be finishing one school year and getting ready to start a new school year in September... maybe in an older class in the same school - but also maybe transitioning to a new school.

There will be many from Year 11 and year 13 now waiting (im)patiently - even anxiously - for results and for their immediate future to be decided. It is potentially such a worrying time for them, especially with the current employment prospects for young people. Let's hold them all in our thoughts and prayers.

As we pray for our younger people... let's continue to pray too for the world that they will inherit. So many of us are worried still about wars and rumours of wars, natural disasters and global warming. Let's pray again that the God who walked with us in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the evening in the very beginning, will show us how to be good stewards of his creation; that he will show us how to live in peace and with

the fair sharing of the world's resources - that all may flourish and live life to the full. Let us pray as Jesus taught us, for the coming of God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

As Summer comes, look out for the usual second Sunday walk on 12th July... and then do look out for some special events in the Church.

This year look out again for: Mondays at St Mary's 10am - 12 noon; with Tea, Coffee, Toast, Puzzles, All Age Craft and space to just gather and chat. That's Mondays July 27th, and August 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. All welcome.

God bless you.

With love, Rector Roni

Church Events In July

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, quiet time – the church is open.
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

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall/>

Find us on our website: <https://www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk/>

Find us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjDLGAY8GI6afkO8iALYOA>

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

Forthcoming Services and Events

Come and experience the warm welcome and friendly community of St Mary's, your beautiful village church 😊 We hope to see you soon.

July 1 st	Sorry, no midweek Communion
July 5 th	11.00am. Morning Worship
July 8 th	9.45am. Holy Communion in the Rectory
July 12 th	11.00am. Holy Communion with Junior Church
July 15 th	9.45am. Holy Communion in the Rectory
July 19 th	11am. Morning Worship
July 22 nd	9.45am. Holy Communion in the Rectory
July 26 th	11.00am. Holy Communion (Junior Church on Summer break!)
July 29 th	9.45am. Holy Communion in the Rectory

St Mary's Meppershall Junior Church

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.
Call Gillian for more information on 07778 449051.

Junior Church Team



News From The Tower

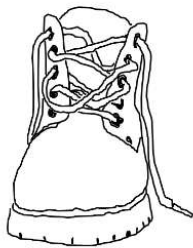
Want to try something new? Why not try bellringing!

Interested? Come along to a practice on a Thursday at 7.30pm. Let me know you're coming on 07778 449051.

Gill Marshall-Davies, Tower Captain



Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers



On Sunday 12th July we plan a hike to Henlow, end at St Mary's church near the Five Bells pub. Meeting as usual at the church gate in Meppershall at 2pm, we'll leave the village on Stondon Road, crossing the fields east of Coneygate to Cow Lane (by Chapel Farm). Arriving in Lower Stondon at Hurricane Avenue, we walk through Henlow Camp taking the path north of Oldfield

Farm towards Arlesey before turning north and arriving in Henlow alongside Henlow Bridge Lakes and The Grange (Champneys). It is a little over 5.5 miles in total. Please get in touch if you need to discuss return transport (tel. 857836 or message us on Facebook @MeppershallStrollers).

Last month more than 20 people joined the hike around Polehanger Woods – thanks for coming along and thank you to the walk leader, Miriam. Here's a photo of the gang amid the crop field between Shillington Bury and Campton Road, Meppershall. It really is beautiful at this time of year.

Over the coming months we hope to arrange a 10K loop at Woburn Abbey, across the deer park, as well as a walk back to Meppershall from a drop off in Wilstead. If there are locations you would like to suggest walking, please get in touch





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The 2027 Digital Landline Switchover: What You Need To Know

By January 2027, the UK's Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) — the copper-wire system that has carried landline calls for decades — will be permanently switched off. Every home and business must move to a digital landline, also called Digital Voice or Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) which sends calls over your broadband connection instead of the traditional analogue phone line.

For some of us, that is all a bit confusing! So we are summarising some details here. The change is not optional - it is part of a nationwide upgrade to modern optical fibre-based infrastructure, which is cheaper to maintain, more reliable, better integrated with internet services and inherently more secure.

