



Contents

Editorial by James Read	2
Letters	3
Meppershall Good Neighbours	4
AGM Update	5
Meppershall FC In The Final (Season Finale)	5
Planning and Development Updates	5
Meppershall Social Club	6
Social Club Quiz Nights	7
Special Recognition For Meppershall's Mid Beds Cancer Support Group	8
Staying Safe On Meppershall's Village And Country Roads	9
Warden Abbey Vineyard 2026 Events	14
Did A Human Write This? By Lucy Standbridge	16
June Update from Meppershall Munchkins	18
Cake Café At The Village Hall	19
Personal Finance by Paul Savuto	20
Parish Church Of St Mary The Virgin (Church Of England)	22
Church Events In June	23
Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers	24
June Crossword	25
The June Boom by Donna Cameron	26
Trugs And Trowels (Campton Gardening Club) – June	27
Different Ways To Say Goodbye	29
Crossword Solution For May	30
Time To Get FIT	31
Meppershall Wanderbus Timetable	32
HATS Drama Group	33
Useful Contact Details In Meppershall	34
The Team And Collation Dates	36

Editorial by James Read



There is one article that we never want to publish in this magazine. News of a serious road traffic incident on our local roads, potentially impacting a local family: that's something we never want to report. So please, let's stay safe out there.

The village walking group (Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers) were recently contacted by a motorist who said that walkers need to be reminded of how to stay safe on our rural roads. With many other stories and experiences of road safety issues locally, we thought it would be a good time to ask the experts for the best advice and share it here. See pages 10-13 - with our sincere thanks to the Bedfordshire Police team.

Local unclassified rural roads (such as the routes to Stondon, Campton, Shefford and Shillington) are among the most dangerous in the UK. The UK's "Hierarchy of Road Users" was brought in by the government in 2022 - a crucial piece of how our country is aiming to keep people safe on the roads. It directs us all to give the greatest consideration to the most vulnerable road users (walkers, cyclists, horse riders) and to remember that driving cars, buses, vans and lorries requires the highest levels of responsibility; it brings the greatest risk of harm to other people. This "does not remove the need for everyone to behave responsibly" says government, but "the road users most likely to be injured in the event of a collision are pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motorcyclists" with children, older adults and the disabled at more risk.

For drivers, the hierarchy clarified some specific points of the Highway Code:

Walkers: drivers should allow at least 2 metres (6.5 feet) of space for walkers and keep to a *low speed* when passing (especially where there's *no pavement*)

Cyclists: drivers should leave at least 1.5 metres (5 feet) when overtaking people cycling at speeds of up to 30mph (giving even more space at higher speeds)

Horses and riders: pass at under 10 mph and allow 2 metres (6.5 feet) of space.

Please, this summer, let's slow down a bit and take plenty of care. When I went out to take this month's cover photo, as always some drivers did not adjust their speed at all when approaching walkers, placing us within a few feet of a vehicle weighing several tons at 50 or 60mph just a few feet away. That's not okay. Thank you to every driver who actively cares for vulnerable road users by reducing their speed (sometimes to a stop if needed, in oncoming traffic) and takes a sensible position on the road.

In other news, the UK's **Volunteers Week** runs 1-7 June! Like many in rural Mid Beds, our village is founded on volunteering. The **Meppershall Good Neighbours (GNOMES)** are an incredible group providing crucial support beyond anything that council services can do, and with a warmth and care that only neighbours can provide. In this issue of the magazine, you'll see a photo of them being presented with a new laptop by Meppershall Parish Council – worthy support for a great village institution. But you'll also see their plea for more volunteers, especially to help as drivers for those in need (page 4). Can you help? What a great way to fill up on community spirit. Be part of it.

The amazing team at Meppershall Munchkins also need more volunteers (page 18) in everything they do for toddlers and parents in the village. The leadership and volunteering of the Mid Beds Cancer Support Group here in Meppershall recently

received royal recognition (page 9). And you could even help with this very magazine. We had a great AGM and we're open to new trustees to support our transition to a registered charity (page 5). You can volunteer to help in so many ways. Community volunteers are the living bedrock of the UK. It could be you.

Next month (July) – see the winner of the 17th May Open Garden photo competition!

Letters

Dear Editor,

Thanks for your excellent magazine. We read with interest your articles about the postal service in Meppershall. For the last 2 months I took note of when we received mail and how many items. We thought you would be interested in our findings:

Monday March 2nd -	7 items of mail
Monday 9 th	7 items
Monday 16 th	5 items
Tuesday 24 th	3 items
Tuesday 31 st	8 items
Thursday April 9 th	3 items
Monday 20 th	7 items
Tuesday 28 th	3 items

As you will see from this chart, at the best we receive post weekly, at the worst, we had none for 11 days. Not the service we all pay for,

Name Supplied



Dear Editor,

For some years, illicit alterations to the road sign by the water tower have indicated the way to "persha" rather than our wonderful village.

These amusing interferences with public property come at significant expense to our council tax and national highways funding.

I was glad to raise this specific issue at the AGM of the village magazine and I am glad to know that Meppershall Parish Council will be looking at correcting the sign.

Patrick O'Connor

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.



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YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!



We urgently need more Drivers.

Many of our requests are for lifts to health appointments -
Often to local services in Shefford and the surrounding area.

Our more distant trips might well be to
Bedford Hospital or the Lister Hospital in Stevenage.

Unfortunately our volunteers cannot cover ALL of these lifts.

Please can you help us?

Once you are signed up as a Volunteer - this is how it works:

When we get a request for a lift we send a message to our drivers
with details of when the lift is required and to where.

If you can help you let us know.

Our clients pay your milage at 45p a mile, and any car parking fees.

You may only be able to help us 3 or 4 times a year

- but every little helps!



