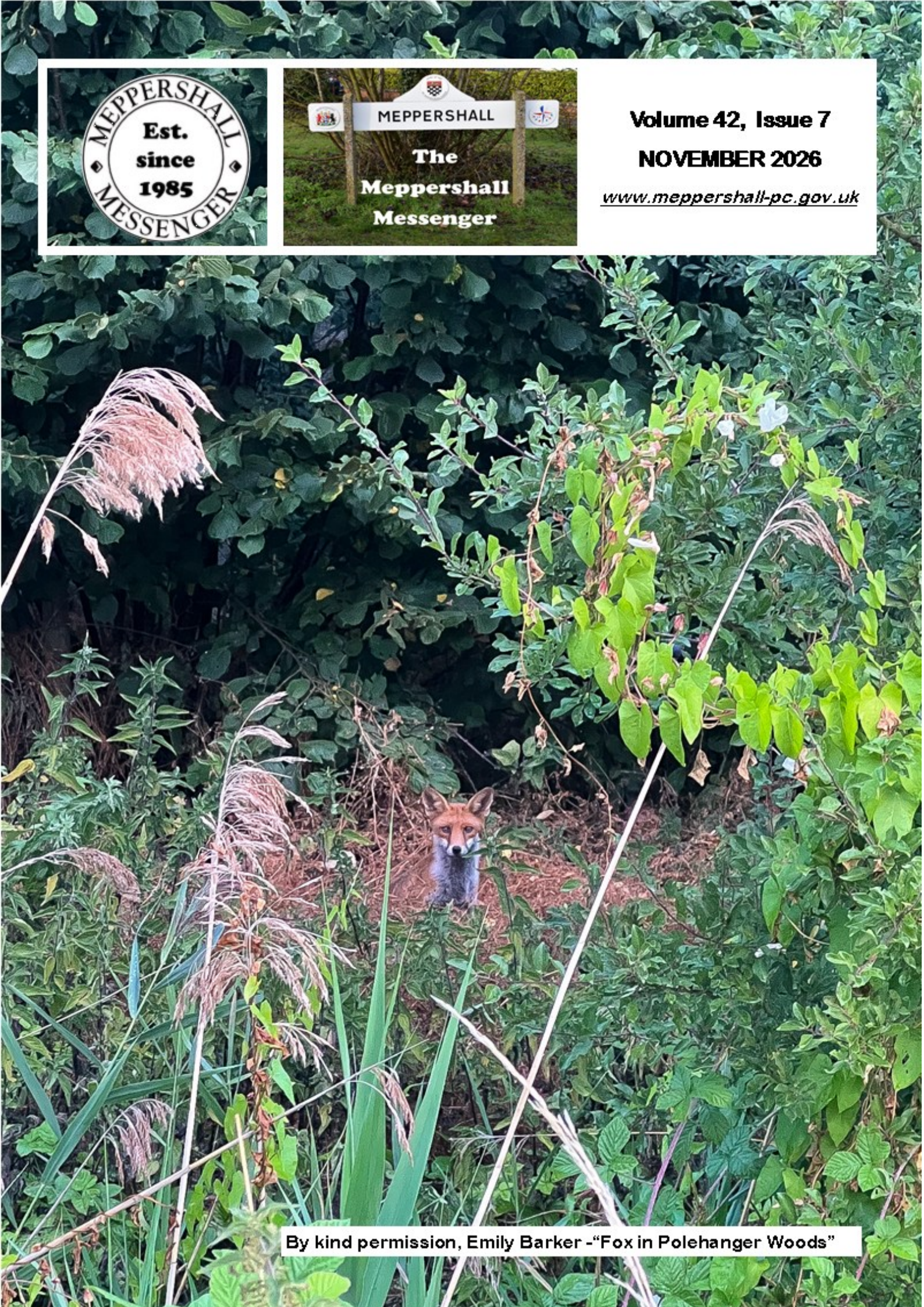


Volume 42, Issue 7

NOVEMBER 2026

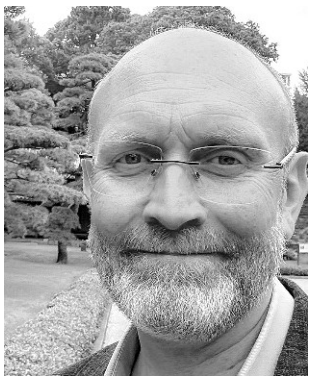
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By kind permission, Emily Barker -"Fox in Polehanger Woods"

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Editorial by James Read



Can you find the fox on this month's cover? Emily Barker saw him hiding there in Polehanger Wood recently and managed to capture this great photo. Thank you Emily for contributing it to the village magazine and allowing us to use it in this way. We always welcome photos that people want to see on the cover, that tell a story of life here in Meppershall.

It is a reminder of the beautiful wild areas that surround us – and which we very much want to preserve. After the amazing community response to potential development sites over the summer, we bring you the latest news of the attempt to build 150 houses on open fields outside the village behind Fildyke Road and Coneygate. If you read this early in November, you may still have time to tell the council what you think, in response to new information and new documents about the site. See page 4.

Emily's cover photo (although taken in the summer) is also a reminder of the extreme weather we are getting more of the time. The council has provided new resources to help us prepare for floods (page 19). Meppershall is on a hilltop with mostly very low risks, but we are not immune and being informed and prepared is always a good idea.

You may also be thinking about energy costs as we go into winter. Sasha is offering free Utility Warehouse quotes for anyone wanting to see if they can save on their household bills by bundling services. Businesses and organisations can also benefit from a shared commission if they refer people who sign-up through her. See her advert, call her on 07957 815591, read more at https://uw.co.uk/partner/connectors.

November means Remembrance Sunday and as always the village will show its respect for those lost in conflicts in history and more recently. See pages 6 and 25 for more info. Once again, Helen Valentine has led work to create a poppy shroud and poppy cross at the war memorial and Alex Sinfield has made a poppy tree at the back of the church, from which you can select your own hand-crafted poppy to wear in support of Royal British Legion and the church. All Saints Church Campton also invites us all to pay respects and visit their large poppy drape which will adorn their church over Remembrance. Containing 6,000 hand-made poppies, it is the work of 30 people.

Over the harvest festival, St Mary's church was again decorated with a beautiful salt loaf, complete with a tiny baked mouse making his way up a sheaf of wheat, thanks to Mary and the team at Roger's Bakery – a very kind and greatly appreciated annual gift. The church looked stunning – well done to all who decorated and arranged flowers.

12.00-4.00PM, 14th November at the village hall: the last **Cake Café** will take place, in partnership with the **Table Top Sale** event. We say a big WELL DONE to Mandie and Barry who have run the Cake Café successfully and brought smiles to many Saturday mornings. And we say WELL DONE to Jayne Walbridge and supporters for creating what promises to be a great community occasion, offering cream teas alongside the chance to bag a bargain and trade with neighbours and local groups in the Table Top Sale. Get along and support, from 12.00.

Next month – our Christmas and New Year issue (already?!) Email us with your news of events and activities for the festive period. See you at the **Christmas Lights Switch On (28th November, from 3PM).** More volunteer marshals are still needed – page 35).

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Letters

Dear Editor,

I was very pleased and surprised to be chosen as the winner of the 'Open Garden' photography competition, earlier in the year.

Many thanks to everyone at The Messenger and Mount Pleasant View for my prize of afternoon tea for two. My friend and I had a wonderful time!

The biggest thanks however, must go to the owners of the beautiful garden on Lyspitt Common, for providing the stunning subject matter. Congratulations also, for raising so much money for the church and Sue Ryder St. John's Hospice.

Debra

****

Dear Editors,

Save and Share Spare Specs

It's an appeal again for redundant spectacles. It won't cost you any money.

There are many people on the planet, who cannot afford glasses or have access to professional opticians because of their circumstances, whether it be poverty or living in isolated communities.

Please drop into kindness mode and think of how much joy to see your family or be able to read for the first time in your life.

I am collecting for the Lion Club who recondition the specs and distribute them to not only third world countries but to wherever they're needed. Please leave any spare specs on my doorstep at 77 Shefford Road, Meppershall.

