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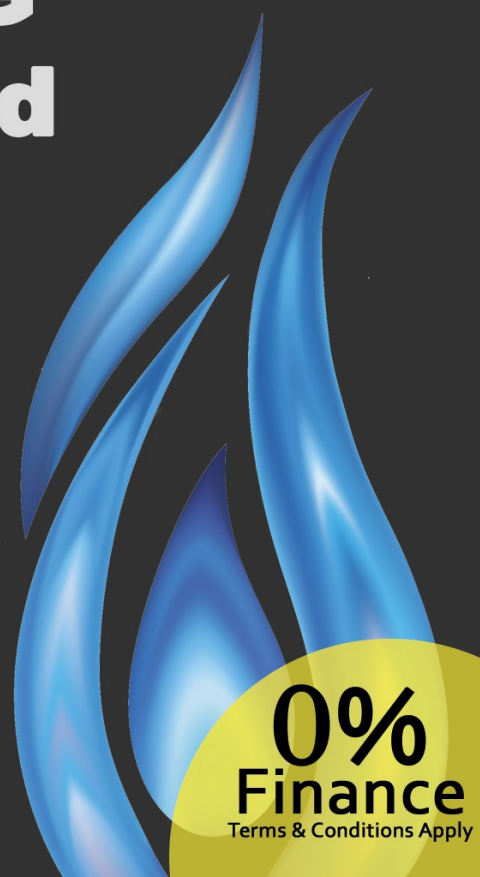
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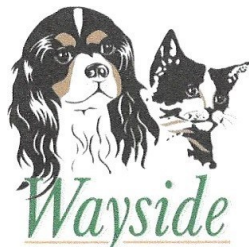
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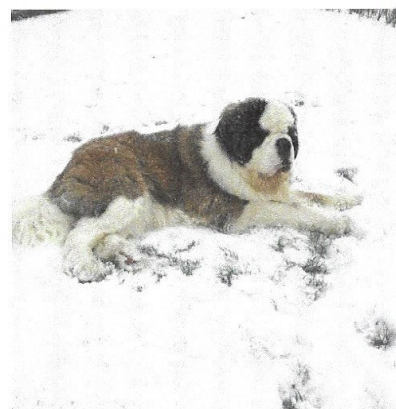


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## Editorial by Mick Ridley and James Read

“We should get together!” How often have we said that to a friend or neighbour but then allowed a week, a month or even a year to go by? Let’s hope for improving public health advice over the summer, some good weather and some opportunities to meet up.



Lifestyles in the village are very diverse these days and village life is all the richer for that. Many of us may have “best friends” living right beside us or just down the road - long established networks of people dear to us, right on our doorstep. Many others have come to the village to be nearer to work, or to start a new quieter life – with loved ones and close friends quite a journey away. Some can always rely on “somebody who knows somebody” locally – while many others commute some distance (in normal times) and spend daytimes in a completely different place.

For people who find themselves with less day-to-day company than they would like, Meppershall is hopefully a place where new friendships are possible. It might be a friendly neighbour, a new person to chat with in the village shop, a visit to the Village Hall for Meppershall Social Club or the Walnut Tree Café... the church, the Gnomes, a local club or a walk in our amazing countryside with somebody new. There are ways to find great company right here. If that’s you, why not reach out this summer?

There’s always room to add a new friend to your life... someone you’ve seen at the school gate and never said ‘hello’ to, a neighbour who you’ve always greeted warmly but never actually chatted with properly, that person when you’re out walking who knows how you wave and nod as you pass, but doesn’t know how you’re feeling... or just a new face to the village.

Reaching out can be important. It mostly makes life nicer – and reaching out might make a massive difference to somebody else.

Some of us really value the feeling of the whole village coming together. That’s probably why we work on village magazines, or help organise school events, perform with the Meppershall Players or volunteer at the Village Fair. We value the sense of “place” and words like “community” as fundamental parts of our lives.

A wonderful article on page 15 from Karen Mitchell tells of a Meppershall Players performance almost 40 years ago – with all of its drama and characters (on and off the stage) and the huge sense of fun for performers and audience alike. We’re lucky to have the Players and their performances, bringing us together (back in the village hall someday, we sincerely hope!)

Maybe it is time to start thinking about resuming our great village events: the Village Hall premises and fields will soon be well established, we hope the church will soon be back to normal, the Social Club is already back in action with performances and events (page 10). Anybody up for a Fair, a Firework Show or a Christmas Extravaganza? We should get together.

## Letters to the Editors

### Dear Editors

I would like to thank everyone for their very kind and touching messages, telephone calls, cards and flowers following the loss of my Mother. They are much appreciated and a great comfort to me.

Love to you all,

**Colette**

### Dear Editors

Congratulations to Robin and Sonia who were married on the 4th of June at Woodhall Manor, Woodbridge near Sutton Hoo in Suffolk.

Many people in Meppershall will know Robin Milner and his Supra in the photo, he has shown his car at many Meppershall Summer Fairs.

Robin met Sonia at a friend's wedding where he was driving the groom and Sonia was the Maid of Honour. They have made the same vows as their good friends on that day when they first met.

May we wish both Robin and Sonia a very happy marriage and a wonderful future together.

**Sandra Bowden**

*Congratulations, Rob, from the whole team at The Meppershall Messenger!!*





## Dear Editors

With all the newcomers to the village I thought it might be the time again to remind everyone of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which is free to join. Just visit [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) open the Join section and register. Once registered you can ask to join the Meppershall Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which will provide you with a membership booklet and door and window stickers. If other near neighbours join it may then be possible (as Walnut Tree Way) to have street signage to deter any potential intruders etc.