Please do contact our secretary to find out more -

gnomes.secretary@meppershall.org

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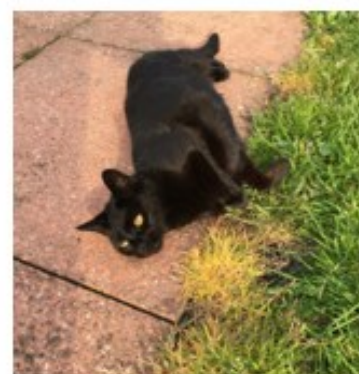
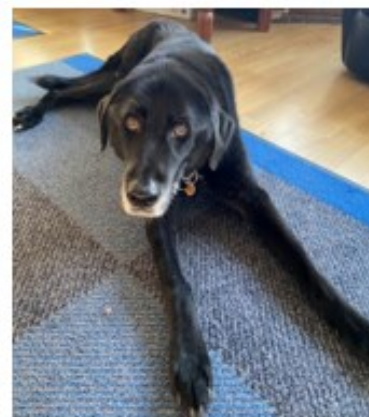
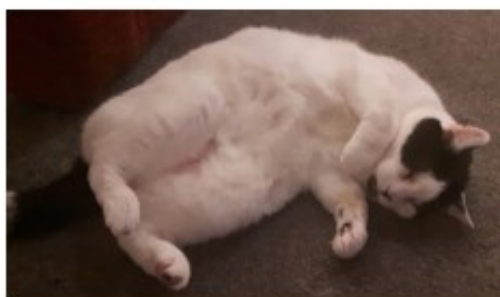
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AGM Update

The Meppershall Messenger was delighted to have a strong turn out for our Annual General Meeting on 9th May at the village hall. We want to thank everyone who was able to come along (and those whose support we value very much but could not be there). Among those making time for this on a Saturday morning was our member of parliament Alistair Strathern.

Alistair commented on the value of people stepping up to bring communities together and make things happen for each other, regardless of the politics of it all. He went on to express how he values the connection with the magazine. We are certainly grateful for his support and attention to all things Meppershall.

Transitioning to a registered charity, the AGM elected John Thompson, Andrew Pain, Patrick O'Connor and James Read as trustees. No other candidates were forthcoming at this time. Others can still volunteer to be a trustee. We appreciate the need for a diverse and rich mixture of skills, experience and backgrounds to make the magazine as good as possible. If you are interested to help in that way, please get in touch!

Full minutes of the AGM will be published in the coming months. It was a great discussion that gave us lots to think about, to continue the success of this much-loved piece of village life. Thanks again everyone.

James Read, Editor, The Meppershall Messenger, with the Committee

Meppershall FC In The Final (Season Finale)

Last month we reported on the excellent first season achieved by Meppershall FC after the village side was recreated for 2025-6. They reached their divisional cup final and put in a great effort against St Ippolyts on 22nd April. After an early goal for Meppershall, St Ippolyts scored four to win the final 4-1. The village is very proud of everything Meppershall FC achieved this year and the effort put in by players, coaches, management, sponsors and every single supporter. Congratulations, especially to ASM Windows who stood by the side throughout with ongoing sponsorship. Looking to next season, the team are also seeking additional sponsorship from interested local businesses with a commitment to the community. Here's to an enjoyable and exciting 2026-7 season.



Planning and Development Updates

At the recent Annual Parish Meeting of Meppershall Parish Council (27th April) development applications were an important part of the agenda and attracted much discussion. John English, planning lead for the Bedfordshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), came to the meeting and shared his expert experience and knowledge of the planning situation in our area. Among many objections to specific applications that have recently arisen in relation to Meppershall (such as the open crop fields between Fildyke Road and Coneygate), CBC (Central Bedfordshire Council) and national authorities must consider whether they are meeting their overall targets for new housing as set for them by national government. The Fildyke/Coneygate fields application is subject to further dialogue between the

developer and the council with additional information required by the CBC, so that it is unlikely to appear before their Development Management Committee (DMC) before the autumn. At the same time, the housing already being planned and built in the CBC region is changing, with development now encroaching from the edges of Milton Keynes and the prospect of the vast new town at Tempsford. Therefore, this is a very dynamic situation in which wider factors could positively or negatively impact the preservation of countryside and open fields at the margins of our own village. We will be following the progress and will share information as we receive it.

Meppershall Social Club

What a brilliant month it's been at the club!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent BBQ — the sunshine and great company. Special thanks also to Markus & Adam, who kept us thoroughly entertained and helped make it such a memorable occasion. As always, it's wonderful to see neighbours, friends, and families coming together at the heart of our community.



Coming Up This Month

We'll be showing all the big England World Cup games live at the club, so come along and cheer on the Three Lions with fellow supporters. Nibbles provided.

- 17th England V Croatia 9pm
- 23rd England V Ghana 9pm
- 27th England V Panama 10pm

We'll also have Wimbledon on the screen, making the club the perfect place to enjoy all the summer sporting action. Pop by for a Pimm's.

Live Music

On midsummer 20th June with Markus and Adam. 8pm till late. Nibbles provided.

Food and Drink Quiz

On Saturday 18th July. £2 person. £50 prize money! Maximum 6 per team. 8pm

Monthly Quiz Night

Join us on the second Sunday of every month (except August) for our popular quiz night:

- Teams of up to 6
- £1 per person
- Proceeds split 50/50 between the winners and our chosen charities

A great evening of fun, friendly competition, and community spirit!

We're also proud to offer a large selection of alcohol-free drinks, alongside tea and coffee, so there's something for everyone.

For more information, visit meppershallsocialclub.co.uk or check out our Facebook page for the latest news, events, and updates.

We look forward to welcoming you soon!



QUIZ NIGHT

Sunday 14th June
Sunday 12th July
No Quiz in August

PRIZE: 50% TO WINNERS, 50% TO OUR CHARITIES,
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7:30PM START
TEAMS OF 6 MAX
£1 PER PERSON



Special Recognition For Meppershall's Mid Beds Cancer Support Group

The village will be very proud to know that the Mid Bedfordshire Cancer Support Group was recognised by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire with an invitation to attend the Lord Lieutenant's annual thanksgiving service for voluntary groups at St Pauls Church, Bedford, on 17th May.

Founded by Professor Daksha Trivedi who runs the group along with husband Phil Trivedi and Barry Gattenby, Mid Bedfordshire Cancer Support Group has offered vital information and guidance to people affected by cancer for many years now.



Daksha is pictured above with the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Susan Lousada (left), and with Phil and Barry (right), at the very special event. St Paul's Bedford hosts many Lieutenancy events and ceremonies, serving the whole county.

Mid Bedfordshire Cancer Support Group holds a monthly drop-in session on the first Saturday of every month, at Meppershall Village Hall, which can also be joined via Zoom, online. Everyone affected by cancer is welcome – patients, family members, friends or carers. The group additionally offers email and phone points of contact that can be used at any time. It is supported by Macmillan Cancer Support.

Well done, Daksha, Phil and Barry – your leadership and volunteering really makes a difference and the village is proud of what you are doing for the community.