These will be passed onto our excellent local Opticians, Mr Hing in Shefford.

Thank you so much.

Tony Smith

****

Be Alert: Ketamine

Warning to all parents, especially those with teenage children.

The drug Ketamine is now being used widely within the age group of 14 to 20.

Regular use will degrade the bladder and kidneys and they will fail after four years causing death. Please watch, with your children, the documentary "Britain's Ketamine Crisis" (BBC Panorama). Another relevant documentary on iPlayer is "It happened to me," in which the story is told of a British woman jailed for five months in Japan for possessing Ketamine.

Tony Smith

Planning Update: Land Between Coneygate and Fildyke Road

At the time of writing, Central Bedfordshire Council has opened a very brief further consultation on the planning application submitted by Gladman to develop almost 20 acres of open fields on the hilltop between Fildyke Road and Coneygate.

However, the consultation is set to close on 2 November 2026 leaving very little time for community reflection and response. This further consultation arises from further measures proposed by the developer to mitigate concerns raised about the development by experts, consultants, service providers and the local community.

You can keep up with all the latest information on this proposal by searching for the planning reference CB/25/03804/OUT on the CBC planning website:

https://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/AcolNetCGI.gov

In a letter sent to some members of the local community, CBC has highlighted various detailed alterations made by the developer in its amended plans. However, our summary is that the proposal remains fundamentally wrong, being for construction of 150 new build houses on some of the highest ground in the village – a village that has grown far more than others in recent years, where building of this kind is not needed.

It disfigures the line of sight to and from the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Pegsdon (current a view of rolling green hills). It builds on productive arable farm fields outside the village envelope. It removes the current soft margins of the village that are the fundamental character of that spot for those already living there (walkable rural field margins, rural trees, bushes and undergrowth beside open fields which harbour the wildlife and biodiversity we love).

It uses one single point of vehicle access through a 2004 rural regenerative / brown-field residential development where houses front onto the roadway with no front gardens and very little parking (narrow enough that people often park on kerbs), and increasing traffic volumes right into the pinch-point between the daily school parking disruption and the single-file obstruction at the village shop.

It is against the explicit advice of Anglian Water regarding capacity of local sewer services (and after a summer of water shortages). It endangers existing historical drainage patterns alongside a key strategic channel through the village.

It is completely out of keeping with the wider village area – as the new plan documents show, the proposed area dwarfs even the large expanse of the Meppershall Allotments alongside it, and dwarfs the Coneygate and Gregory Close residential area.

The supposed mitigations include areas of tree planting that are each much smaller than the existing, small wild area east of the top end of Coneygate/Taylors Close. A “15 metre landscape buffer” is proposed to mask the development from Stondon Road along with avoiding three-story houses at the highest points – but in a 20-acre site these measures will be ineffectual and it would still see two-story houses built on the highest ground. A raised-table junction at the single access point on Coneygate is suggested, but on that hill/incline, adjacent to a blind corner with a house on it and no raised kerb, this does not feel like any kind of meaningful safety improvement or parking mitigation (it would likely make parking worse). Construction access *might* be

available from Stondon Road - but there is no binding commitment on this, and if it was done that way, the rural track from Stondon Road back into the village with its views to Nuns Wood, will be destroyed forever, unusable for years as the construction work moves in and likely never restored to its current rural feel.

Everyone will be glad to know that a Bat Mitigation Strategy Plan has been added to the developer's package. We all want the bats to continue thriving. But the humans that live in the village are important too.

So this remains an important time to make your voice heard and speak up about the loss of our surrounding countryside and nationally important landscape views, the unsustainable pressure on our roads and services, the threats to traffic safety and parking (especially for existing residents near the access point) and the impact on day-to-day life in and around High Street, the school and the shop.

Go to the website linked above in this article, enter the reference and engage in the consultation – you are looking for the bit where it says "If you do not have a reference number click here" – just go ahead and "click here" to share your opinion (support/object). We have also made it easy for you with this short link you can type into your browser to go straight to the form: bit.ly/SaveMeppOct26.

In all of this, there is an additional, reluctant realisation that in the planning world, developers' commitments at the planning stage are all too rarely enforceable or sincere. Even if some are encouraged by the modest extra measures proposed for this development, the state of Shefford Road, Meppershall and Old Bridge Way, Shefford stand as a dismal, tyre-popping reminder of just how much the developer stands by the outcomes and assures the quality that they originally promised. We pay the price.

****

Take A Trip From Meppershall: Wanderbus Excursions

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Meppershall Remembers

Sunday 8th November

Act of Remembrance

10.45 at the memorial in the churchyard

Service of Remembrance

11.00 at St Mary's Meppershall

Join the village community honouring the service and sacrifice of those who served then and now. The memorial will be shrouded with poppies, a poppy cross will be mounted in the churchyard and the church will adorned with poppies.

Campton and Chicksands Remembers

You are invited to view our community created Cascading Poppy Drape

at **All Saints Church, Campton**

Saturday 7th November

2pm to 4pm bells rung from 1:30pm to 2pm

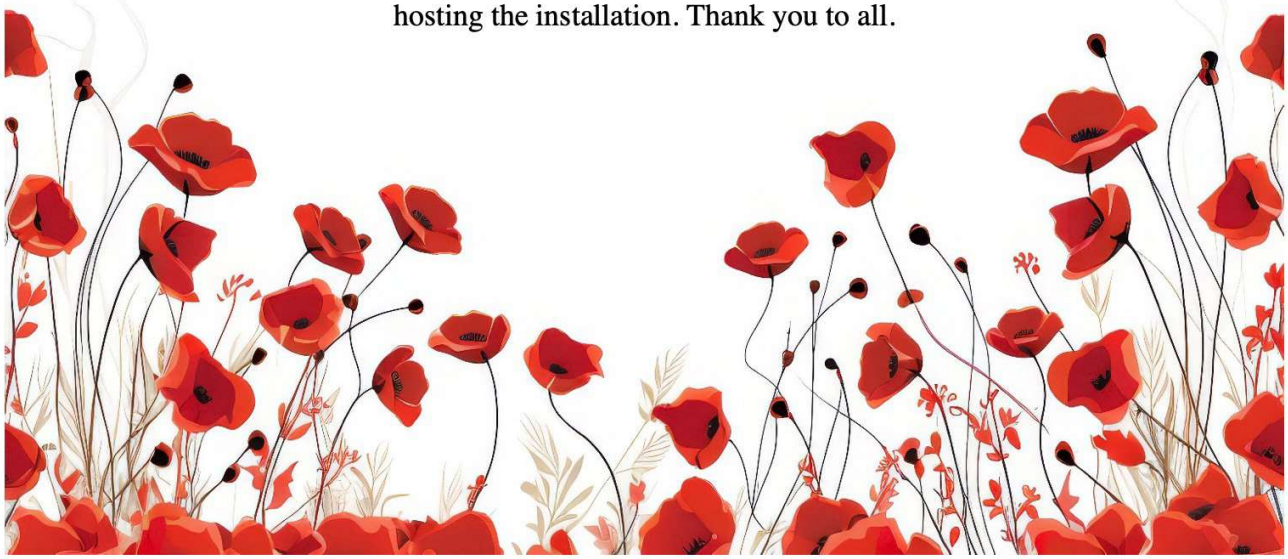
Tea, Coffee and Cake will be served (payment by cash or card)

Raffle

Funds raised will go to the Poppy Appeal and All Saints Church

Commemorating all those lost in conflict and honouring those who have served, and those who continue to serve their country.

Our drape has been made possible due to the efforts of the local community creating the poppies, with financial contribution from community members, Campton & Chicksands Parish Council and The Village Hall Committee, and the support of All Saints Church for hosting the installation. Thank you to all.