Lots of helpful security advice is available as well as a potential saving on house insurance. Stay Safe -

Yours sincerely

**Anthony Seaman**

**Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Neighbourhood Safety – Can You Help?

**Meppershall Speedwatch** team needs volunteers to assist in running Speedwatch sessions within our village.

Speedwatch is designed to increase awareness of the necessity to obey speed limits within our village for the safety of pedestrians and other road users.

Using calibrated equipment supplied by Bedfordshire Police, the Speedwatch team records motorists exceeding the speed limit. The record is then processed by Bedfordshire Police with a letter sent to the vehicle owner emphasising the safety aspects of obeying speed limits. Should the vehicle user be reported 3 times then it is possible that Bedfordshire Police will take further action.



Sessions are usually run weekday mornings or afternoons and last for no more than 1.5 hours, so if you have spare time and would like to help keep our village safe please contact us. Very little training/instruction is required and sessions can be arranged to suit members' commitments.

If you are willing to help please send an e mail to: [colettehouse@gmail.com](mailto:colettehouse@gmail.com) or an SMS to : 07831 111062 or 07936 181683 with your name, number and the word 'Speedwatch' and we will get back to you to discuss your involvement.

*Please note all communication/data will be kept anonymously*



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## **COVID Info: Have You Had the Jab?**

Anyone over the age of 18 is now being invited to get their COVID-19 vaccine by calling 119, through local walk-in options (at <https://bit.ly/2U4IYGT>) or through the National Booking Service: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>

It's the largest vaccination programme in the history of the NHS. The vaccine is being offered to more and more people in our area every week.

### **How do vaccines work?**

Vaccines teach your immune system how to protect you from diseases. It's much safer for your immune system to learn this through vaccination than by catching the diseases and attempting to fight them.

### **Can I catch Covid-19 from the vaccine?**

No. You cannot catch Covid-19 from taking the vaccine but having the vaccine could stop you from becoming seriously ill if you catch the infection.



### Should I be concerned about the speed the vaccine was made available?

The speed in which the vaccines have been developed does not mean that they are unsafe. The technology used to develop the vaccine is not new. It's been tried and tested for decades. It is with this technology and massive global investment to develop a Covid-19 vaccine that has allowed it to be available so quickly.

Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through lots of clinical trials and safety checks, like all other licensed medicines, before it is approved. The Covid-19 vaccines used in the UK have been declared as effective by the UK's independent Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulator (MHRA) after extensive trials. Read more at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/vaccinations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/vaccinations).

### What about getting a Covid-19 test?

Find information about using the simple rapid lateral flow self-test conveniently in your own home at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or by calling 119. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others. The test usually involves taking a sample from your tonsils (or where they would have been) and from your nose, using a swab. You can get a result in 30 minutes. Please consider testing if you are going to be with other people, whether or not you have been vaccinated.

## GNOMES (Meppershall Good Neighbours)



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As we near the end of the current pandemic restrictions **GNOMES** would like to remind everyone that we are still around and willing to help where we can.

Our facebook page is regularly updated with useful information on help and resources available locally.

Currently, we can undertake jobs that do not involve close contact but cannot undertake transport jobs or any which require entering a client's home.

Whatever your need, call us on **07760 793921, Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm** and if we cannot help then we will try our best to find someone or some organization that can.

### We can help with:

Collecting prescriptions, groceries and other essential provisions for the Over 70s, vulnerable and self-isolating residents.





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Helping direct you to other organisations and support services where needed and help with advice and information on local suppliers of food and other essential supplies.

Please keep an eye out for those around you and if you think they need help, but you are unable to give it, then please call the **GNOMES** on **07760 793921**.

If you would like to help people in your community and could volunteer on a one-off or regular basis then give us a call and join our friendly team of volunteers.

## Meppershall Parish Council: Meeting on Monday 14th June.

**Public Session** – CBC Ward Councillor Mark Liddiard provided an update on Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) activities as follows:

- The Library in Shefford is fully open from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June.
- Chapel Road marked out for patching works. Due to the extent of patching required he will contact Highways to suggest re-surfacing of the road.
- Chapel Road has had monitoring traffic flow tubes installed (number of vehicles passing and at what speeds). Results pending
- CBC received £225k in Welcome Back funding from the Government to be spread across all towns and parishes e.g.: Shefford received £6k to organise markets.
- CBC received £332k from the Government's Safer Street fund that will go towards CCTV, street lighting, parking areas, video doorbells, asset marking systems in areas of crime etc.
- East West Rail Consultation – CBC are keen that parish councils respond. Their two focus area are:
  - 3000 new homes to be built near Marston Vale therefore a Rail bypass needed around Liddlington.
  - Tempsford is a future strategic site and CBC would support a line south of St. Neots.

### Questions / Comments from the public

- An allotment tenant requested that the Clerk investigate plots that have become overgrown. *The Clerk advised of an imminent allotment inspection.*
- Flooding outside 55A to 55C High Street. Water is pooling despite a drain being installed. *It was requested that photos of the pooling water and additional details be added to CBC's Fix My Street.*



- The Chairman advised that he has received a letter from a resident regarding Old Road Meadow and asking:
  - Are the goal posts staying? *The Clerk advised that they would as they were well used.*
  - Can saplings be transposed to other areas and can oak saplings be planted in the nature reserve? *Councillors agreed that an Environment and Leisure working group meeting should be held to discuss issues raised and that the resident be asked to join the meeting.*

### **Clerk's Report and Matters Arising**

- CBC road closure 9393 of Shefford Road from the junction of Emery Croft to the roundabout. Start date 26th July – End Date 3<sup>rd</sup> September.
- CBC road closure 9290 of Shefford Road from 19th to 21st July. *Ward Cllr Liddiard will investigate if this closure can be carried out at the same time as CBC 9393.*

### **Procedures, Consultations & Legal**

An expression of interest in co-option was received from Mr Peter Crossley who had served as a councillor for Meppershall previously. Council resolved to co-opt Mr Crossley onto the MPC and it was agreed that Cllr Crossley would join the Planning Working Group.