How Digital Landlines Work

Instead of plugging your phone into a wall socket, households will typically connect their handset to their broadband router (or a small adapter). Your voice is digitised and travels over the internet (the old technology turned our voices into a modulating electrical signal, similar to a mic-and-speaker PA system).

Things To Consider

- **Existing numbers** can usually be kept
- **Broadband is required** — but providers can usually supply a minimal connection (with a simple adapter in the wall) for phone-only use
- **You'll be dependent on a power supply:** unlike copper lines, digital phones stop working if electricity fails unless you have a battery backup or mobile alternative. Phone service providers have a legal obligation to provide a battery back-up system (part of their resilience support schemes) for any vulnerable residents who rely on a landline (for example because of a care alarm).

What You Can Do To Be Prepared

Check Your Provider's Timeline: Providers are contacting residents in stages; rural areas like Meppershall may switch earlier or later depending on local infrastructure. But if you don't already know, it is worth confirming your switch-over date and any options you may have, well before 2027.

Check What You Use Your Landline For: List the devices connected to your phone line, such as care alarms, pendant systems, security panels, payment terminals or fax machines. Many older telecare devices won't work on digital networks - contact suppliers in case you need an upgrade or to test compatibility.

Choose Your Replacement Setup: You can choose from a few different set-ups. The main solution is a handset (or hands-free base station) plugged into your broadband router. But you can also use a simple adapter and a minimum-service-level digital connection for your house. Some people use handsets that connect wirelessly straight to their internet connection (over WiFi) – and some people give up their landline altogether and simply rely on their mobile phone.

Consider Your Power Supply: The advice is, ideally, to have a mobile with plenty of charge at the ready in the event that a power disruption makes landlines unavailable. There are also battery back-up systems for your home internet connection.

Beware Of Fraud: As always, know who you are speaking to about this whole process. There are stories of scammers using this changeover to pretend to be phone companies and gain information from people. If you are in any doubt, use the published contact information for your phone provider (as it appears on your bills) to call them back and get the advice you need to plan and make a decision.

Whatever we think of it, the changeover is going to happen. Treating it as a planned upgrade, rather than a disruption, to your service will help you and your household to be ready for the UK's new era of digital voice communication.

9 THINGS TO DO NOW



Your landline is switching off.

Plain-English checklist. Don't wait to be contacted.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 01 Don't wait for a letter | 02 Find out your switch-off date |
| 03 Test your old corded phone | 04 Check medical & fall alarms |
| 05 Check your burglar alarm | 06 Plan for power & internet outages |
| 07 Ask for emergency call backup | 08 Write down key phone numbers |
| 09 Ask for help, sooner not later | |



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Lady in Lavender by Donna Cameron

Donna's Garden Designs | 07833 670934

After the May heatwave and then the rain, we don't know what to expect from one moment to the next.

Customers more and more are asking about drought tolerant planting and I have been designing quite a few gravel gardens. These include grasses which are pretty robust alongside spring and summer bulbs and perennials to add pops of colour and interest throughout the seasons.



One particular plant that offers everything in a garden is Lavender. It has scent, evergreen, drought tolerant properties, it is easy to keep and pretty much pest resistant. It is bee friendly and low maintenance. Just prune back after flowering to keep compact and stop it from becoming leggy. It will reward you with a sea of colour. It is also incredibly easy to propagate by taking cuttings and can be used in a wide variety of styles of garden. Be it traditional cottage style, formal beds or more contemporary gardens, it can be used in hedging, to brush against it is so lovely and you can inhale the heady scent of summer!

It can be cut and dried and used in lavender bags or woven into Lavender wands.

It can be used in cooking, or used in Lavender jelly, Lavender shortbread, Lavender ice cream and also used as an essential oil in aromatherapy for its relaxing qualities.

Lavender can be traced back to Egyptian times. It is thought it was brought to the UK by the Romans who used it in cooking, as an antiseptic and for washing.

Of course Hitchin is renowned for its Lavender. It has been grown in Hitchin since the 1500s. In the 1760s a local Pharmacist grew and sold lavender products and by 1851 Lavender had become so famous in Hitchin that Queen Victoria stopped at the train station to purchase some Lavender oil.



Today at Cadwell Farm you can visit the Lavender fields and walk amongst rows and rows of this summer scentation!