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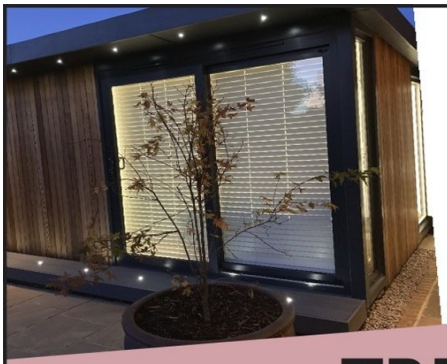
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The British Museum Protects Unique Meppershall Find

Jeremy Holden on a local treasure – one of many he has found over the years

During the second Covid wave in 2021, a small Roman coin found in a Meppershall field proved to be something unique. The bronze coin, known as an *antoninianus* to the people who used it, was a denomination minted by the emperor Carausius sometime in the late 3rd Century.

Carausius was known as the 'usurper' emperor, after he declared himself ruler of Britannia in 283 AD. To legitimize this power grab, he minted many coins showing his bullish profile. These were distributed across Britain, and some ended up in the fields of Meppershall. Although in general these antoninianus coins are not an uncommon find, the Meppershall antoninianus (pictured below) was declared *unique* during the registration process of the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)*.



The Meppershall coin featured the Roman god Mars on its reverse side (left, in the photo above) and was a type never seen before. It had lain in the Meppershall soil for over 1700 years, facing the assault of ploughing and corrosive fertilizer; thankfully, it was saved while still complete. Because of its uniqueness, the British Museum expressed an interest in adding it to their collection, and with the generous agreement of the landowner, I was able to hand-deliver it to the museum last month, satisfied it has found a good home. Emperor Carausius didn't fare so well. He was eventually murdered by his finance minister Allectus, who declared himself emperor in turn.

*The PAS initiative records finds made by the general public, and has now documented millions of objects since it was established, creating an invaluable research database. Anyone wishing to record an artefact they have found can submit the item to a Finds Liaison Officer at either St Albans or Bedford museums.

You can view this Meppershall antoninianus coin on the PAS database at:

https://finds.org.uk/pas/recorded-find/search?q=BH-D5A3DF&sort_by=updated_at_desc



Meppershall School, Boys Football Team 1951-2

Left to right, back (standing): Stuart Gudgin, Robin Mowe, Norman Cooley, Kenneth Vintner, Martin Gray, Peter Burr, Roger Dilley
Front (sitting): Trevor Miller, Rodney Warne, Gerald Vintner, John Cooley, David Primett

Huge thanks to Barbara Hammond for contributing this photograph of the 1952 end-of-season line-up of Meppershall School boys football team. There are many names and faces which will be familiar to people in the village, with many family connections.

The boys in the photo were turning eleven years old that year. What lives lay ahead for them? Norman Cooley went on to play for Bedford and John Cooley would play rugby for Northampton Saints in the years that followed. Roger Dilley lived next door to the police house for many years. Rodney Warne moved to Stondon. Peter Burr kept his connections with the village well into his older years and was a much appreciated volunteer maintaining parts of the churchyard at St Mary's.

Speaking with Barbara about the photo, we discovered she also went on to great things after leaving Meppershall School in 1952. She took the Brinicombe's Buses schoolbus to Stratton School, Biggleswade, for high school and her sporting interests included table tennis. She was an accomplished player, becoming the Bedfordshire Table Tennis champion and reigning as Number One Lady in the county.

****

In Memory of Paul Smith

We are sad to announce the unexpected passing of Paul Smith in early October.

Paul was a longtime resident of Meppershall for over three decades and had recently moved with his wife, Linda, to be close to their son and grandchildren in Newport Pagnell. Paul was a popular member of the community and during his time here served on the Parish Council and was also a member of the team that saved the Sugar Loaf from closure in 2017.

Paul was a regular of the Sugar Loaf and made many long-term friendships there.

We hope to have a fuller write-up next month but in the meantime we want to express our heartfelt condolences to Linda, Rob, Jen and family for their loss.

****

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The Sugar Loaf



In October the team hosted a moving farewell for the late Colin 'Rigit' Wright. As well as being a wonderful moment to remember Rigit in a place he loved, donations totalling £500 were made to Sue Ryder (St John's Hospice Moggerhanger) and the Woodland Burial Trust in Keysoe.

You can contact the new team at the village pub for any questions or information:

Matt & Leah: **Leahstock@cheersandbeerspubs.co.uk**. **07939 161351**

They provide plenty of information on their Facebook page for the pub:

https://www.facebook.com/thesugarloafmeppershall

Sunday lunches are proving popular, with roasts starting at £16.95. There are regular menu specials for various events – look out on the Facebook page for more info.

Remember, Tuesday night is Bingo Night at The Sugar Loaf!

The Sugar Loaf team also recently announced a Halloween Disco and competitive pool – lots to keep you entertained in a thriving new era for the village pub. We're wishing the Sugar Loaf team continued success! Why not pop in and see for yourself?

****

Personal Finance – ISAs By Paul Savuto

ISA changes incoming – what they mean for your savings

Changes are on the horizon. The biggest overhaul of the ISA (Individual Savings Account) regime in several years is coming into effect on 6 April 2027, with new rules designed to encourage more people to invest rather than hold cash.

While the overall annual ISA allowance remains unchanged, there are several important changes savers should be aware of.

Cash ISA allowance reduced for under-65s

From April 2027, the Cash ISA allowance for anyone under 65 will fall from £20,000 to £12,000. However, the overall ISA allowance will remain £20,000, meaning the remaining £8,000 can still be invested into a Stocks & Shares ISA or another eligible ISA product. Savers aged 65 and over will continue to have the full £20,000 Cash ISA allowance available, including anyone who turns 65 during the 2027/28 tax year.

Changes for Stocks & Shares ISAs

The government is also introducing measures to discourage investors from using Stocks & Shares ISAs simply as cash savings accounts. Interest earned on uninvested cash within these ISAs will be subject to a 22% charge, collected by the ISA provider. Importantly, this does not apply to returns from investments such as shares, funds, bonds or ETFs, or to returns from Money Market Funds held as part of a diversified

portfolio. Only the return on cash itself is in scope. The charge will be collected by the ISA manager. In addition, from 6 April 2027, under-65s will no longer be able to transfer from a Stocks & Shares ISA into a Cash ISA, although transfers in the opposite direction will still be allowed. Transfers from a Cash ISA into a Stocks & Shares ISA will still be permitted without restriction. Individuals aged 65 and over are exempt from the transfer restriction, from the start of the tax year in which they turn 65. Note – ISA transfers do not count against the annual subscription limit, so a client could transfer their entire Stocks & Shares ISA cash balance into a Cash ISA before the deadline, avoiding the charge that would otherwise apply to the interest on uninvested cash from April 2027.

What about Lifetime ISAs?

The government has also announced plans to phase out Lifetime ISAs (LISAs), although existing account holders can continue contributing under the current rules while a new First Time Buyer ISA is being considered (consultation closed August 2026) – we'll keep you posted on developments. With significant changes ahead, now is a good time to review your ISA strategy and ensure your savings remain as tax efficient as possible.

AI and the global economy

The global economy is continuing to hold up, but growth remains uneven, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Their global economic outlook, entitled 'Global economy in crosscurrents of war and technology,' highlights how momentum from technology is helping to offset the drag from the conflict in the Middle East, which continues to weigh on energy importers and more vulnerable economies. At the same time, AI-driven demand is supporting countries integrated into the global technology value chain, as businesses invest in the infrastructure needed to support the technology. The IMF explores the risks and opportunities surrounding AI, with Petya Koeva Brooks, Deputy Director of Research, highlighting two possible paths – on the downside, a market correction could follow a reassessment of AI profitability; on the upside, 'faster AI adoption could lift growth.' Looking ahead, the consensus is that the AI 'build-out' is accelerating - AI requires data centres, semiconductors, digital infrastructure and energy systems. For investors, it's important to understand where valuations, risks and opportunities sit as the AI story continues to evolve. If it's been a while since you reviewed your investments, now could be a good time to get in touch and discuss whether your portfolio remains well positioned for the changing economic and investment landscape.