MPC Social Media Policy v1.1 was adopted by Council.

Council approved the launch of a new website on [www.meppershall.org](http://www.meppershall.org) and the addition of a 'Website Directory' titled 'Supporting Meppershall Organisations - Keeping it local' listing Meppershall organisations. Where possible links to the organisations' website and contact details will be provided. All local organisations will be able to submit an application for inclusion in the directory on the new website.

Council resolved to support both Gravenhurst Neighbourhood Plan and Campton & Chicksands Neighbourhood Plan - Submission Consultation (Regulation 16).

**Centenary Field Parish Facilities** – The Clerk updated Council on the handover of Centenary Field. A letter from Croudace was received on 27th May with a draft Settlement Agreement. The working group amended the Settlement Agreement as Croudace want it to be a full and final settlement of any future claims that may arise. As Meppershall Village Hall was designed and constructed by Croudace, we have no way of knowing whether there may be any fundamental structural issues that may arise in the future. MVHT and MPC are happy to confirm that we are not currently aware of any such potential claims. The working group have included a mutual obligation for Croudace to progress the transfer without delay. On 7th June Croudace responded saying that the settlement sums offered were on the basis that this is a final settlement for all matters and have referred MVHT to consider the provisions made in the original contract. Croudace cannot accept a settlement that implies in some way that, notwithstanding the contractual position, there continues

to be contractual liability for them. On 8th June, solicitors representing MPC and MVHT were asked to review the draft settlement agreement and consider/advise as to the appropriate amendments required to safeguard MVHT's and MPC's positions.

**Stocken House Green Open Space** – The Clerk reported that Davidsons Homes have forwarded a draft management agreement, transfer and other documents concerning the open green space. A detailed review of the management agreement is required to ensure that MPC understand the implications of the handover, in particular any ongoing post-handover obligations which seem to be wrapped up in CBC planning consent. In the event that MPC proceed with handover MPC will need to provide Davidsons with the details of a solicitor acting on our behalf. It was proposed to use solicitors currently dealing with the Croudace handover. The Clerk will contact CBC for assistance in understanding obligations of the planning permission granted. Documentation and findings with proposals to be presented to MPC at the next meeting.

**Finance** – Council reviewed and approved income, expenditure, purchase orders, journal entries, bank reconciliations, bank statements and authorised a schedule of payments.

**Planning and Housing** - MPC considered planning applications relevant to Meppershall as follows:

- i. CB/21/02080/LB - Fowlers Farm, 28 High Street - Variation of the design to the garage - *No Objections*
- ii. ii. CB/21/01596/FULL - 40 Fildyke Road - Front porch, rear loft conversion and rear conservatory conversion - *No Objections*
- iii. iii. CB/21/02290/FULL - 113 High Street - Single storey front, side and rear extensions, part two storey rear extension, loft extension and conversion - *No Objections*
- iv. CB/21/02334/VOC - 84 Fildyke Road, SG17 5LU - Variation (or removal) of condition numbers 17 of planning permission CB/20/03505/VOC - *No Objections*
- v. Council endorsed Gravenhurst Parish Council objection to planning application CB/21/02011/OUT - Greenwoods, Land North of Higham Road and East of the A6 Bedford Road, Barton Le Clay – 3850 new dwellings and associated development, and will submit its own objection letter.

**MPC 'capital projects'** – Councillors requested that the Clerk add to the MPC 'capital projects' list the following:

- Vehicle Activated Signs
- Footpath to Shefford
- MPC Cemetery planning and set up

**Neighbourhood Plan** – The Clerk reported that a meeting was held on 27th May to carry out the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) handover. Items covered included; the end of grant report, new grant application, draft NP and consultation document. End of grant report submitted on 1st June. New grant submission to be made by the Clerk



when quotations received for inclusion. Advice sought from consultant regarding Regulation 14 consultation. The Chairman advised of an offer to assist with Regulation 14 feedback from Mrs A Lester.

**Highways and Transport** – Cllr Seaman thanked Cllrs Brown, Liddiard and Morgan for assisting with the village walk about. He brought to the attention of council that the s278 agreement as part of the 15 Shillington Road development has still not been completed. It is 6 months since presentation of the highways petition to CBC at the Traffic Management Meeting when CBC Ward Councillor and Portfolio Holder Cllr Dalgarno called for a holistic approach, which now seemingly means that Meppershall residents may have to wait 2-3 years for any major road improvements such as road re-surfacing, chicanes, crossings etc. as improvements will not take place until all speed measurement readings are taken and major housebuilding developments are completed. The proposed reduction to 40mph on the A507 was still awaiting a response from Beds Police.

**Environment and Leisure (Centenary Field Parish Facilities)** - The Clerk reported:

- The installation of a wooden gate and kissing gate on the Crackle Hill track is pending handover.
- The Clerk and Cllr Thompson meet with AA Sherriffs to discuss planned works on Monday 24th May. Sherriffs will be sending over revised quotations with start dates for work and will arrange to dig test pits to ensure nothing untoward is buried beneath the Centenary Field grass.
- Pitch and field grass cutting organised.