Donna x

Jobs In the Garden For July

Watering morning and night if hot
Weed often
Deadhead
Cut perennials down for a second flush
eg hardy Geraniums and Delphiniums
Sow biennial eg Forget-Me-Nots,
Wallflowers and Foxgloves

Thin out crops of Apples, Pears and
Plums - Prune Plum trees
Cut Lavender back
Give lawn a feed
Pick Courgettes before they get too big
Keep a check on pests eg snails and Lily
Beetle

Trugs And Trowels (Campton Gardening Club) – July

Don't throw away that limp plant yet, its nutrient system is just failing. What your plant needs is a biological activation to jump start the machinery beneath the soil. Forget the blue crystals and expensive miracle fertilisers, here are five natural nutrient magnets you can brew in your kitchen to wake up plant cells and restore vitality. To start, use the two finger rule. The two finger rule is to push your index finger and middle finger two inches below the soil and if the soil is cold, slimy and sticks to you, your plant is not hungry, it is suffocating and adding supplements is not the answer. But if the soil feels dry, crumbly and warm to the touch the plant is sending out a distress signal. The garden is a system and when it starts to fail, we need to fix it. We can do this by harvesting nutrients from kitchen waste. Everyday we bin the world's most powerful nutrients. By re-architecting and using coloured feeds which we can make at home, we can fix the biological engine under the dirt and help fix the growth problems.

The Amber Elixir - Onion Skin Rescue

A concentrated dose of Quercetin, Potassium and Magnesium - an onion grows these skins because it is a specialised armour designed to protect the bulb from fungi and extreme temperatures. Soak a handful of onion skins in ¼ pint of water for 24-48 hours: this extracts the plant's immune system into the onion tea. When it's a deep rich amber colour it's ready. No dilution needed, just pour at the base of affected plants. This is your anti-shock serum which is a great pick-me-up for newly transplanted seedlings or limp lettuce. It provides a biological shield and steadies the plant's internal chemistry. It's an IV drip for your plants.

The Alchemist Brew: Full Spectrum Cocktail

A rich brown tonic for plants failing across the board from Potassium or Magnesium deficiency; black spot, blossom end rot, leaves yellowing or leaves dropping off before fruiting. The brew consists of five ingredients in one gallon of warm water:

- 3-4 banana skins for Potassium
- Crushed egg shells for Calcium to assist cell walls, to help prevent rot
- Used coffee grounds - organic matter for slow release nitrogen
- One teaspoon of Epsom salt for a direct hit of Magnesium
- One tablespoon of black molasses – a carbon catalyst, sugar as rocket fuel for the microbes, speeding fermentation from 3 weeks to 3 days; the molasses breaks down the egg shells and banana skins

Stir from time to time and await your brew. Adopt the 'Ice tea rule' - dilute until you can see through it. It gives you a full spectrum rescue mission, covering every deficiency.

The Pale Tea Ancient Legacy - The Giant Teabag

Put one shovel of manure (cow, rabbit, chicken) into a small cotton bag/pillow case or mesh bag and place in a 5 gallon bucket of water. After 3 to 5 days, soluble beneficial minerals will be extracted into the liquid. Manure tea it is like a shot of adrenalin. Cow manure tea balances soil and is a long-term soil builder. Rabbit

manure tea is the gold standard – it is the most delicate and safest for new seedlings. When you remove the tea bag, if it looks like strong coffee add more water. The colour of weak tea is optimum.

The Cloudy White Microbial Revolution

Rinse off your rice, save the starchy water, let it ferment sitting in a jar for 3-5 days at room temperature where it will transform to create a sour tang, evidence that lactic acid and wild yeast are moving in. When used, the plant does not eat the rice water but it is a feast for the invisible workers which live in the top one inch of your soil, a dinner for millions of microbes enhancing soil and plant health. Add one part starch food to 10 parts water to deploy this biological task force in a light misty mix.