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Take A Trip From Meppershall: Wanderbus Excursions

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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
25th June	Cottesbrook Hall & Gardens, Northants. Adult £17.00 p.p. (free to RHS Members)	Bus Fare £12.50
		Pick up 10.00/10.30
		a. 11.45 d. 15.30
<i>The Hall contains the renowned Woolavington Collection of sporting art, along with fine furniture and porcelain. The award winning formal gardens surround the Hall with the Wild Garden flanking a meandering stream.</i>		
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>		
26th Nov	Blue Diamond Garden Centre, Wyton, Cambs. Free entry	Bus Fare £10.00
		Pick up 11.00/11.30
		a. 12.15 d. 15.30
<i>Discover an extensive range of high-quality plants, seasonal décor, and elegant gifting, all thoughtfully curated to elevate home and garden living. With the addition of a new restaurant, it's a destination perfect for those who appreciate style, comfort and a touch of indulgence.</i>		



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Staying Safe On Meppershall's Village And Country Roads

A message from Bedfordshire Police to readers of The Meppershall Messenger



Meppershall is fortunate to be surrounded by beautiful countryside, with winding lanes, open fields and quiet village streets that encourage walking, cycling and horse riding. These same qualities, however, also bring risks – particularly where motor vehicles and vulnerable road users meet.

Recent concerns raised by residents and motorists alike have prompted a renewed focus on road safety both within the village 30mph zone and on the rural roads outside Meppershall, where the national speed limit applies. While these roads may feel familiar, complacency can be dangerous. A moment's inattention or a misunderstanding of the Highway Code can have life-changing consequences.

Here, we bring together guidance for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and drivers, and explain how everyone can play their part in keeping Meppershall's roads safe for every user.

The Fatal Five

The Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Roads Policing Unit highlights the 'fatal five' driving behaviors that significantly increase the risk of serious accidents and fatalities on the roads:

1. Driving under the influence of **drink or drugs**. This severely affects judgment and reaction times.
2. **Speeding**, which reduces the driver's ability to react to hazards and increases the severity of collisions.
3. Using a **mobile phone** while driving, which diverts attention from the road and can lead to catastrophic accidents.
4. Failing to wear a **seatbelt**, which increases the risk of injury or death in the event of a crash.
5. **Careless or dangerous driving** - a range of reckless behaviors, including aggressive driving, tailgating, and failing to adhere to traffic signals.



Detective Inspector Rachael Foy from the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Roads Policing Unit said: “Most serious injuries on our roads are entirely preventable. Speed, distraction, drink or drugs and failing to look properly are recurring factors in collisions we attend.

“Rural roads in particular demand patience and restraint – the speed limit is not a target, and drivers must always be able to stop in the distance they can see to be clear. At the same time, pedestrians and cyclists can greatly improve their safety by staying visible and following Highway Code guidance.

“The harm caused by serious road collisions can be as profound and life altering for those involved and their families as the harm suffered by victims of other serious crimes or assaults.

“By staying alert and considering risk factors, all road users can work together to help keep Meppershall and the surrounding areas safe.”



Village roads

Within Meppershall, most residential roads fall under a 30mph (or in some cases 20mph) speed limit. These streets are used daily by school children, dog walkers, cyclists, older residents and delivery drivers. Cars pull out of driveways, pedestrians cross informally, and visibility can be limited by parked vehicles.

30mph is a maximum limit, not a target. In busy residential areas, safe speeds are often well below the posted limit, especially near junctions, parked cars and during school arrival and pick-up times.

Drivers should also remember that most serious collisions in built-up areas involve distraction. Using a mobile phone, even briefly, takes attention away from the road at exactly the moment a child, cyclist or pedestrian may step into view.



Country roads

Beyond the village boundary, Meppershall is surrounded by single-carriageway rural roads, subject to a national speed limit of 60mph. These roads are popular with walkers and cyclists, and are regularly used by horse riders. They also feature sharp bends, blind summits, hidden driveways and uneven surfaces.

On many country roads, driving at or near the 60mph limit can leave insufficient distance to stop safely if pedestrians, cyclists or animals appear around a bend.

Average speeds on rural single carriageways are typically much lower than the maximum limit, reflecting the reality of these roads.

Police advise being alert to potential hazards, and to expect walkers, cyclists and horses, even where there is no pavement. Slow right down when passing horses, as sudden noise or speed can cause animals to bolt.

Pedestrians

Walking in the countryside is healthy and enjoyable, but it requires care. Where pavements exist, they should always be used. Where they don't, the Highway Code provides clear guidance.

Pedestrians should:

- Walk on the right-hand side of the road so you can see oncoming traffic
- Be prepared to walk in single file on narrow roads
- Keep close to the edge of the road
- Avoid distractions such as phones and headphones

In poor daylight or darkness, wearing light-coloured or fluorescent clothing can significantly increase the distance at which a driver sees you. At night, reflective armbands, jackets or footwear can help increase visibility.

Cyclists and horse riders

Cyclists and horse riders are among the most vulnerable road users, particularly on rural roads. They are advised to:

- Keep clear of the kerb
- Signal intentions clearly and make eye contact where possible
- Avoid riding on the inside of vehicles
- Use lights after dark or in poor visibility
- Wear high-visibility and reflective clothing
- Use a properly fitted cycle helmet

Horse riders should always be passed slowly and widely. Drivers should be prepared to stop if necessary and follow any signals given by the rider.

Dangerous and careless driving

Police distinguish between dangerous driving and careless or inconsiderate driving, both of which carry serious consequences. Dangerous driving is behaviour that falls far below the expected standard, such as:

- Speeding or aggressive driving
- Overtaking dangerously
- Driving under the influence of drink or drugs (including some prescription medications)
- Driving while tired or unfit
- Using a hand-held phone
- Driving a vehicle known to be unsafe

Careless or inconsiderate driving covers behaviour that, while less extreme, still puts others at risk, including:

- Driving too close to another vehicle
- Turning into the path of another road user
- Being distracted by controls, radios or passengers
- Dazzling others with undipped headlights
- Unnecessarily remaining in overtaking lanes

Both offences can result in points, fines or in serious cases disqualification or imprisonment.