GET IN TOUCH

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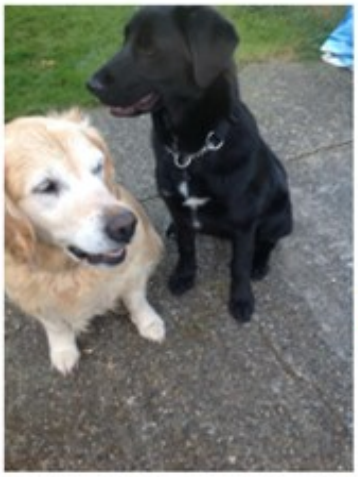
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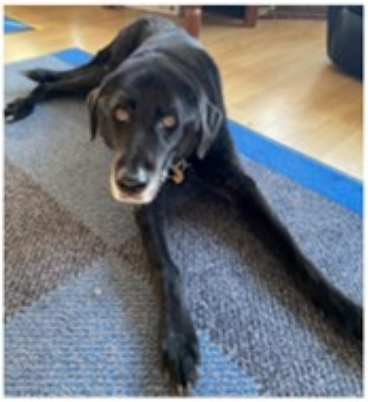
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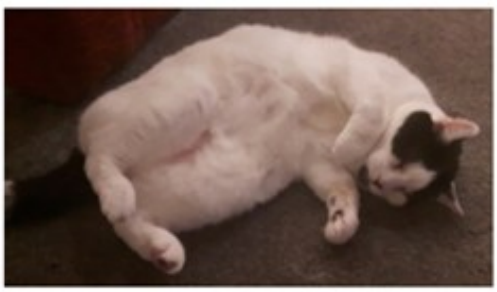
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Updates From Our MP, Alistair Strathern

My Septembers always look a little different as they include a break from Parliament for the party conferences. Thankfully this means I got to spend a bit more time over the last four weeks in Meppershall and out across the towns and villages in our constituency. As always, we've been keeping busy – from hearing your views at my surgeries and 'Pint with your MP' evenings to joining fantastic events like Shefford's Scarecrow festival and to Stondon's Street Food event (well-timed for straight after our GP meeting there!)

A highlight for me was hosting our surgery in Shefford, and a drop in outside of Morrisons to hear your views. Thank you to everyone who came along for some great discussions or stopped by to say hello and offer your support.

It's also been a busy few weeks tackling your priorities. After years of seeing GP services fail to keep pace with the growth of our community, pushing for action to expand these has been a big priority for me. So, it was fantastic to secure Shefford Health Centre one of the first investments as part of the Government's Neighbourhood Health Centre programme. It was great to visit the site with the local NHS this month to talk through the proposals, including five additional clinical rooms, thousands of extra appointments, and an expanded range of services. With works due between now and the end of March, we'll be pressing to ensure the best possible range of services for our area.

I also visited Stondon Surgery for their open meeting to get an update on their plans to expand. Proposals for an extra four clinical rooms are finally moving forward, and I am incredibly grateful to the surgery and their patients group for all their efforts pressing on this. Rest assured I'll be continuing to press CBC and the local NHS to get this over the line.

We also had some welcome wins directly in Meppershall, with CBC finally agreeing to act on repairs to Shefford Road (though we'll be continuing to press for fuller resurfacing), and works agreed to finally open the playpark at Westing Gardens after years of delay. A huge thank you to everyone who helped press for these.

Alongside these we had some breakthroughs on longstanding priorities this month. This includes securing an additional £150,000 of funding for Garden House Hospice and landing an agreement from the Government to write-off 90% of Central Bedfordshire's historic special educational needs debts, meaning millions previously wasted on interest payments can now be spent on provisions for our young people instead. I know both will make a real difference for those who rely on these services locally.

As ever, I am grateful to everyone who takes the time to contact me, and I encourage anyone who needs assistance or wishes to share their views to continue to reach out. My inbox is always open at alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk.



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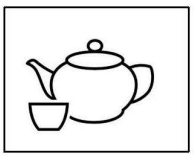
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Gnomes Coffee Mornings.

The 3RD Tuesday of the Month.

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Our next Coffee Mornings are Tues 17th November and 15th December.

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.

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If you have been invited to the Pensioners Christmas Lunch on 17th December and would like a lift please do give us a call.

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**





CAKE CAFE





Saturday 14th November 12.00pm to 4:00pm In the Oak Hall – **supporting the Table Top Sale**

All cakes will be provided for sale -

no donations are required for this event…thank you.

Sadly, this will be the last Cake Café….

The Cake Café was set up in May 2025 by Kevin Hankin and myself as a Meppershall Village Hall committee run monthly event…..and it has continued to date with Barry Gatenby stepping in when Kevin left the committee. The initial idea was to create a community café that would enable everyone to come together – whether that was by developing your inner baker and baking cakes, helping out at the café (like the lovely ladies from the Craft Club) or supporting the café by coming along for a slice of delicious cake, and to meet friends. The café has been so very well supported and we have been so grateful for all the lovely moments we've had these past 18 months, including the TAKE OVERS by the Brownies and the Mid Bedfordshire Cancer Support Group. As the cakes were donated each month, it has even inspired several of you to become new bakers….Roger, your cream scones were sold out as soon as the café opened…..and Barry, who knew lemon cheesecake could taste soooo delicious!!!

You will still be able to meet up with friends for a cuppa though as Meppershall Social Club will now be running a Breakfast Club on Saturday and Sunday mornings…..and we wish them every success!!

Once again, thank you so much for all of your support….and…now that we can….we hope to continue to see many of you for a cuppa and chat…on the other side of the counter!!!!

Barry and Mandie

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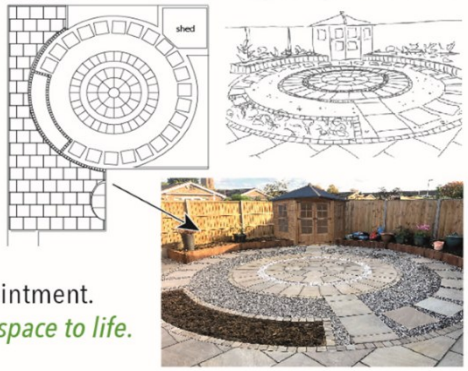
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Why Are These Adverts Following Me? By Lucy Standbridge

The Internet, Cookies & Ad Tracking

Have you ever searched online for a new pair of walking boots or a kettle, only to see adverts for that exact item follow you across every website, Facebook feed, and news page for the next fortnight?

It can feel spooky, almost as if your phone is listening to you and your private thoughts! The reality is far less sci-fi, and more about clever data trails. To get control back on what you see, let's understand how companies track your browsing habits, and learn how to reset this on your phone.

What on Earth Is a Cookie?

Nothing to do with a baked treat from Roger's Bakery, unfortunately.

A cookie is a tiny text file that is saved onto your web browser by a website you visit. Most websites use more than one:

- **First-Party Cookies (the helpful ones):** These remember useful details like what is in your Amazon basket, your preferred language, and enable you to stay logged in so you do not have to enter a password every time a new page loads.
- **Third-Party Cookies (the trackers):** These are placed for the benefit of advertising. When you view a product on a website, an ad tracker notes your interest and follows your browser to the next website, where it can display an advert for what you were looking at earlier.

The Aggressive Culprit: Facebook.

Ever wondered why Facebook seems to know what you browsed elsewhere within thirty seconds? That is thanks to a tiny snippet of code called the "Meta Pixel", which millions of online shops install on their sites. It reports your actions straight back to your Facebook profile.

Thankfully, you can turn off this cross-site tracking:

1. In the Facebook app, tap your menu icon, open **Settings & Privacy**, then tap **Settings**.
2. Tap into **Accounts Centre**, then select **Your information and permissions**.
3. Choose **Your activity off Meta technologies**.
4. Tap **Clear previous activity** to wipe your past history, and select **Manage future activity** to disconnect off-Facebook tracking permanently.

Your Secret Number: an Advertising ID.

Beyond cookies in your browser, your phone (and laptop, etc), have a unique identifier known as an Advertising ID.

This is like an anonymous profile tag attached to your device. App developers and marketing networks use it to group your interests together: what games you play, what apps you open, and what products you browse.