**Health & Safety and Risk Management (Community Safety)** – The Clerk reported that subsequent to a meeting with Beds Police and CBC Community Safety Officers on 21st April:

- Combatting ASB - Storage containers to be painted so that youths cannot climb up. Items under the tarpaulin and bench to be removed. Benches have been secured to the ground
- Speeding - PCSO Lee et al to carry out speed enforcement work on Shefford Road. Cllr Seaman raised this issue with the new PCC on 7th June.
- Dog Fouling - Clerk has provided CBC with list of hotspot areas so that they can be added to the patrol list.
- Youth Activities – Grand Union Housing Group (GUHG) are looking at the youth activities they are able to offer Meppershall over the summer and beyond. The Clerk has suggested that they link up with CBC Youth Engagement Teams to offer a Youth Club in the village. If you think you could help set up a Youth Club in the village, please contact the Clerk at: [clerk@meppershall.org](mailto:clerk@meppershall.org).
- Community Safety Group - CBC Safer Communities Officers to contact the Clerk to assist in setting up.

**The next meeting of Meppershall Parish Council will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Meppershall Village Hall at 7.45pm.**

John Thompson, Chairman - Meppershall Parish Council.

## **Meppershall Parish Council: Focus on Planning and Housing Working Group**

Members are: The Clerk, Cllrs Chapman, Crossley and Thompson

### **Role of the working group and MPC in planning applications**

After a planning application is accepted by CBC, statutory consultees and affected residents are notified. At this point the Clerk forwards the application details to councillors with information on the deadline date for a response and the MPC meeting date at which the application will be discussed. The Planning and Housing working group will review the application documents and details and make recommendations to Council at the next meeting. MPC are always pleased to receive constructive feedback from residents on planning applications either via email before, or during monthly parish council meetings for consideration. Once MPC agree whether to comment on, object to, or support a planning application, a formal written response is made.

Although MPC is a statutory consultee for planning applications submitted within the parish, MPC is not a Planning Authority and as such it has no statutory powers to reject planning applications, nor to impose conditions on planning applications that are approved.

### **Avoid wasting time**

Let's be honest, when submitting objections, only certain issues (known as material planning considerations) will be taken into account in deciding the planning application. These include the following (*not an exhaustive list*):

1. Local, strategic and national planning policies, plus emerging new plans that have been through at least one stage of consultation
2. Previous planning and appeal decisions, plus principles of case law held through the courts
3. Overshadowing and loss of light based on Building Research Establishment guidance
4. Overlooking and loss of privacy
5. Highway issues, including traffic generation, vehicular access and highway safety
6. Noise and disturbance from proposed use, including operating hours
7. Smells and fumes
8. Storage and handling of hazardous materials
9. Effect on listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments and archaeology
10. Loss or effect on trees
11. Adverse impacts on nature conservation interests and biodiversity
12. Layout and density of building design, visual appearance and finishing materials
13. Landscaping and means of enclosure



Issues that are not relevant to the decision-making process and cannot be taken into account include the following (*not an exhaustive list*):

- loss of view
- negative impact on property value
- land and boundary disputes between neighbours and/or damage to property
- private rights of access and covenants
- the impact of construction work
- opposition to business competition
- personal morals or views about the applicant
- opposition to the principle of development if this has been decided by an outline planning permission or appeal decision.
- matters controlled under other non-planning legislation, for example, building regulations

### **Make your voice heard**

The easiest way to find and comment on planning applications is on CBC's planning portal

(<http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/AcolNetCGI.gov>)

You can often see details of planning applications attached to lamp posts, or telegraph poles close to the property with the application. In addition to providing your feedback on CBC's website you can also write to them or send them an email.

Remember, CBC will not record or consider comments that are made verbally, made in person, made by telephone, posted on social media pages (including CBC's own pages) or that contain offensive, defamatory or discriminatory language.

MPC will often call upon the support of the whole village in its objections to planning applications. It provides help with wording to be used by individuals in objecting to planning applications on its website [www.meppershall.org](http://www.meppershall.org) and on its Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MeppershallParishCouncil/> so please look out for these and get involved.

### **In order to refuse a planning application, the CBC Planning Officer must:**

- Identify the specific problem (it must be a relevant material planning consideration)
- Identify the harm that it would cause to the public interest
- Set the objection in a policy context

Alessandra Marabese

Clerk - Meppershall Parish Council

PS: Meppershall Parish Council have a number of working groups and committees who assist the council. Membership of these can be found at on our website [www.meppershall.org](http://www.meppershall.org)



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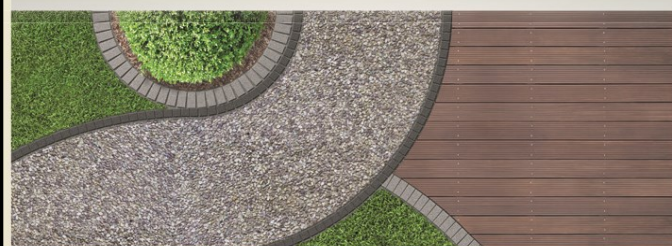
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## **Your Chance to Become a Councillor**

**Meppershall Parish Council needs two new team members; if you think you would like to join the team contact the Clerk on 07930 813808 or email [clerk@meppershall.org](mailto:clerk@meppershall.org)**

### **What is a councillor?**

Councillors are elected to represent an individual geographical ward or parish, in Meppershall it is the entire parish. They are generally elected by the public every four years, but there are Co-option spaces available on the Parish Council at the moment as Councillors Karlake, Austin and Thomason have given their resignations to the Parish Council.

### **What do councillors do?**

Councillors have three main components to their work:

1. Decision making - Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
2. Monitoring - Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
3. Getting involved locally - As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:
  - Going to meetings of local organisations such as the Beds Police Priority Setting Meetings
  - Reviewing planning applications
  - Participating in litter picks
  - Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public

### **How much time does it take up?**

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about an hour a week. Obviously, there are some councillors who spend more time than this - and some less, but in the main, being a parish councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to village life, and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

As a councillor representing the parish you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.