Community Speed Watch

Meppershall residents who are concerned about speeding may be interested in Community Speed Watch, a volunteer scheme that allows trained members of the public to monitor vehicle speeds in agreed locations. Drivers recorded exceeding the speed limit receive warning letters, and data is monitored so police can take further action against repeat or extreme offenders. The scheme has proven effective in raising awareness and improving driver behaviour in residential areas. Residents interested in joining can find more information by emailing:

WatchSchemes@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Reporting dangerous driving

If you witness dangerous or careless driving, collisions, or near misses, you can report them online via Bedfordshire Police:

<https://www.beds.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/making-a-road-traffic-incident-report/>



Clear details, dates, times and descriptions help police take appropriate action.

Our great thanks to the team at Bedfordshire Police for putting this article together.

Whatever you're doing on the roads this summer, stay safe – and keep others safe.

WARDEN ABBEY VINEYARD

2026 Event Dates



VINEYARD TOURS*

Sunday 7 June
Wednesday 17 June
Saturday 4 July
Sunday 12 July
Thursday 23 July
Tuesday 4 August
Tuesday 11 August
Sunday 23 August
Sunday 6 September
Sunday 20 September

** Advance booking only*



PAELLA EVENINGS*

Saturday 13 June
Friday 17 July
Saturday 18 July
Friday 31 July
Saturday 1 August



AFTERNOON TEA*

Sunday 19 July
Sunday 2 August



FLYING DAY PICNICS

Saturday 27 June
Sunday 28 June
Saturday 25 July
(Teddy Bears Picnic)
Saturday 29 August



OPEN DAY

Sunday 13 September



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Flying Day Picnics

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Paella Evenings

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Did A Human Write This? By Lucy Standbridge

This month, I want to talk about something that feels like science fiction but is now part of our daily lives: Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AI is everywhere - from stunning photos that look *too* perfect to emails that feel slightly robotic. While it's a brilliant tool, it is also being used to create realistic scams. It is becoming harder to tell what is real, so learning the "obvious" signs now is a must for everyone.

1. The "Waxy" Glow

AI-generated people often look a bit too perfect. Look closely at the skin in a suspicious photo - does it have pores and freckles, or does it look like smooth, airbrushed wax? AI often struggles with texture, making subjects look like they've been sculpted out of plastic or are glowing in a way that doesn't match the lighting around them.

2. The Seven-Fingered Hand

For some reason, AI finds human anatomy very confusing - especially hands. If a photo feels "off," count the fingers. It is very common to see AI people with six fingers, hands sprouting from elbows, or jewellery that seems to melt into the skin. Look at the background too; you might see a table with five legs or a car with two steering wheels!

3. The Spaghetti Evolution

A year or so ago, there was a famous AI video of Will Smith eating spaghetti. It was terrifying - the pasta was morphing into his face and his movements were jerky and glitchy. It was an obvious fake. Today, AI video is becoming scarily smooth (and Will seems to be eating spaghetti quite well). However, the "logic" is still often missing. Look for objects that disappear when they pass behind a person or liquid that doesn't behave like water.

4. Overly Polite or Repetitive Text

AI text (like emails) is usually incredibly neutral and "safe." It rarely uses local idioms or the natural mistakes humans make. If you get an email using phrases like *"I hope this finds you well"* followed by repetitive sentences that all start the same way or repeats the problem back to you, it's likely an AI script. It lacks the personal "spark" of a real conversation.

5. The Logic Gap

AI doesn't actually "know" facts; it just predicts the next most likely word. This means it can occasionally state "facts" that are completely wrong but sound very confident. If a message makes a claim that seems physically impossible or historically wonky, a human probably wasn't at the keyboard.

Spot the Difference: take a look at this AI generated photo of The Sugar Loaf. What issues can you spot?



Why does this matter? Knowing these signs isn't just for "techies" - it's for safety. Scammers are using AI to write more convincing emails or create fake profiles. By spotting these "glitches" now, you'll be much better prepared as the technology improves.

At Iris Web Media, I believe the "human touch" is what makes a business work. If you've seen something online and aren't sure if it's the real deal, feel free to catch me for a chat!

Lucy Standbridge | Iris Web Media | iriswebmedia.co.uk

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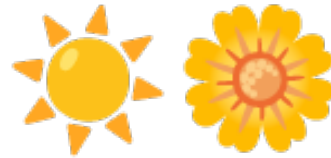
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June Update from Meppershall Munchkins



We hope you're all enjoying the start of summer! Thank you, as always, for your continued support — our wonderful community is what makes Meppershall Munchkins so special.

Special Visitor – Roaming Kiln (Friday 5th June)

We are excited to welcome **Roaming Kiln** on **Friday 5th June**.

No need to book — just come along and join in!

Card and cash payments will be accepted on the day.

We're looking forward to seeing lots of little ones getting creative!



Children's Centre Visits – Tuesday 9th & Tuesday 23rd June

The Children's Centre team will be joining us on:

- **Tuesday 9th June**
- **Tuesday 23rd June**



They will be available during the session to offer advice, information and support for families, along with self-weighing scales for the little ones.

Volunteers Needed



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

If you are able to spare any time, please do 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



Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30–11:30am

£3.50 for the first child; £1 for each additional child.

Snack and squash included - Walk-ins welcome - Payment via cash or bank transfer.

For updates, including emergency closures, please check the Meppershall Munchkins Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you all in June for plenty of fun, friendship and community spirit.

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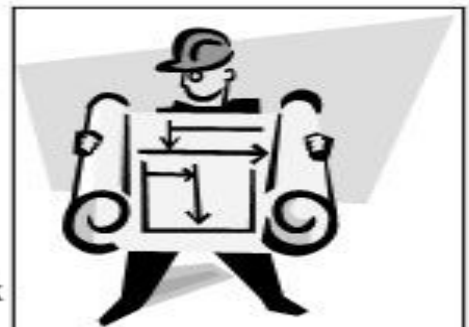
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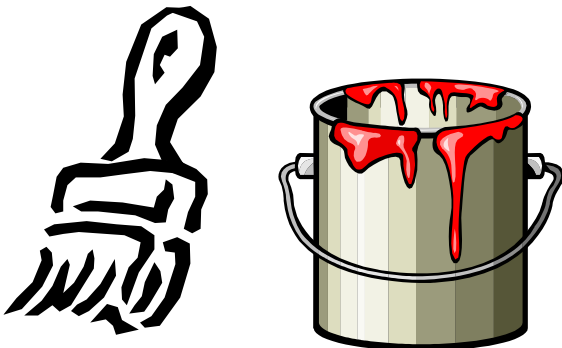
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On behalf of the GNOMES Committee and members, Martin Randall(r) accepts a new laptop computer from Meppershall Parish Council Chairman John Parsons(c) at the MPC meeting on Monday 11th May 2026, after the GNOMES successful grant application to MPC for support in replacing their, old no longer supported, Windows 10 laptop for a new Windows 11 model. This will enable the GNOMES to continue to offer their services to the residents of Meppershall.