The bad news? The internet experience is pretty disjointed if you turn cookies off entirely.

The good news? You can sever that connection and start with a clean slate whenever you like.

How to Reset Your Ad ID (iPhone & Android)

Resetting your ID does not remove adverts entirely, but it wipes your historic browsing profile, stopping old searches from haunting your screen.

- **On iPhone (Apple iOS):**
    1. Open **Settings** and tap **Privacy & Security**.
    2. Tap **Tracking** at the top.
    3. Turn off **"Allow Apps to Request to Track"**. This blocks apps from sharing your activity with third-party advertisers automatically.
    4. Scroll down to **Apple Advertising** at the bottom of the main Privacy menu and toggle off **Personalised Ads**.

- **On Android:**
    1. Open **Settings** and tap **Google** (or **Manage your Google Account**).
    2. Select the **Privacy** or **All Services** tab, then tap **Ads**.
    3. Tap **Reset advertising ID** (or **Delete advertising ID** to remove it completely).
    4. Confirm your choice to immediately sever your previous browsing history from future adverts.

Two Quick Steps for Cleaner Browsing

- **Clear Browser Data:** In Safari, Chrome, or Edge, head into the app settings and select "Clear Browsing Data" once every few months to flush out accumulated tracker files.
- **Reject Non-Essential Cookies:** When those annoying pop-up banners appear on websites, avoid clicking "Accept All". Look for "Reject All" or "Essential Only" to keep tracking files off your device.

Tech Jargon Buster

- **Cookie:** A small data file stored on your browser that remembers website preferences or tracks browsing history.
- **Advertising ID:** A unique, anonymous string of numbers assigned to your smartphone that helps marketing platforms build an interest profile.
- **Off-Facebook Activity:** A summary of activity that businesses and organisations share with Meta about your interactions, such as visiting their apps or websites.

Taking a few minutes to reset these settings stops the digital clutter and keeps your online activity private. If you ever want assistance adjusting your device privacy settings or securing your online presence, feel free to catch me for a chat!

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



****

Flood Risks In Central Bedfordshire

During the national Flood Action Week campaign in October, Central Bedfordshire Council encouraged residents to consider how to be ready for periods of heavy rainfall and potential flooding. CBC emphasised how climate change is becoming increasingly evident, with communities experiencing more frequent and intense weather events linked to disruption and damage. Individual preparedness, they said, along with long-term action, are important to improve resilience.

CBC advises us all to understand our flood risk, prepare a flood plan and sign up for warnings before flooding happens, through the 'Flood Ready Together' initiative, which provides practical guidance. Download a free household flood plan that identifies key contacts and helps us plan for emergencies, with practical advice, checklists and information.

Wider measures include the Slow the Flow project at Etonbury Woods, where natural flood management measures are helping to slow and temporarily store water while enhancing local habitats and biodiversity. CBC is also working on new surface water drainage schemes in flood risk areas. Sustainable drainage planters have been installed in partnership with local communities in a number of locations, helping to capture and manage rainfall closer to where it falls. These features not only help reduce pressure on conventional drainage systems, but can also enhance local public spaces and demonstrate practical ways of managing water more sustainably.

There's also investment in better monitoring equipment for rainfall, water levels and local flood conditions, and partnerships with landowners and local communities to support long-term flood resilience such as watercourse management and adaption to changing weather patterns. Flooding can't always be prevented, but the Flood Ready Together information can help us to prepare. Find it at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/environmental-issues/flood-ready-together and www.befloodready.uk/centralbedfordshire.

Meppershall Social Club

A BIG THANK YOU FROM OUR BREAKFAST CLUB!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our very first Breakfast Club. We were absolutely thrilled with the turnout and loved seeing so many people enjoying a lovely breakfast, a good coffee and a catch-up.

One of the best things was seeing people chatting across the tables, meeting fellow villagers and enjoying their food together. It really was a lovely example of what our social club is all about — bringing our community together!

Join us every Saturday and Sunday, 9am–12 noon, for cooked breakfasts, bacon baps, cakes, pastries, coffee and more. Whether you fancy a hearty breakfast, a coffee and a treat, or simply a friendly chat, everyone is welcome. Eat in or take away.

Social Club Winter Opening Hours

- **Monday:** 7pm–10pm
- **Tuesday:** 7pm–11pm
- **Wednesday:** 7pm–11pm
- **Thursday:** 7pm–11pm
- **Friday:** 5pm–11.30pm
- **Saturday:** 3pm–11.30pm
- **Sunday:** 1.30pm–10pm

Breakfast Club: Saturdays and Sundays, 9am–12 noon.

What's On in November?

There's plenty happening at the club this month, with more planned for December.

- **Friday 6 November:** Bingo, 7pm
- **Sunday 8 November:** General Knowledge Quiz, 7.30pm
- **Friday 13 November:** Bingo, 7pm
- **Sunday 15 November:** AGM, 7pm
- **Friday 20 November:** Bingo, 7pm
- **Friday 27 November:** Bingo, 7pm
- **Saturday 28 November:** Christmas Light Switch-On Event — not to be missed!

Please come along to our AGM to have your say in how the club is run.

For the latest news and updates, follow our Facebook page or visit meppershallsocialclub.co.uk.

Thank you for supporting your village club. We look forward to welcoming you, whether it's for breakfast, a quiz, bingo or simply a drink and a chat. See you soon!

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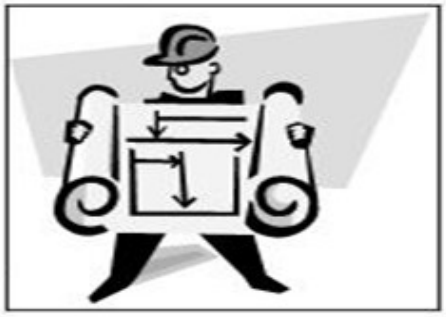
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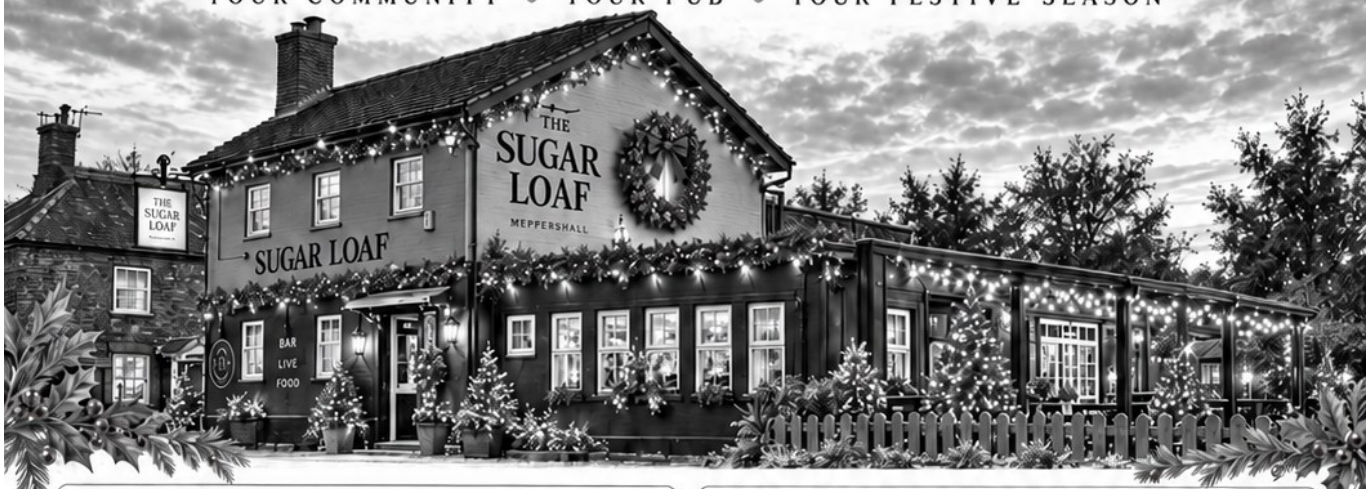
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Thoughts on Writing Your Wedding Vows

🌿 Carolyn's Celebrations and Memorials of Life and Love

Tips from Your Local Celebrant

If there is one thing I'd love you to take away from this guide, it's that your wedding vows don't need to be perfect. They simply need to be yours.