If after reading this notice you are interested in applying please visit our website <https://www.meppershall.org/index.php/parish-council/councillors> for more information and contact the Clerk to the Council on 07930 813808 or email [clerk@meppershall.org](mailto:clerk@meppershall.org)

**The closing date for applications to be considered at our July meeting is**  
**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July.**

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## Queen's Birthday Honours List for Bedfordshire

HM The Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2021 has been announced and includes seven Bedfordshire recipients.



### **Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire**

Professor Helen Valerie ATKINSON CBE FREng (Bedford), Pro-Vice Chancellor, Aerospace, Transport and Manufacturing, Cranfield University  
For services to Engineering and Education

### **Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)**

Professor Martin Graham CHRISTOPHER (Bedford), Emeritus Professor of Marketing and Logistics, Cranfield School of Management, Cranfield University  
For services to Business, Academia and the UK Economy

### **Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)**

Ms Grace Louisiana COLLINS (Bedford), Leadership Advisor, Local Government Association . For services to Local Government

### **Mrs Caroline Jane COSTER (Bedford)**

For services to Education in Bedfordshire and to Charity in Africa

### **Ms Maria Freda LOVELL (Luton)**

For services to the African Community in Bedfordshire during COVID-19

### **Mr Peter SMITH (Central Bedfordshire)**

For services to Wildlife and Conservation in Bedfordshire

### **Medallists of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)**

### **Mr Paul Charles LATIMER (Central Bedfordshire)**

For services to the community in Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire during COVID-19

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis said: "I am delighted for the Bedfordshire residents who have been recognised in HM The Queen's Birthday Honours list. This is richly deserved recognition of their significant achievements and service in many different fields and in voluntary work. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen many more people step up and go the extra mile to help their neighbours and it is enriching to see those people rewarded. I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to all the recipients".

Nominations for the Queen's 2022 Birthday Honours are already open. You can nominate someone! Check the website <https://www.gov.uk/honours>. Two letters of support should be sent to [Honours@communities.gov.uk](mailto:Honours@communities.gov.uk). The deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> September. The Parish Council has also been asked to consider its local nominations.

## **Financial Matters by Paul Savuto**

### **Retirement Planning**

When most people think of retirement, they think of pensions. And quite rightly so, as pensions are most people's only form of income throughout their 'golden years.'

However, retirement planning is so much more than 'what will my pensions give me at retirement?.' It is about the different ways that you can draw upon your pensions, such as whether you buy a type of Annuity or if you choose to draw flexibly from your pension via a relatively new concept called Flexi-Access Drawdown. We will get onto those in more detail in a moment.

It can be a daunting time and many of our existing clients over the years have become clients during this period of their lives. Most people find themselves saving into pensions their whole working lives to finally get to retirement with no clue of what they need in terms of income throughout their retirement, or how that income will be paid to them.

That is where we can help you decide on the most suitable way to take your pensions and when to start taking them. We can use a range of different ways to bring your retirement plans to life, such as cash flow planning, helping you work out budgets and showing you that your dream round-the-world holiday of a lifetime, or that car you have wanted for many years can be a possibility as opposed to just a fantasy.

Retirement planning is about making the most out of what you already have in place, making further savings if possible and needed, and seeing the bigger picture in relation to your finances. The sooner you start thinking about your retirement, the more time we have to get a robust plan in place and start working towards a more prosperous and rewarding future.

### **Drawdown**

Drawdown, or Flexi-Access Drawdown as it is also called, is the option to access your pension benefits flexibly. Rather than having to buy an annuity you can choose to take your Tax-Free Cash (usually 25% of the pension fund value) and then leave the remaining 75% invested until you either need a regular income or you wish to take lump sums and are taxable at your highest marginal income tax rate.

The beauty of Drawdown is that you can manage withdrawals tax-efficiently whilst benefitting from investment growth. It is important that the underlying investments are invested according to the level of risk you are both willing to take and can afford to take. We can help you decide on the right investments throughout your retirement to make sure your pot is working as hard as possible for you.

### **Annuity**

An annuity is a type of retirement income product that you buy with some or all your pension pot. It pays a regular retirement income either for life or for a set period. Annuities are retirement income products sold by insurance companies and once bought, cannot be changed.

You can build in certain options such as a guarantee period (guarantees the pension payments for a defined number of years), spouses' pension (for your husband or wife to receive if you pass away) and an increase option (increasing by a certain percentage each year, for life).

### **Uncrystallised Fund Pension Lump Sum**

An Uncrystallised Fund Pension Lump Sum (UFPLS) is a withdrawal of funds directly from the pension pot into which you have been saving into. It is possible to do this at any point once you reach pension freedom age, provided you have not already accessed the pot in any other way, such as setting up a drawdown scheme, buying an annuity, or taking a tax-free lump sum of 25% of the pot. We can help you decide if this is a suitable way to draw benefits.

### **Get in Touch**

DGS are Independent and Chartered Financial Advisers. I am also a Chartered Financial Planner with over 28 years financial services experience, so you are in safe hands. For a free review of your financial situation and to discuss your plan, please contact me, Paul Savuto, AFPS, Chartered Financial Planner. DGS Independent Financial Advisers Ltd. 07834 499 595 or email [ps@dgsifa.com](mailto:ps@dgsifa.com), I'll be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you have. FCA 225814.