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Personal Finance by Paul Savuto

You've got a mortgage! Now protect it

Securing a mortgage can feel like the pivotal step in achieving financial independence. Yet, too many mortgage holders are taking on this major commitment without protecting their financial freedom, new research warns.

Safety net?

More than one in three UK mortgage holders have no life, income or critical illness cover, the research found, meaning that millions of households lack the certainty that they would be able to keep up with their mortgage payments if they were to suddenly experience a loss of income. Worse, the research found almost half of mortgage holders would struggle to make monthly repayments within six months of losing their income. To stay afloat, many suggested they would have to borrow or sell valuables.

Mortgage then protection

As a mortgage holder, you may feel that your financial security is now assured. However, in the event that you were no longer able to work, the financial situation you have worked so hard to reach could quickly unravel. Income protection may help support you if you cannot work, depending on the policy terms. One in five mortgage holders said they would borrow money from family or friends if they could not keep up with payments. The same proportion would sell valuables such as their car or jewellery, while 8% would try to take out a bank loan. Instead of these reactive measures, being proactive can leave you in a much better position. To protect your future finances, income protection and life insurance cover ensure you and your loved ones will be able to keep up payments - whatever life throws at you.

Inheritance Tax and Pensions: What the 2027 Changes Could Mean for Families

From 6 April 2027, pension funds are expected to become part of a person's estate for Inheritance Tax (IHT) purposes. For many families, this could significantly affect how wealth is passed on to children and grandchildren. While pensions have traditionally been viewed as an efficient way to pass on wealth, the upcoming changes mean it may now be time to review existing plans and consider whether any action should be taken before the new rules come into effect.

What is changing?

Under the new rules, unused pension funds are expected to be included within a person's estate for IHT purposes from April 2027. Currently, many pensions can usually be passed on free from IHT. However, from 2027, pension savings remaining at death may be taxed alongside other assets such as property and investments. Spouses, civil partners and charities are still expected to benefit from existing exemptions, meaning pension funds left to them should remain free from IHT.

What stays the same?

Some pension tax rules are not changing. Most people can still usually take up to 25% of their pension tax-free when they first access it, subject to current limits and individual circumstances. Income tax rules on pension withdrawals are also expected to remain unchanged. In general:

- Pension withdrawals are taxed as income
- Beneficiaries inheriting pensions after age 75 may still pay income tax when accessing inherited funds

- Death-in-service benefits are expected to remain tax-free

As pension and tax legislation can change, individual advice remains important.

Why people are reviewing their plans now

For many households, pensions have formed a key part of estate planning. With the introduction of IHT on pensions, families may wish to reconsider:

- Which assets they plan to leave to loved ones
- Whether gifts should be made during their lifetime
- How retirement income will be funded
- Whether their Will still reflects their wishes

In some situations, families could face both IHT and income tax on inherited pension funds, depending on the age of death and how benefits are taken.

Possible planning options

There is no one-size-fits-all solution, and what works for one family may not suit another. However, there are several areas people may wish to discuss with a qualified adviser.

Making gifts during your lifetime

Some people may consider gifting assets to family members while they are still alive. Under current rules, many gifts become exempt from IHT if the person making the gift survives for seven years. Certain smaller gifts and regular gifts from surplus income may also qualify for exemptions. Careful records are important, particularly where gifts are intended to fall within HMRC exemptions.

Taking tax-free cash from pensions

Where appropriate, some individuals may consider taking available tax-free cash from their pension and gifting part of it to family members. As with all estate planning, this should only be considered after reviewing retirement income needs and wider financial circumstances.

The importance of regular reviews

Retirement and estate planning should be reviewed regularly, particularly as people approach later life or major life events. The new pension IHT rules are expected to change how many families think about passing on wealth, making early planning increasingly important.

A note of caution

Pension decisions should never be based on tax alone. Investment performance, retirement income needs and long-term financial security should all be considered carefully. It is also important to be cautious of pension scams or offers that appear unusually attractive. If something sounds too good to be true, it often is.

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.

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Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman

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

Churchwardens:

Chris Valentine 01462 815971 John Archer

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A Message From St Mary's...

1st June this year is the day we remember Jesus' mother Mary - pregnant - and visiting her cousin Elizabeth who was expecting Jesus' cousin John the Baptist... the feast we call the Visitation. Each year we tell ourselves again the story of the life of Jesus - starting on 25th March - 9 months before Christmas - generally beginning our story again before it is even finished! Now through the rest of this year, we will read the story of the life of Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew.

The month of June has three awareness weeks that often slip by barely noticed but which are important for all of us who try to love our neighbours and make our world a better place. 1-7th June is Volunteers Week - held to recognise and celebrate the contributions of volunteers to our communities each year. It is a week designed both to thank and honour current volunteers and to inspire more people to try to make a difference!

Then, 8th - 14th June is Carers Week and 15th - 21st June is Loneliness Awareness Week. Carers week aims to raise awareness particularly of those who provide unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who needs extra help, and who may not even think of themselves as carers! Caring and carers of all kinds, are obviously potentially part of the solution for those who are unwillingly alone - and we are so thankful for social carers, home carers, family carers and good neighbours, and for community events, coffee mornings, support lines etc! However, I think both of these awareness weeks serve to remind us that unpaid carers can often feel isolated too and may need support, inviting us all to make sure we also care for the carers!

As June brings summer and hopefully more sunshine - you might be looking for places to go and things to do!

St Albans is always a lovely place to visit and later in June The Alban Festival and Pilgrimage, this year on June 20th from 11am - 5pm, might make a good day out /or part of a day out for some. More info at enjoystalbens.com – there's a full list of the attractions around town!

St Alban is honoured as the first recorded British Christian Martyr and, every year during the weekend closest to Alban's feast day, St Albans Cathedral hosts the "Alban Pilgrimage". Everyone is welcome to enjoy the procession of giant (12 foot) carnival puppets - Roman chariots, centurions, lions, roses and executioners that moves through the streets - while around 300 children, teenagers and adults from the local community retell the story of Alban's martyrdom. The final scene takes place at the West End of St Albans Cathedral. More detailed information about the programme for this year's pilgrimage can be found at:

www.stalbanscathedral.org/alban-pilgrimage.