The Deeper Black - Nitrogen Rain

Every fridge has a salad / veg box. The wilted vegetables it contains are Nitrogen in disguise. If your plant leaves are turning yellow from the bottom up, your nitrogen stove is too short – it is literally cannibalising its old leaves to promote new growth. To fix this, pop all the fresh, not cooked, scraps into a 5 gallon bucket, cover with water and pop a plate on top to keep submerged. An anaerobic to aerobic breakdown occurs and after two weeks you will have a dark brown, cloudy, smelly liquid. The smell is nitrogen mineralisation - high octane fuel which will scorch your plants if used neat and needs to be diluted at a 1 part to 30 part ratio until the liquid resembles a weak iced tea. Pour at the base and five days later your plants will be dark green.

When you adopt these biological ferments, the garden changes its tone, By creating a sanctuary, not a factory, you will start to see predatory insects returning - lady birds and lace wings etc. By redirecting waste to create a tonic feed, you are proving that nature has provided every tool necessary for abundance. By using these amber elixirs we can rebuild and heal our soil. It's about being in partnership, not mastering a garden. Next time you see a yellow leaf, don't panic! Use the two finger rule, look at the colour guide to choose which tonic to use, always dilute until you see that pale tea colour. Also remember that all watering should be done first and last thing. Beside leaf damage from watering in sunlight, the mid-day heat causes nitrogen compounds in the soil to be lost into the the air.

Please join us on the first Monday of every month at Campton Village Hall at 19:30. Everyone welcome. Monday July 6th is a 18:45 meeting at the Village Hall for our car share to Gravenhurst Hillside Commercial Growers.

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What's The Difference Between A Registrar And A Celebrant?

 Carolyn's Celebrations and Memorials of Life and Love
Tips from Your Local Celebrant

What's the Difference Between a Registrar and a Celebrant?

A clear guide for couples in Bedfordshire & beyond

Planning a wedding can feel like a maze of rules, bookings, and paperwork. One of the biggest areas of confusion is the difference between a **registrar** and a **wedding celebrant**. Many couples assume the registrar is the only option — but once you understand the difference, an entire world of choice opens.

The Legal Bit vs. The Personal Bit

A **registrar** is a local authority official whose role is to complete the legal marriage paperwork and ensure everything follows strict statutory guidelines. Their ceremonies follow a set structure, with some personalisation. You agree some wording, poems, and music, but the script itself must remain within legal boundaries.

The benefit of a celebrant is that they focus entirely on *you*. Being a Bedfordshire celebrant, my role is to learn your story, understand your values, and craft a ceremony that feels meaningful, warm, and unmistakably yours. I support couples over several months, helping with vows, readings, rituals, nerves and the flow of the day.

How the Legal Process Works

One of the most frequent questions couples ask is: “*Can a celebrant legally marry us?*” In England and Wales, the legal signing must still be done with a registrar.

Most couples choose a simple, low-cost “**2+2**” **appointment** at Bedford or Ampthill Register Office just the two of you and two witnesses. This quick signing can happen before, after, or even on the morning of your main celebration.

Separating the legal paperwork from the ceremony gives you total freedom: no licensed venue required, no set script, and no restrictions on content.

Freedom, Creativity, and Choice

Registrars must keep civil ceremonies completely secular. That means no hymns, blessings, religious readings, or spiritual references. They also cannot include symbolic rituals such as handfasting, unity candles, or jumping the broom.

A celebrant-led ceremony allows you to include any elements that feel meaningful mixed-faith traditions, family involvement, personal stories, or even rituals you invent yourselves. Your ceremony becomes a true reflection of your relationship.

Time, Care, and Continuity

On busy weekends, registrars often conduct several weddings and must keep strict timings. Couples rarely know which registrar will appear on that day.

With a celebrant, you know exactly who will be standing with you, and we agree the timings. We work together over months ensuring every detail feels right.

In Summary

A registrar handles the **legalities**. A celebrant creates a **celebration**.

If you want a ceremony that feels personal, heartfelt, and free from restrictions whether in a garden, woodland, barn, or your own home I can help you

Get in Touch

If this has inspired you contact me, **Carolyn Holmes**, on **07305 002858**, email ritesofw@gmail.com, or message me through my website.

I offer a **free ceremony audit** a simple, friendly way to explore your plans. I'm based in Meppershall, so meeting locally is easy.