### **Fancy Something Different This Summer?**

Many of us will be thinking hard about our summer break. Time away from the daily grind is important – but do we want to travel? Do we want to go abroad? Don't forget just how much there is to do and to enjoy right on your doorstep. You might not be going to Vilamoura – but have you tried the Village Hall for its Walnut Tree Café and Meppershall Social Club? You're not taking your usual week in Puerto Banús, but have you tried Pirton and its new Chapel Tea Room? You're missing out on the Sugar Hotel Barbados so indulge yourself at the Sugar Loaf. The trip to Lake Fuschl seems too far, but Lordship Farm is just at the other end of a beautiful footpath. And Tokyo is a long way to go just for the Bullet Train, but Summerfield Miniature Railway just past the Haynes Turn (see p.18) gives you much the same experience. Keep smiling, do something new, do something local. And stay safe.

### **Pirton Chapel Tea Rooms**

With the support of Pirton Methodist Chapel, the 'Chapel Tea Rooms' opens this month, Fridays and Saturdays, from July 2nd, 9am-3pm. Our hope is that the venture will embed itself into the local village community, giving the opportunity for those who live locally and in surrounding areas to visit the beautiful and relaxing surroundings of the Chapel, whilst enjoying a 'drink and bite to eat...' We will be serving a selection of food and refreshments, including breakfast, light lunches, pastries, homemade cakes, milkshakes, as well a range of teas & coffees, plus vegetarian and vegan options and a takeaway service. Tracey & Katrina



## Meppershall Social Club

MSC hopes you are all keeping safe and well!

A great night was had by all being entertained by the fabulous Gemma Nicole, a local girl born in the village with a huge talent, returning to entertain you all again soon!

Thank you to GTC entertainment for the before & after entertainment.

Having you at MSC to watch the Euros with us on the BIG screen and two large TV screens has been hugely popular and created a vibrant atmosphere. With lots more football action to come, please be sure to book your seat to avoid disappointment, as we have a limited capacity to remain COVID secure... Come on England, Scotland and Wales (even if England is now our last hope in the competition!)

We have a special on 4 pint pitchers during all Euro matches at just £12.

We also have Pimms Jugs at £12 - great for sharing, available anytime. We have also expanded our range of Gins - you can double up for an extra £1.50, and of course we only serve with Fever Tree tonics... what's not to like!

Bingo takes place every Friday at 7pm sharp, all welcome (18+). We also have snooker, pool and darts for your enjoyment.

Sadly, due to the delayed easing of restrictions, two of our planned events have been postponed, namely our Soul Night on 2nd July and our Family Fun Day on 17th July. We hope to reschedule these in the near future along with securing further entertainment for all to enjoy.

To keep up to date with all that MSC has to offer, do like and follow our Facebook page, where you can also message us on what YOU would like to see at MSC!

Please note that until Monday 19th July at the earliest all patrons over 16 must check in using the NHS APP or provide details to staff and wear a face covering (unless exempt) on entering, leaving and moving around the premises. We will provide table service only and no standing is allowed - max 6 per table.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation during these difficult times and for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

***Finally, please remember, MSC is a family club – so foul language and anti social behaviour will NOT be tolerated.***

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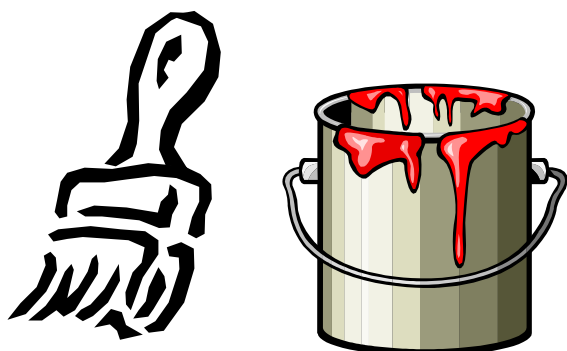
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### Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman

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### Churchwardens:

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Email: [Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com](mailto:Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com)

### PCC Secretary:

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

### *Message from St Mary's*

I recently read online that the average British person spends at least four and a half months of their life talking about the weather - apparently most of us speak about it at least three times a day! I don't know about you but in recent weeks I feel as though we might have broken both those particular statistics. The weather has been....interesting, varied and unpredictable to say the least. Overcast skies to torrential rains and thunder storms; record breaking heatwaves and their associated sleepless nights. Quite literally if we don't like the current weather, we apparently just need to wait a few hours before it changes. The weather is never quite what we want it to be! How often have you said one of the following:

Why won't it stop raining? When will it rain - my garden desperately needs water? Will the sun ever come out? When will this heatwave finish? etc

The truth is that in Meppershall we are truly blessed to have such a range of wonderful weather and of course the most amazing examples of nature showing herself off to us with fantastic sunsets, wonderful wild countryside flowers and scenes of fields with their crops swaying in the breeze. All these amazing sights of nature being fed and watered by the very same weather that we often complain about so bitterly! How often do we miss the beauty of the things which surround us because we are expecting something different, or we are simply too busy to stop and appreciate nature in all its fantastic glory?

The bible reminds us that the seasons are a reflection of God's provision for us. In Genesis the first book of the bible, we read "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Therefore let us try to recognise God's provision in all the varied weather that we will



no doubt encounter for the remainder of our summer. Whether you are vacationing or 'staycationing', if we open our eyes and look at God's provision for us we begin to see the beauty of all He has provided. I plan to try and do just that; to take time to smell the sweetness of the summer rain; to feel the warmth of the summer sun and to watch the glorious summer scenes which surround us whether we are walking the footpaths of Meppershall or exploring rock pools on a sandy beach. Wherever and whatever summer holds for you this year, may you feel blessed to be part of a world so perfect and beautiful. (And, yes, we probably will still talk a lot about the weather too!)

**Keith Callard**

**Reader, St, Mary's Church**

## Church News and Events in June

We have returned to a limited number of face to face services - check the website/facebook or give us a call. As always, we would LOVE to see you.

We carefully observe COVID-safe practices. Please contact Reverend Roni (well in advance) if you intend to be at one of our Communion services so we can plan seating. Always remember to wear your mask and – if you have one - bring your red service book (or get one at the service as needed).