If you do choose to go, I hope you have a great time.

God bless you.

With love, Rector Roni

Church Events In June

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

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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.

Wednesday June 3 rd	9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday June 7 th	11.00am.	Morning Worship
Wednesday June 10 th .	9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday June 14 th	11.00am.	Holy Communion with Junior Church
Wednesday June 17 th .	9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday June 21 st	11.00am.	Morning Worship
Wednesday June 24 th .	9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday June 28 th	11.00am.	Holy Communion with Junior Church

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

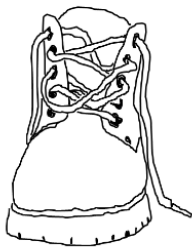
Want to try something new? Why not try bellringing!

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 14th June we will walk a loop from the gate of St Mary's Meppershall (starting at 2.00PM) around Polehanger Wood and back. It's around 4 miles – first heading over the fields towards the cow bridge, before turning across the rolling landscape back to Campton Road where we continue past the airfield and into Polehanger Wood beside Woodhall Farm. We'll

take the beautiful riverside path to the edge of Shefford before turning back up past Polehanger Farm to Crackle Hill. For those who want to come back to the church, we'd be pleased to stop for tea and cakes. The Strollmaster General won't be around for this one and his trusty deputy is grateful for your support 😊 For more info call 857836 or find us on facebook.

In tribute to Gill Wald



We are very sad to share the news of the passing of Gill Wald in March this year after a sudden serious illness. Gill was a bright and interesting person to chat with on many of our strolls, good company and someone we always loved to walk with.

Living in Blunham and previously a teacher (including Etonbury) she became part of the Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers walks through friends Anne and John here in the village. Pictured here on a muddy hike in December 2023, she brought a smile and a light hearted attitude, whatever the conditions. We will miss her - we are grateful for the good times and great outings that we enjoyed with her in the local countryside. May the road rise up to meet you, Gill. RIP.





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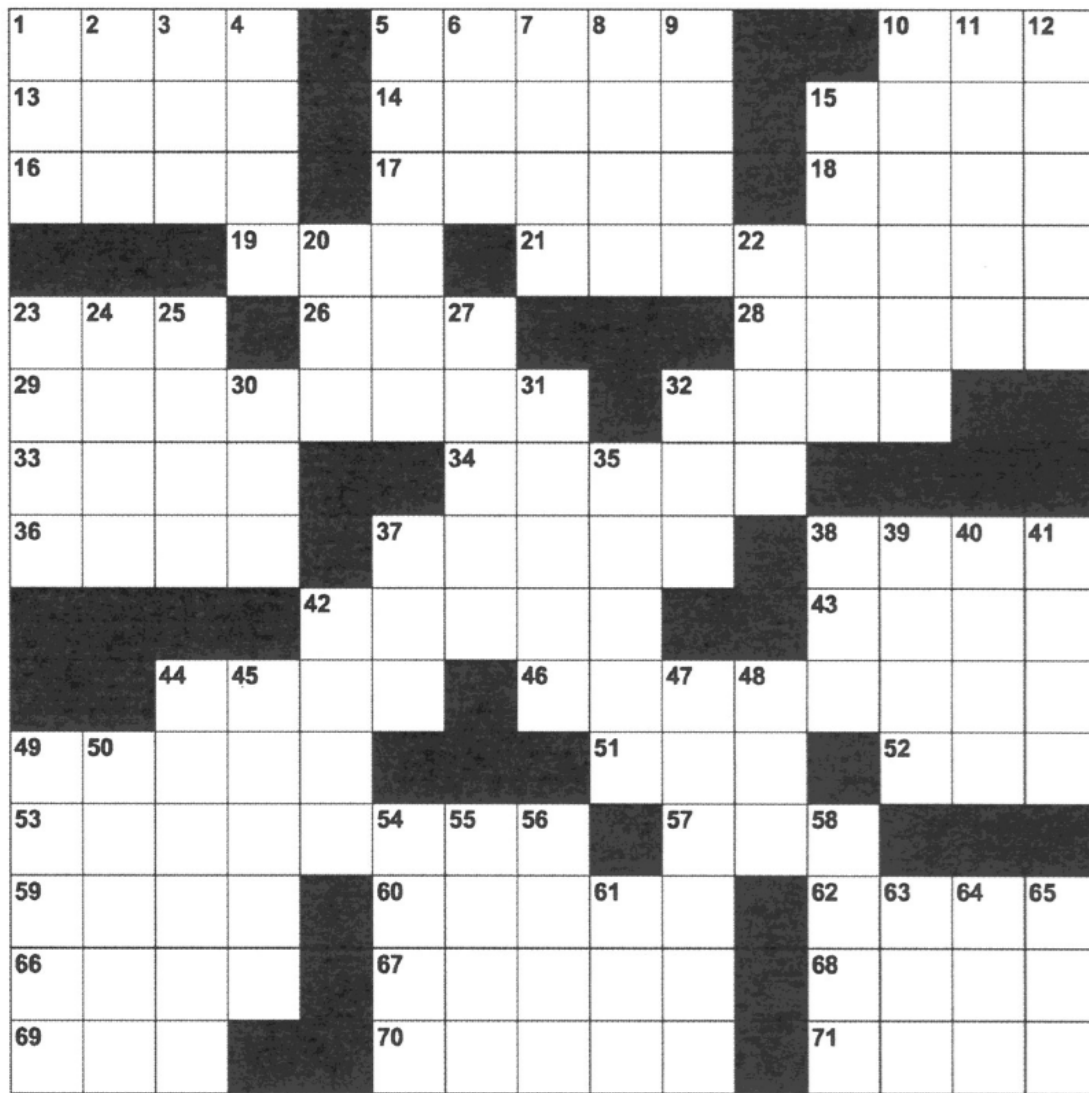
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ACROSS

- 1 Canal name
5 Creed
10 Lick
13 Hairstyle
14 Loafer
15 Sixth month of the year
16 One who gets things done
17 Quake
18 Land mass
19 Promissory note
21 Game played with a bat, ball and two teams
23 Droop
26 North American country
28 Prods
29 Below thousands
32 Soft cheese from Greece
33 Decorative needle case
34 Netherlands' capital
36 Medicine amount
37 Domain
38 Former wound
42 City of pilgrimages
43 Tortoise and the ____
44 June holiday ____ Day
46 Loved