Crossword Solution For June

1	S	2	U	3	E	4	Z		5	D	6	O	7	G	8	M	9	A		10	L	11	A	12	P
13	A	F	R	O					14	I	D	L	E	R						15	J	U	N	E	
16	D	O	E	R					17	S	E	I	S	M					18	A	S	I	A		
				19	I	O	U			21	B	A	S		22	E	B	A	L	L					
23	S	24	A	25	G		26	U	S	27	A				28	P	O	K	E	S					
29	H	U	N	30	D	R	E	D	31	S				32	F	E	T	A							
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36	D	O	S	E					37	B	O	U	R	N			38	S	39	C	40	A	41	R	
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69	Y	E	S				70	O	P	E	N	S						71	Y	M	C	A			





Invitation

You are invited to attend Ivel Valley South PCN's

Learning Disability Meet & Greet Drop-Ins



Coming dates, times and venues:

-Tuesday 21st July from 1.30-3.00pm at Arlesey Village Hall,

The High Street, Arlesey, SG15 6SN

-Friday 4th September from 1.30-3.00pm at Morrisons Community Room,

High Street, Shefford (inside Morrisons Supermarket)

-Tuesday 6th October from 1.30-3.00pm at Arlesey Village Hall,

The High Street, Arlesey, SG15 6SN

-Friday 6th November from 1.30-3.00pm at Morrisons Community Room,

High Street, Shefford (inside Morrisons Supermarket)

-Tuesday 15th December from 1.30-3.00pm at St Mary's Church Hall,

Church Road, Stotfold, SG5 4NE

Meet the learning disability team & chat whilst enjoying refreshments & a piece of cake. Open to people with learning disabilities, family members, carers & anyone interested in learning more or getting involved.

We hope you can join us.

From - Ivel Valley South PCN blmkicb.carecoordinator.ivs@nhs.net

Jaqui Derrick, Care Coordinator, Ivel Valley South Primary Care Network

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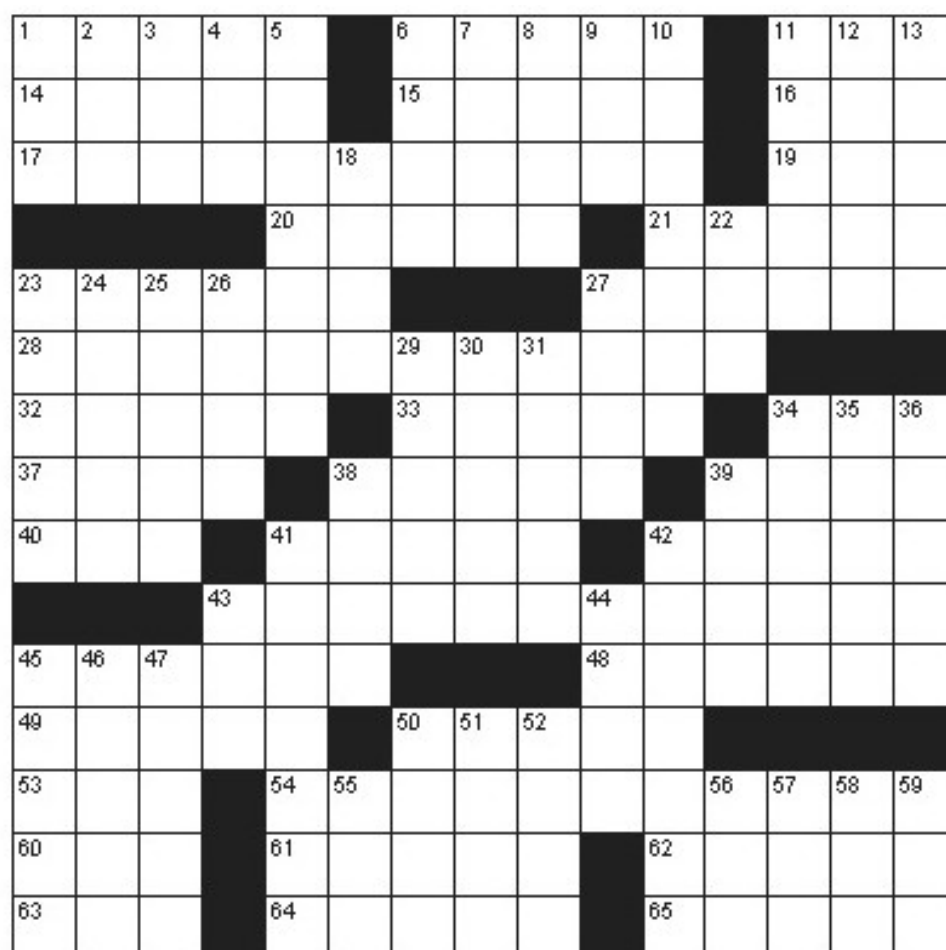