Our current services as are follows:

Alternate Wednesdays	<b>10.00am Holy Communion</b> in church (14 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> )
Alternate Sundays	<b>9.00am Holy Communion</b> in church (3 <sup>rd</sup> , <u>17<sup>th</sup></u> , 31 <sup>st</sup> ) The service is provided at St Michael's Shefford and St Mary's Meppershall alternately, week-by-week
Wednesdays and Sundays	<b>Private prayer and quiet time</b> – the church open for you to sit and visit during the day, 10.00-3.00pm
Online services:	<b>9.00am Morning Prayer</b> using 24-7's Lectio 365 App 7-days-a-week  <b>9.00pm Night Prayer/Compline</b> from the C. of E. Daily Prayer App, 7-days-a-week  <b>10.30 am Online Morning Worship (Sunday)</b> Service Sheets for this service can be delivered to those in the parish without computer access or obtained by email from Rector Roni (email address above)



Do you need prayers? We have a small group of intercessors who will continue to pray confidentially for those who ask for prayers. If being held in prayer in that way is something you would like, please talk to Roni (Tel. 339962 / 07533 376880) or Chris Valentine (telephone 07701 039324).

Why not try an online service? You can just watch and listen (we won't even know you're there!) – or add comments if you like. Bring your own morning or bedtime snack! On a Sunday morning you can also meet Froggy (pictured above).

#### Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall/>

#### Find us on our website

<https://www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk/>

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

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## Call 01462 559112

Love From St Mary's Meppershall & St Michael's Sheppard

\*\*\*\*\*

## Proposed Changes to Diocese of St Albans

Following lengthy discussions with churches in the deanery - a significant change is coming our way!

The Diocese of St Albans is proposing changes to the Benefice of Meppershall and Shefford - to become in future the Benefice of Campton, Meppershall and Shefford. That means that the Church of St Mary the Virgin Meppershall will become part of the Benefice of Campton, Meppershall and Shefford. At the time of this proposed change, Revd Roni will continue as first incumbent / Rector.

There is a formal consultation process ahead of this change, and I am asked to let people know of the proposal, and that anyone may make representations **for** or **against** all or any part or parts of the draft Scheme.

If you would like to make your views known (please include the reasons for your views) preferably by email or by post to the Church Commissioners at the following

address no later than midnight on **Monday 2 August 2021**. If they have not acknowledged receipt of your representation before this date, please ring or e-mail them to ensure it has been received.

Mr Matthew Crowe  
Church Commissioners  
Church House  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3AZ  
(email: [matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org](mailto:matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org)) (tel 020 7898 1784)

This draft Scheme provides for:

- the dissolution of the four benefices of Campton, Clophill and Haynes; Maulden; Clifton and Southill; and Meppershall and Shefford;
- the creation of three new benefices of (i) Campton, Meppershall and Shefford; (ii) Clophill and Maulden; and (iii) Clifton, Haynes and Southill, for the appointment of their first incumbents and their places of residence, and for the future patronage arrangements for each new benefice; and
- the transfer of the parsonage house of the benefice of Campton, Clophill and Haynes to the Saint Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for diocesan purposes

A notice giving the objects of proposed pastoral reorganisation affecting this parish has or will be displayed near the main door of the Church and is available on the Church of England website [www.churchofengland.org/consultation](http://www.churchofengland.org/consultation)

All Pastoral Schemes follow the Diocesan Principles of Pastoral Reorganisation agreed in 2018. These are publicly available on our website: [www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Pastoral-re-organisation-principles-2018.pdf](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Pastoral-re-organisation-principles-2018.pdf)

If they receive representations against the draft Scheme, the Church Commissioners will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual representors will then receive copies of the Commissioners' correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and they may comment further in writing to the Commissioners in light of the diocesan response if they so wish.

If there are no representations against the draft Scheme, the Commissioners will make the Scheme and arrange for it to be brought into effect.





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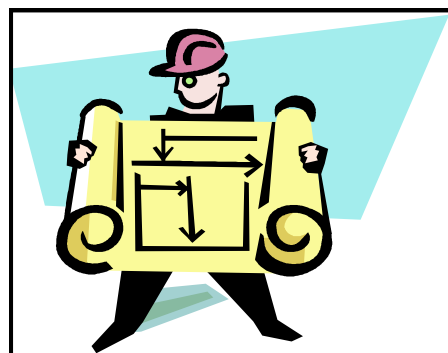
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## The Meppershall Players



After the Government's announcement to extend Covid restrictions the Players will now (fingers crossed) hope to resume our weekly Monday evenings at the STMA from the 19th July at 7.30pm. We have had to cancel our AGM on the 28th of June as it isn't now possible, and have rescheduled it for Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm at STMA (fingers crossed again). This is a perfect time to come and meet the Players if you're thinking of joining our fun group. We hope to start selling tickets for our Panto at the beginning of September so look out for more details nearer the time.

Now back to 1984. After the decision to perform a Pantomime, a read through was called for to peruse the script of 'Little Red Riding Hood' by K.O Samuel. We had a lot of fun reading different parts and Jacqui Wilkinson who was our director cast the panto as follows:

---

Fairy- Josephine Bullivant	Pixie- Claire Faulkener	Fairy Queen- Jenny Barker
Witch- Janette Fulford	King Wolf- Mick Trundle	Simple Simon- Paul Carne
Baron- Sean Phillips	Punch- Hilda Jarvis	Trunch- Jill Carne
Mrs Hubbard- Don MacArthur	Prince Charming- John Nye	Splinter- John Handscombe
Red Riding Hood- Karen Mitchell	Doris- Roy Dunham	Footman Sheena Worth
Gamekeeper- Rodger Nash	Dandy- John Handscombe & Keith Wadham	

---

Chorus-

Sally Dunham, Dorothy Marsh, Carol Halsey, Fay Wallis, Tracey Little, Alan Butterfield

---

As you can see by the cast list even back then we had more parts than people with young John Handscombe (16 at the time) playing two roles. I remember experiencing a certain sense of déjà vu, as I had stood on the same stage twice before in panto (when Meppershall Primary School was raising money for a swimming pool, I was the front of a rickshaw in Aladdin in 1969 age 7, then in the chorus in Mother Goose in 1970, aged 8).