- 49 Relating to the sun
51 Eat
52 Old-fashioned Dads
53 Souvenirs
57 Slumber
59 Standing
60 Indelicate
62 What children talk with
66 Lawyer (abbr.)
67 Employer
68 A wager (2 wds.)
69 Affirmation
70 Golf tournaments
71 Young Men's Christian Association

DOWN

- 2 Unidentified flying object
3 Before, poetically
4 Flat sandal with thong between toes
5 Lack of use
6 Lyric poem
7 Fluent
8 Tableland
9 Limbs
10 National capital
11 Senile
12 Rings, like bells
15 Ruffle down the front
20 Possessive pronoun
22 Fencing sword
23 Thrown off
24 Motor vehicle
25 African antelope
27 Special case only (2 wds.)
30 Demise
31 Food covering
32 Something that gives pleasure or enjoyment
35 Green plant that often covers lawns
37 Solicit
38 Her
39 Outdoor area where tents are set up to sleep in
40 Domain
41 Cincinnati baseball team
42 Stigma
44 Fire making stones
45 Lean
47 Radios
48 Government agency
49 Wander

- 50 Speak in public
54 Resound
55 Short journey from one point to another
56 Positive
58 Activity intended for amusement
61 Fox hole
63 Large computer co.
64 Part of a minute.
65 School group



The June Boom by Donna Cameron

Donna's Garden Designs | 07833670934

Wow, the garden is going full pelt! Every day a new plant blooms, it seems, and you can almost see things growing! As the spring flowers retire the summer flowers steal the show.



There is so much to choose from at this time of year in the garden centre and I feel like a child in a sweet shop. This is when the garden really comes alive!

A lot of my job as a garden designer is using my imagination to visualise how plants will work together and work to bloom at different times, to give the customer something every month of the year of interest.

This time of year is when you can really see all the ideas on paper come to life! When customers can enjoy the garden and be outside

surrounded by plants and immersing themselves in their haven – that's when they can really relax and take it all in.

Maybe they can have a quick coffee in the morning or enjoy an evening meal on their new patio - taking in the colours and scents around them, anticipating the next bud to unfold. Gardens are like an extension of the house - another room. You don't have to have a large garden to enjoy the great outdoors. Lots can be fitted into a small space to create a green sanctuary.

This time of year is great to visit other gardens to glean ideas and inspiration.

The National Garden Scheme and Red Cross both put together lots of gardens to visit throughout the year and more so in the summer. These make for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and they often have tea, cake and plants for sale!

So enjoy the sunshine and the June Boom!

Donna x

Jobs In the Garden For June

Weed the beds

Plant up Annuals in pots and baskets for extra colour and interest

Mow lawns once a week

Keep check on Aphids

Stake plants

Water plants using water butt where possible

Pinch out side shoots of Tomatoes

Pick some flowers for the house so you can enjoy them inside as well

Harvest Lettuce, Radish and early Potatoes

Trugs And Trowels (Campton Gardening Club) – June

How and when to divide poor performing Irises

A crowded patch of Irises is the most common reason for a disappointing show of flowers. If you've experienced a disappointing show of blooms this spring then it's probably time to divide your rhizomes. Whilst most gardeners have done root division before, in the case of Bearded and Siberian Irises we'll have to do a rhizome division. It may sound a little intimidating at first but it's really not that hard to do and it is a very useful gardening skill to have.

When should I divide my Irises?

Irises should be divided every 3 or 4 years. The best time is 6-8 weeks after their bloom time or expected bloom. This is the timeline even if your Irises have skipped blooming this year. Irises missing their bloom can be divided at the end of July / early August at the latest. Avoid division too late in the growing season. This is to let them establish in their new space well before the arrival of cold weather.

What are the steps to take, to divide my Iris rhizomes?

1. Gather your tools; A sharp gardening knife, a garden fork or hand spade and a rag imbued with rubbing alcohol to disinfect your knife blade as you move from one rhizome to the next. This disinfecting wipe is not essential but good practice especially if you suspect your irises to be suffering from bacterial soft rot. If you are using shears as opposed to a knife ensure it is sharp enough to cut through the rhizomes cleanly without tearing them. Tearing will make your plant more susceptible to a bacterial attack.
2. Trim back the foliage of your Irises 6-8 inches in height above the crown. If you are not comfortable with cutting back so much I suggest cutting a third off the top and cut any damaged or dead leaves away even shorter. This step is very useful - it makes your plants easier to manoeuvre than longer, leafy spikes.
 - a. Short foliage means less moisture loss through evaporation whilst you're distributing the roots of the plant.
 - b. Trimmed foliage makes it easier to inspect for pests/disease.
 - c. After division, plants will appear more healthy as opposed to having drooping leaves, made limp due to lack of moisture.

Trim leaves with straight cuts or slanted into fan shapes (if cutting at all).

3. Gently lift the rhizomes out of the soil without tugging, this is when you use a hand spade/trowel as a regular spade is too large and may damage rhizomes when digging. Pull out the rhizomes and gently brush off soil or rinse with a hose. All becomes visible, allowing you to check closely and remove any problems - keeping only healthy rhizomes. Discard any which are soft and mushy and generally have a foul smell: this is an indication of bacterial soft rot so be careful not to spread it to healthy rhizomes when dividing. Keep a clean knife between cuts. If part of your root is infected there is no need to discard the entire rhizome but cut off the affected parts which are rotting. Throw the infected parts away, but not in your compost. Any which have holes in them should also be discarded

as this is likely to be the work of the Iris Borer (*Macronoctua Onusta*) - a caterpillar which chews into leaves then bores into the rhizome to lay it's eggs – affected rhizomes will contain eggs or larvae.

- Put aside separate rhizomes, ready to relocate. For the larger rhizomes, check for sections which have a natural split-off / changed direction. Cut the larger chunks off into separate sections with at least 4-6 inches of healthy root length attached and, if possible, with at least a couple of leaf fans. Leaves are important for photosynthesis to give the rhizome enough energy to start putting out growth again. At this point you should have doubled or tripled your plants, so if you don't have enough room to house them you can always make another gardener happy by sharing your glut!