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**ACROSS**

1. In the front
6. A horizontal surface for holding objects
11. Type of tree
14. A Muslim jurist
15. An engraving in relief
16. Foot digit
17. The state of being overrun by vermin
19. Possessed
20. A beverage made from apples
21. Long Hindu loincloth
23. Utilitarian
27. An Old Testament prophet
28. Tames
32. Songs sung by two
33. A monetary unit of Yemen

34. To and
37. Serf
38. A clump of turf on a golf course
39. Bushbuck antelope
40. Crimson
41. Murmured lovingly
42. Move sideways
43. In a rapidly-flapping manner
45. Roe of sturgeon
48. Appraise
49. Render harmless
50. Expect
53. Faster Than Light
54. Baffling
60. A fixed charge
61. Eliminate from the body
62. Wireless audio communication
63. Supersonic transport
64. Cowboy sport
65. Brittle or crisp

DOWN

1. French for "Friend"
2. Attila the
3. F
4. Consumed
5. Talk about
6. Cigarfish
7. Despise
8. Chieftain
9. Low Earth Orbit
10. One who caresses
11. The distinctive spirit of a people
12. Strongly unwilling
13. Anagram of "Aimed"
18. Angle
22. Not hers
23. Bovine mammary gland
24. Drunkard
25. Make corrections to text
26. Celebration
27. French for "State"
29. Fool
30. A catlike mammal
31. Positive electrode
34. A soft creamy candy
35. Streamlets
36. Complies
38. Harshly uninviting
39. Liquors flavored with juniper berries
41. An awkward climb
42. Female siblings
43. Evergreen tree
44. A sudden short attack
45. The turned-back hems of sleeves or legs
46. Initial wagers
47. Personal manservant
50. Had a feeling of wonderment
51. Marked by good judgment
52. Male singing range
55. Self-importance
56. A gentle blow
57. A mountain on Crete
58. Zero
59. Obtained

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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	- 4TH 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	- 1st 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	- 2nd 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	- 3rd 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	- 1st 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	- 3rd 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

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Meppershall Pre-School Village Hall, Ella Carey-Butler

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Meppershall Munchkins, Melanie Choonos

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The Players @ STMA, Karen Mitchell

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Meppershall Good Neighbours (GNOMES)

07760 793921

Meppershall Brownies

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Shefford Guides, Angie Griffiths

07957 462519

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

Kathy Georgiou

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HATS Drama Group, Linda Winfield

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Meppershall Village Hall Trustees

trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

Meppershall Village Hall Bookings

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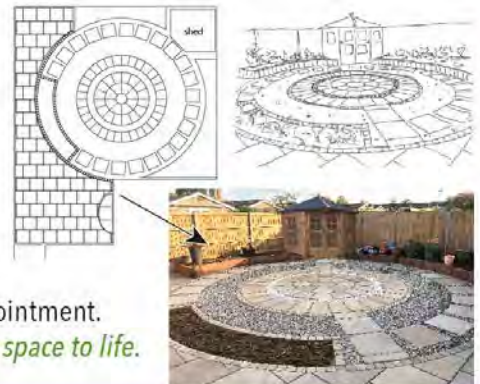
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The Team And Collation Dates

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.

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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
Aug-Sept 2026	Tues 28 th July	April 2027	Tues 30 th March
October 2026	Tues 29 th September	May 2027	Tues 27 th April
November 2026	Tues 27 th October	June 2027	Tues 1 st June
Dec-Jan 2026-7	Tues 1 st December	July 2027	Tues 29 th June
February 2027	Tues 26 th January	Aug-Sept 2027	Tues 27 th July
March 2027	Tues 23 rd February	October 2027	Tues 28 th September

Contact John Thompson to confirm arrangements (contact information above).