I have worked with many couples who begin the process feeling completely overwhelmed. They're worried they'll choose the wrong words, sound too emotional, not emotional enough, or somehow get it wrong. The truth is that there isn't a right way to write wedding vows. Every relationship is different, and your vows should reflect who you are as individuals and as a couple.

Whether you choose traditional wording, write your own promises from scratch, keep things short and simple, or include a few funny moments, the most important thing is authenticity. The vows that stay with people long after a wedding are not necessarily the most poetic. They're the ones that feel honest, personal heartfelt and real.

A good place to start is by thinking about what you love most about your partner and the promises you want to make for your future together. Some of the most meaningful vows are rooted in everyday life: promising to support one another through challenges, celebrate each other's successes, listen with kindness, and keep choosing each other every day.

If you are struggling to start, find a quiet space, try jotting down ideas; memories, qualities you admire in your partner, and/or hopes you have for your marriage. Do not worry about a polished first draft. Give yourself permission to write freely and refine your words later, when you read it through aloud. Often, the most genuine thoughts come when you are yourself.

Please remember that your vows are for each other. While guests will be listening, this is an incredible moment for you two. Focus less on what everyone else might think and more on expressing what is in your heart.

Be yourselves. Your wedding vows are an opportunity to celebrate your relationship, honour your commitment and share what matters. Trust your own voice, speak from the heart, and you will create something amazing that you will be proud of.

I offer a Wedding Vow Challenge Workbook as part of my wedding and vow renewal ceremonies. Filled with prompts, ideas, and inspiration, it helps you move from a blank page to vows that feel authentically yours.

If you would prefer more individual support, my Personal Vow Support Sessions provide dedicated one-to-one guidance. Together, we will explore your ideas, shape your wording and build your confidence, so you feel confident on your wedding day.

Get in Touch

You can reach me, **Carolyn Holmes**, on **07305 002858**, at ritesofw@gmail.com, or via my website: https://www.ritesofway.com/

Book your free ceremony chat to explore ideas and shape a celebration that truly reflects you. You can also find details about my dog naming, memorial, wedding, and vow renewal ceremonies on my website. I am local, so meeting up is easy.

Biggleswade & District Camera Club



The 2026/2027 Season has started. We meet on Thursday evenings, 7:30 for 8:00pm in "The Sullivan Room", Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade SG18 8JH. Our Season runs from late September to beginning of May.

Throughout the season we run competitions, with external judges. These are for both PDI's and Prints. There are a few specialists' subject rounds, but most are open for members to choose their own images. We also have speakers and presentations. Speakers have included Kevin Pigney, Thomas Peck, Andy Sands, Bob Brind-Surch and Chris Palmer.

On 12th November we have the David Tyler Memorial Lecture given by Rhiannon Lawler entitled:

"Finding My Way into the Wild."

On 3rd December we have a presentation by Bob Brind-Surch FRPS entitled

"From the Ordinary to the Extraordinary Part 2- Smart Shooting"

On 28th January we have a presentation by Naomi Saul ARPS EFIAP DPAGB APAGB ASINWP (EAF"A"} entitled:

"Landscapes and Villages of Tuscany"

The emphasis has always been on retaining the friendly and encouraging character of the club and prospective members, visitors and even photographic judges are warmly welcomed.

There is an annual Photo Walkabout, where members are challenged to obtain an image for each of six revealed topics.

The club enters interclub competitions, including the Cambridge Digital competition. We also have three-way battles with Ampthill/Bedford/Biggleswade and Kempston/Stevenage/Biggleswade.

For further information about the club please contact me at:

royhiggins1946@yahoo.co.uk

Or see the club website: www.biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk

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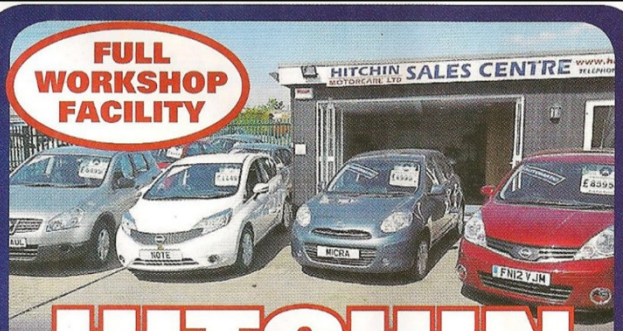
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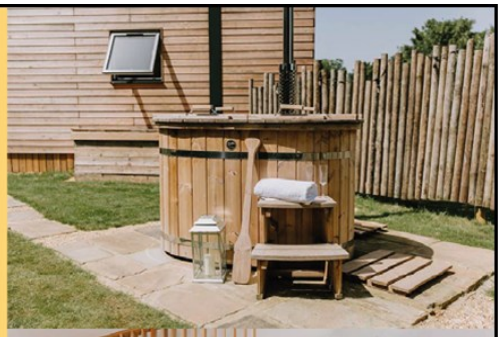
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www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk ✞ facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall



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…

On 1st November we celebrate All Saints Day. It is a feast day that honours all saints and martyrs, those known to us - whose example of holy living encourages us - and those known only to God.

That is followed by the more personal remembering of All Souls' Day: a time when we remember all those we have loved and see no longer. In England that tends to be a quiet and more private remembering, although in some countries families gather to clean graves, bring flowers and to remember together. (This may be a good opportunity for an end of season tidy up in our own Churchyard… Please do check the Churchyard Regulations - and if in doubt do consult Rector Roni. Also please do make sure that when a more permanent memorial has been put in place that the temporary wooden one is removed for ease of mowing. Thank you for your care of your loved one's final resting places).

This year a "Special Memories" service will be held on Wednesday 4th November at 9.45 in St Mary's Church, Meppershall. At this service we will remember by name those whose funerals or burials we have been privileged to conduct in the past year and all we have loved and lost. If there are others you would like to be remembered by name, please add their name to the list available in church from Sunday 18th October. After the Special Memories service refreshments will be served and the church will remain open for reflection and the lighting of candles - until 5pm.

Then, we move to a remembering which is both personal and communal - national and international - remembering all those who have lost their lives in time of war. According to our promise, "We will remember them," we continue to pay tribute to the millions killed or wounded in battle in both World Wars and those on the home front who struggled amidst pain and loss to help ensure freedom survived and peace returned. We think too, of those who have offered their lives since, still in protection of those freedoms.

I wish we could now say that we now live in a world of peace and justice, and enjoy the fair sharing of the world's resources. However, during this last year we have continued to see the devastation caused by war in too many places fill our TV screens and threaten again to spill into global conflict. Many today are living in fear of another

global conflict; they are finding the news so disturbing that they have stopped watching the news… as they pray earnestly for peace.

We know from experience that wars end when politicians finally come together around the negotiating table…

I say again: In our time there are many other causes that need the nations to work together - care of our shared earth; pollution of the air, the oceans and the land; the loss of biodiversity and endangered species, the human need for food and clean drinking water; the fight against disease… to name but a few of them. And I believe that this is much more the kind of "tomorrow" for which our brave service men and women believed that they were offering their "today."

Let us remember them, and commit to working for a just future for all humanity!

With love, Rector Roni

Church Events In November

Usual Pattern of Services

Sundays	11.00am	Morning Worship every Sunday Holy Communion: 2nd and 4th 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

Experience the warm welcome of St Mary's, your beautiful village church 😊

Sunday November 1st	11am Morning Prayer - All Saints' Day
Wednesday November 4th	9.45am Holy Communion in Church - Special Memories Church open until 5pm
Sunday November 8th	10.45am - Remembrance Sunday (Holy Communion at St Michael's at 9.30am)
Wednesday November 11th	9.45am Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday November 15th	11am Morning Prayer - 2 before Advent
Wednesday November 18th	9.45am Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday November 22nd	11am Holy Communion - Christ the King
Wednesday November 25th	9.45am Holy Communion in the Rectory
Sunday November 29th	10.30am. Benefice Service at St Michael's Shefford 6pm. *A Christmas Carol* read by Matt Jones. At St Mary's.