Please join us on the first Monday of every month at Campton Village Hall at 19:30. Everyone welcome

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Different Ways To Say Goodbye

...Creating a farewell ceremony that feels right

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

There is no single right way to say goodbye. When someone dies — or when a life is being honoured — families often feel unsure about what's possible or where to begin. Many people don't realise how flexible, personal and meaningful a farewell ceremony can be. With cremations now making up around 80% of UK funerals, our choices around commemoration are changing too.

As a local independent celebrant, I guide people through these choices and help create inclusive, personal ceremonies that feel right, even when the words or ideas aren't clear at first.

Celebration of Life at Crematorium

A celebration of life centres on the person's story — who they were and what mattered to them. These ceremonies are warm, personal and reflective, with music, poetry and memories. I've led ceremonies co-created with families, where they read their own poems and placed meaningful mementos on the casket .

Celebration of Life with Ashes

Some families choose this option when a loved one has had a direct cremation. Having the ashes present can offer a gentle focal point and a sense of closeness. I've held ceremonies in a beautiful old pub filled with photos and stories where guests also contributed memories.

Ashes Ceremony

An ashes ceremony creates a dedicated moment to say goodbye. It may be quiet or shared, simple or symbolic. For my mum, we held a traditional funeral in Bournemouth, then interred her ashes in Shefford with music, singing and some shared words. These ceremonies offer comfort and relief.

Memorial Ceremony

A memorial takes place without the body or ashes and can happen long after the death. This option is especially meaningful when people couldn't gather at the time — as many experienced during Covid. It is never too late to honour a life.

Living Funeral

Held while someone is still alive, these ceremonies focus on gratitude, presence and farewells. They allow people to hear the love and stories that might otherwise go unspoken and also to say what they want to happen.

Anniversary and Remembrance Ceremonies

Grief has no timetable. Marking birthdays, anniversaries or milestones can be a gentle way to honour continuing love and loss, whether privately or with others.

Pet Farewells

Pets are family, and their loss can be profound. A ceremony can validate grief and honour the bond shared, whether simple, symbolic or celebratory.

A Gentle Invitation

Every ceremony can include cultural traditions, languages, rituals, hobbies, music, poetry, family involvement and/or pets. What matters most is that it feels authentic.

If you're considering a farewell ceremony of any kind, you don't need to have all the answers. You're welcome to get in touch with me, Carolyn Holmes at ritesofw@gmail.com , 07305 002858, or via the contact form on my website: <https://www.ritesofway.com/contact> I live in the village so happy to meet up.

Crossword Solution For May

1	G	2	R	3	A	4	S	5	S		6	A	7	B	8	E	9	T		10	T	11	H	12	A	13	W
14	R	O	G	U	E						15	P	E	R	O					16	I	O	T	A			
17	A	L	I	N	E						18	H	E	R	R					19	L	O	I	N			
20	M	E	N	S						21	J	I	F			22	P	U	D	D	L	E					
				24	H	25	U	E	D				26	D	E	T	E	S	T								
27	E	28	N	29	L	I	S	T				30	C	E	D	E											
31	W	A	Y	N	E						32	A	A	R	O	N					33	E	S	E			
36	E	R	R	E	D						37	R	I	B					38	S	39	C	R	O	D		
40	R	Y	E							41	T	42	E	R	R	Y				43	I	L	I	A	D		
										44	O	M	A	N					45	B	L	O	C	K	Y		
		46	F	47	O	R	B	E	S						49	F	A	S	T								
50	M	O	T	H	E	R						51	N	O	D					52	H	53	A	54	S	55	H
56	A	R	T	Y							57	A	58	D	E	N				59	C	I	N	C	O		
60	S	T	E	M							61	L	U	S	T					62	S	E	T	U	P		
63	S	E	R	E							64	D	O	T	S					65	T	R	I	M	S		



Time To Get FIT

Faecal Immunochemical Test, or FIT, is a bowel cancer screening offered by the NHS for those aged over 50. It is automatically sent to 50-74-year-olds in the post every 2 years.

The FIT test recognises human blood and looks for tiny traces of blood in your poo that are too small to see. Traces of blood can be caused by other medical conditions and doesn't necessarily mean you have cancer. But if it is cancer, when spotted early, treatment is more likely to be successful and thanks to research, treatments are kinder and more effective than ever.

You can still get screening for bowel cancer every 2 years if you're aged 75 or over, but you need to call the bowel cancer screening helpline on 0800 707 6060 and ask for the test.

Cancer Research UK reports over 48,000 new cases of bowel cancer in the UK, 53.9% survive bowel cancer (for 10 or more years) and 54% are preventable. Risk factors include age, diet, obesity, alcohol, smoking and lack of physical activity.

Let's get rid of the taboo about poo - this simple, life-saving test is easier than you may think, and most of us are able to do this independently, and in the privacy of our own bathroom. Once a small sample is collected in a bottle, simply put it into a prepaid envelope and pop it into the post as soon as you can. Results can be expected within two weeks.

At any age and at any time - if you experience symptoms, which can include blood in your poo, a change in your normal bowel habits, a pain or lump in your abdomen, weight loss or tiredness for no obvious reason, contact your surgery for an appointment without delay.

To find out more, go to

bowel screening <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bowel-cancer-screening/>

bowel cancer <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bowel-cancer/>

For patients registered with Shefford Health Centre, Larksfield and Arlesey Medical Partnership and Lower Stondon Surgery, you can contact a Care Coordinator for more information by emailing blmkicb.carecoordinator.ivs@nhs.net

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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

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Meppershall Academy, High Street

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Meppershall Pre-School Village Hall, Ella Carey-Butler

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meppershallps@gmail.com

Meppershall Munchkins, Melanie Choonos

meppershallmunchkins@gmail.com**Organisations**

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Meppershallbrownies@gmail.com

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

Kathy Georgiou

01462 629313

HATS Drama Group, Linda Winfield

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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.

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

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



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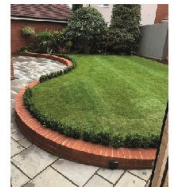
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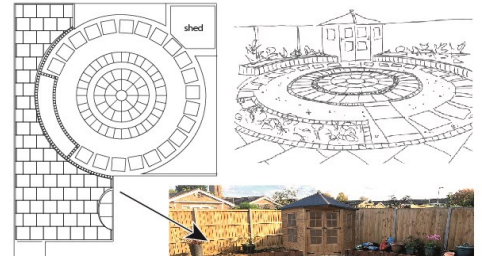
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