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


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News From The Tower

Want to try something new? Why not try bellringing!
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Let me know you're coming on 07778 449051.
Gill Marshall-Davies, Tower Captain

****

Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers

Thanks to everyone who joined the sunny Maulden Woods outing in October, it was a beautiful day. On November 8th we will mark Remembrance as we often have in the past with a walk that has a connection to special places of wartime history. This one is a loop a bit further further away (25 mins, worth the trip) on the big open spaces of nearby Cambridgeshire between Steeple Morden and Litlington, passing by the historic Anglo-American airfield memorial to 355th Fighter Group, USAF (World War 2).

Meet at 2PM (and park on the road) on Cheyney Street, Steeple Morden, between Russell Close and Cheyney Close (postcode SG8 0LR), just down from the memorial at the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Steeple Morden. From there, it's a 5 mile loop across to Litlington and its memorial at St Catherine's church, through the village and out to the ancient Icknield Way before finding the memorial to the 355th and returning to our starting point by around 4PM. There is one field crossing on the route, so consider your footwear especially if it is rainy. We need to be very mindful that the memorial itself is of course a solemn place. Call James and Miriam for more info (857836).



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Protect Yourself: Autumn Vaccinations

Eligible people can now come forward for their NHS flu and COVID-19 vaccinations ahead of winter.



Flu vaccination is now available to more groups, including people aged 65+, adults in at-risk groups, care home residents and carers. Flu vaccination is also available for eligible children.

Why does flu matter?

Flu is far more than a bad cold - it can lead to serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia, worsen existing health conditions, and in severe cases lead to hospitalisation or death. Because the flu virus changes each year, the vaccine is updated annually, so it's important to get vaccinated even if you had the vaccine last year.

COVID-19 vaccination is available to those at highest risk.

Find out more…

To learn more about eligibility and to book online:

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well/

For your guide to who's eligible for autumn 2026 flu vaccine:

https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/08/27/your-guide-to-whos-eligible-for-the-autumn-2026-flu-vaccine/

Autumn Days by Donna Cameron

Donna's Garden Designs l 07833 670934



After a glorious summer we have been blessed with an amazing Autumn. Working in the soft golden autumnal sunshine has been a joy. After some rain, the garden seemed to take on a second bloom. With flowers going on and on and giving us that extra bit of colour thats usually faded by this time of year.

I've been busy planting out designs, it'sa perfect time to do this with the ground still being warm. Come spring, these plants would have got their roots down and be ready to romp away next year.

Now of course it is moving to winter time, which means tidying up in the garden and preparing the garden for spring.

Some people leave things till February to cut back for bugs to nest. Another idea is to cut back but save the clippings and build them up in a bug teepee. This can be made with three or four uprights tied with string and packed inside with cuttings for the bugs to live in. Cosy!

November is also the time to plant Tulips when the skies are grey - come spring, you will be glad you did. With so many vibrant colours, shapes and forms they cannot disappoint. Plant crocus, Snakehead fritillaries and Daffodil bulbs in a lawn for a natural feel. So pretty.

Mulch your beds. Mulching is great as a weed suppressor , and it retains water - so important if we have another hot summer. It puts nutrients back into the soil. Just make sure you apply it when the soil is wet to keep the moisture in.

So, there is plenty still to do! Happy Gardening!

Donna x

Jobs In the Garden For November	
Clear up leaves from lawns and ponds Plant tulip bulbs Plant wallflowers in gaps of the borders Divide herbaceous perennials Lift parsnips after the first frosts when their flavour will be sweetened Prune apple and pear trees Set lawn mower to higher cut and cut if weather mild and grass still growing	Prune roses to protect from high winds by pruning them by a third to half their height Plant out winter bedding Clean greenhouse Put out bird food Give evergreen hedges final cut Sow broad beans Plant Amaryllis bulbs for Christmas

Trugs And Trowels (Campton Gardening Club) – November

When did pumpkins come to the UK?

Pumpkins came to Tudor England in the 16th century after being introduced to Europe by explorers and brought to England by the French. Initially known as pampions, these new world vegetables were not immediately popular but gained popularity over time as an exotic, versatile and easy to grow food and were often incorporated into dishes like pies. Previously, pumpkins had arrived in Europe from North America, brought by European explorers in the late 15th or early 16th century. Pompion or pompom evolved into the name pumpkin, an exotic curiosity for a time but considered less refined than other vegetables. Early recipes included them in soups and stews, a food fit for the poor or sometimes used as animal fodder. Europe's largest pumpkin producer is in Spalding, Lincolnshire. David Bowman grows and sells several million pumpkins per year to supermarkets in UK and to other suppliers across Europe.

The custom of carving vegetables for lanterns began with Irish immigrants in America who substituted pumpkins for turnips when they arrived in the new world. This American adoption of the custom of carving lanterns combined with the commercialisation of Halloween crossed the Atlantic re-entering Britain in the 20th Century transforming the role of pumpkins in UK culture. The popularity led to a massive increase in the UK making them a significant profitable crop. The trend of families going to pumpkin patches to pick your own popularised in the USA has become a significant autumn activity in the UK. In the UK, 33% cook the edible flesh they carve out, 20% put it in food waste collection, 19% add it to the compost heap and 25% throw it in the bin. A whopping 18,000 tonnes of pumpkin are thrown away each year, equivalent to 360 million portions of pumpkin pie, this being the scariest part of Halloween. Please be food-savvy and eat your pumpkin. Help rescue the pumpkin and treat yourself to some lovely autumn spiced pumpkin flapjacks: do not waste food!

Everyone is welcome to Gardening club and I look forward to seeing you on 2nd November when a talk will be given by Andrew Spicer on algae as a food source. Andrew is a molecular and cell biologist who founded Algenuity, a successful algal biotechnology company. His work has created microalgae and microalgal-based solutions to food, personal care and well-being challenges and he is passionate about the environment.

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TIMETABLE - VALID FROM 2nd September 2024

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As from 2nd 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

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

Buses available for PRIVATE HIRE – Call for Quote.


MEPPERSHALL
PARISH COUNCIL
Meppershall's
Christmas Tree Lights
Switch on Festivities
Saturday 28 November 2026
at
Meppershall Village Hall
& Walnut Way
3pm - 7:30pm Craft stalls
3pm - 5pm FREE Children's craft activities
5pm - 5:30pm Lights Switch On
5:30pm - 7:30pm Santa's Grotto - Free gift to under 12's
5:30pm - 8pm Food available
6pm - 8pm Kids Karaoke
8pm - late Social Club Entertainment


VOLUNTEER MARSHALS NEEDED
for
Meppershall's Christmas Tree Lights Switch on Festivities
When: Saturday 28th November 2026
Time: 4:20pm to 5:45pm
No training needed just attendance at pre-event briefing.
To volunteer email:
clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk


MEPPERSHALL
PARISH COUNCIL
FREE
Meppershall
Pensioners
Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17 December 2026
12:30 – 14:30
at
Meppershall Village Hall
Meppershall Parish Council would like to invite you to a light Christmas lunch to enjoy with friends.
To book please email clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk or phone 07480 251746 with names of attendees, their address and any dietary requirements.

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Based in Meppershall - Serving surrounding areas

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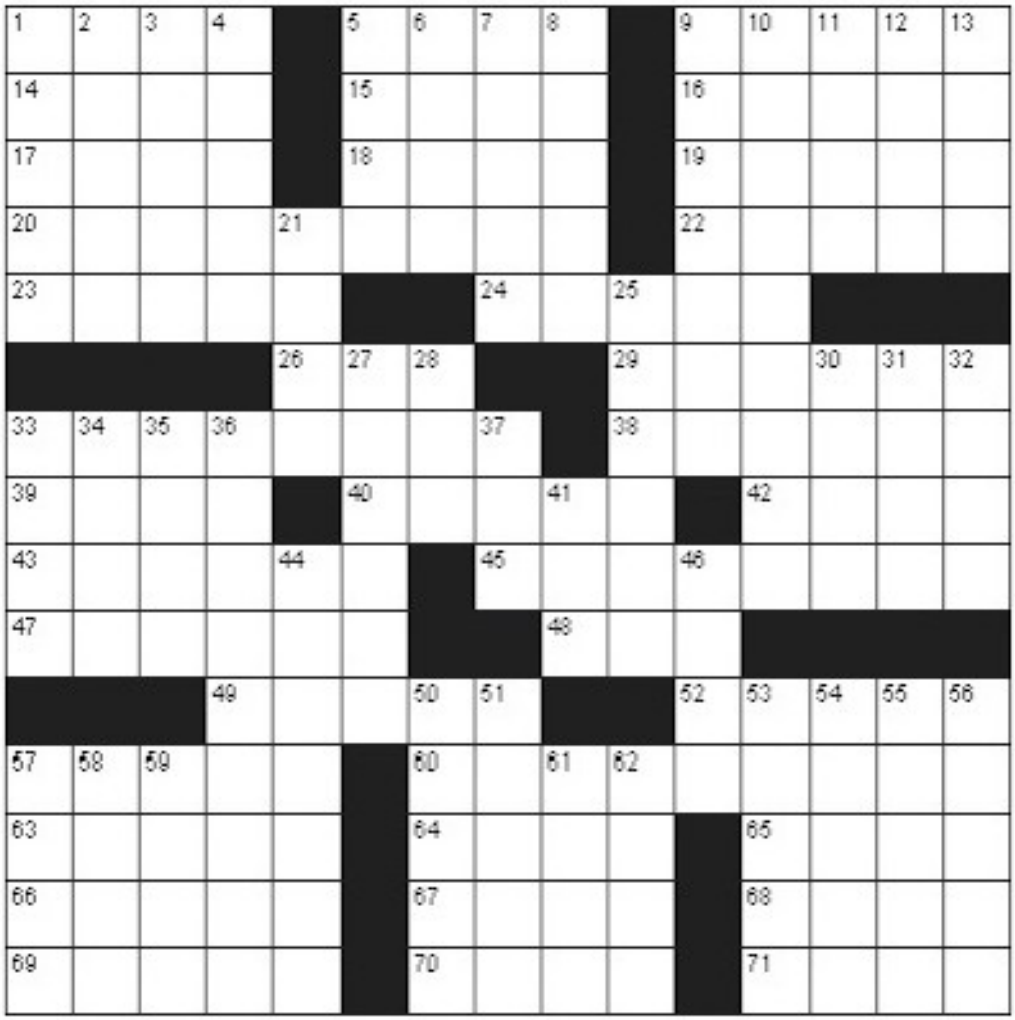
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11 Ampthill Road,
Shefford SG17 5BE
01462 628628



ACROSS

1. Goddess of discord (Greek mythology)
5. A diving duck
9. Glue
14. Dreadful
15. Technician (abbrev.)
16. Not inner
17. Style or grace
18. Against
19. Celebrities
20. Relating to female monthly discharges
22. 1000 kilograms
23. Farewell
24. Locate and correct programming errors
26. Gist
29. Reach a destination
33. Generic Valium
38. Weighted down with weariness
39. Cancel or reverse an action
40. Casing
42. Appealed earnestly
43. Extremely few in number
45. Instructors
47. Pharynx
48. Bother
49. Analyze chemically
52. Publish a magazine
57. Smooth and shiny
60. Making amorous advances
63. Heart artery
64. Supplements with difficulty
65. Initial wager
66. Armada
67. Tongue of a wagon
68. Raised platform
69. Plant life
70. Increases or sums
71. Fine earth floating in rivers

DOWN

1. Swelling under the skin
2. Annoyed
3. Pertaining to modern day Persia
4. Feel
5. A sun
6. List of choices
7. Outward
8. An indeterminate length of time
9. Bearing
10. Signature
11. Anagram of "Ants"
12. A small slender gull
13. Gaelic
21. Melody
25. A narrative song
27. Emotionally disturbs
28. „____ humbug!"
30. Inactive
31. Swerve
32. Finishes
33. Anagram of "Stud"
34. 1/12th of a foot
35. Hebrew month
36. A Persian prophet (628-551 BC)
37. Encountered
41. Meadow
44. A Sicilian sponge cake
46. Metal money
50. Sporting venue
51. Harnessed
53. A large amount
54. A desert in northeastern Egypt
55. Up to a time
56. Eliminate from the body
57. An iron hook with a handle
58. Hang laxly
59. Chocolate cookie
61. Brew of fermented honey
62. Vipers

Useful Contact Details In Meppershall

DEFIBRILLATORS – outside School, Village Hall and Budgens

DOCTORS, DENTISTS, PHARMACIES

NHS Direct 111

Dr Baxter & Partners
Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive, Shefford SG17 5FS

Appointments	01462 810034
General queries, prescriptions etc.	01462 818620
Lower Stondon GP Practice	
109 Station Rd Lower Stondon SG16 6JJ	01462 850305
Shefford Dental Practice, 34 High St Shefford	01462 814020
Shefford Dental Clinic, 99 Hitchin Rd Shefford	01462 648465
Jardines Chemist, 7 High St Shefford	01462 813283
Shefford Pharmacy, Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive	01462 818633

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

Hospitals

Bedford Hospital	01234 355122
Lister Hospital, Stevenage	01438 314333
Luton and Dunstable Hospital	01582 491166

Utilities

Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Anglian Water	03457 145145
Electrical (power cuts, overhead cable down etc)	0800 3163105
	(Or 105 from a landline)

Central Beds Council 0300 300 8301

CBC Councillor for Gravenhurst, Meppershall, Shillington:

Blake Stephenson	blake.stephenson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
	0300 300 8526
Highways Emergencies	0300 300 8000
Other enquiries:	https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/contact

Parish Council Clerk

Alessandra Marabese clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk

Member of Parliament:

Alistair Strathern MP C/O House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
020 7219 6004
alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk

St Marys Church

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

See full details in the church pages of The Meppershall Messenger

Library: High St Shefford 0300 300 8067

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

Whitbread Wanderbus service

Stephanie Kirby thewanderbus@gmail.com

Food and Supplies

Budgens Stores, Post Office, High Street

Rogers Bakery, High Street 01462 813398

The Sugar Loaf, 25 High St 01462 239231

Schools

Samuel Whitbread Academy, Clifton 01462 629900

Redborne Upper School, Ampthill 01525 404462

Henlow Academy 01462 813733

Robert Bloomfield, Shefford 01462 628800

Meppershall Academy, High Street 01462 813293

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

meppershallps@gmail.com

Meppershall Munchkins, Melanie Choonos

meppershallmunchkins@gmail.com

Organisations

The Players @ STMA, Karen Mitchell 01462 816336

Meppershall Good Neighbours (GNOMES) 07760 793921

Meppershall Brownies Meppershallbrownies@gmail.com

Shefford Guides, Angie Griffiths 07957 462519

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

Kathy Georgiou 01462 629313

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

Meppershall Village Hall Trustees trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

Meppershall Village Hall Bookings bookings@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

Bookings Tel. 07485 102727

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 emails (address below) but handwritten contributions may be submitted. As a guide to length of articles, one page of the magazine without pictures is around 500 words. Contributions should be received by the Editor not later than the Friday 10 days prior to the collation dates listed below 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. We are always grateful for your articles, letter, opinions and information.

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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Treasurer	John Thompson	meppershallmessenger@meppershall.org

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
Dec-Jan 2026-7	Tues 1st December	July 2027	Tues 29th June
February 2027	Tues 26th January	Aug-Sept 2027	Tues 27th July
March 2027	Tues 23rd February	October 2027	Tues 28th September
April 2027	Tues 30th March	November 2027	Tues 26th October
May 2027	Tues 27th April	Dec-Jan 2027-8	Tuesday 30th Nov
June 2027	Tues 1st June	February 2028	TBC

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