We did four performances, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and Saturday afternoon. All performances were very well attended and very well received. I can still remember Mick in a big, grey wolf costume, singing 'Temptation' (Bing Crosby sings it almost as well on You Tube but without the furry costume).

I remember the whole cast and crew pitching in with set painting. I remember painting a door with Irene Fox (doing props with Jessie Niven). The door was for the Grandma's Cottage scene. It was brown before we started and Irene envisaged it being grey with four inset panels. As I'd never done set painting before (neither had

Irene) I thought “That sounds good” and so we set about our task. When finished, we stood back admiring our handy work. Betty Blenkinsopp (Publicity) who knew how to paint and build sets said, “That looks good, what scene is it for?” Irene replied, “The cottage”.... “That needs to be brown” said Betty, “As it’s a door you’d have on a forest cottage”. So we painted it back to brown and laughed when we realised we could have left it as was and just painted black lines to make it look log cabin-ish!

The other thing that made me laugh with that door, as it stood central at the back of the stage, it was supposed to be self-standing but always went to tip over when the door was opened and the frame had to be held either side. The amount of paint it had on it, the door should have stood up on its own.

Little Red Riding Hood was so well received that pantomime became a mainstay of the Meppershall Players’ repertoire (in the early 2000’s, doing nine performances each year). 1985 would bring another part of the Players’ repertoire, but we’ll save that for next month’s issue.

If anyone has a memory of Meppershall Players’ past performances they would like to share, we’d love to hear them. You can drop a line to the Players via Karen Mitchell (Players Secretary) 11 Crackle Hill Road, Meppershall SG17 5LR, or email [k.mitchell11@talktalk.net](mailto:k.mitchell11@talktalk.net)

**Jack & the Beanstalk** - a Pantomime performing Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Matinee 3pm, Evening 7.30pm. Tickets £5 Matinees, £8 & £10 Evenings. All performances at the S.T.M.A Shefford. Look out for our posters!

\*\*\*\*\*

Find the Meppershall Players on Facebook (Meppershall Players Community) Instagram, Twitter.

The Players meet every Monday evening at 7.30pm at the STMA, Hitchin Road, Shefford SG17 5JA. Membership is currently free and we welcome people from the age of 9 to 90+, to indulge in all areas of theatrical performances, set building, costumes, directing, acting, make-up, song & dance, etc. The Players will be closed until Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Interested? We look forward to meeting you.

***Karen Mitchell (Players’ Secretary) 01462 816336***

## Diary of an allotment

After the late start things are now catching up on the allotment. Conversation has turned to how the late start has thrown us off our routines and it is difficult to reset. Each year on the allotment is different and you have to be responsive to the weather conditions. June has not been as warm as we would like it and it has also set things back. The upside has been that watering has been easier as the ground has stayed wet.

It doesn't look like last year's courgette disaster will be repeated as the plants are growing well. I was recently watching a clip of *Call the Midwife* when courgettes from an allotment were seen as a new exotic vegetable from France. It is hard to imagine a time before the allotment tradition of the great annual courgette glut. It goes to show how much richer we are in so many ways when we exchange ideas and are open to trying new things.

The strawberry crop has been exceptionally good and we have had enough to make strawberry mousse which was a bit of a winner around here. My botched attempts at dessert are legendary in our family. My children tell the story when I announced I would do banana splits for pudding but we only had bananas and none of the other ingredients which make the split worth having. So I cut the bananas in half and presented them in an emperor's new clothes style (needless to say it didn't fool anyone!).

The next two months are very much about picking and eating all the produce with only the watering to be getting on with.

We have just one aim for July and that is to get on top of the weeds. It has been a busy couple of months and we haven't spend as much time on the allotment as we would like so we need to concentrate on things we can do to finish the season strongly. There is still time for cut and come again lettuce, peas and late season carrots.

It is also a good time to turn your mind to whether you will be planting autumn onions. I tried them last year for the first time and I had limited success. I shall have another go this year and try to water them more to see if that helps. It is all a learning process and I would like to crack the winter onion growing as they produce a crop sooner than the spring set ones.

For anyone wishing to take on an allotment in the summer a start can be made by clearing it so you are ready for a flying start in the spring. You could still get brassicas in if you buy garden centre plants. Purple sprouting broccoli being an easy thing to grow and one of the first crops I tried. In the spring it lifts your spirits when the forgotten corner of the allotment produces a vegetable that looks better than the supermarket bought one.

**Zoe Cox**



## Bedford Model Engineering Society - Summerfield Miniature Railway

*We Are Open Again – here are some updates on 2021 events.*

### **With Covid-19 Secure Running at least until June 26th.**

Bedford Model Engineering Society is once again able to open its railway to the public - but for the time being we will have to operate in the same way as we did during 2020 (see the service description that follows). We hope to resume "normal" public running towards the end of June but that will depend upon the further relaxation or removal of the Covid restrictions.

With the current concerns regarding the "Indian Variant", particularly as it affects the Bedford area, and the subsequent uncertainty that "Step 4" will happen on June 21st, we have decided to add Sunday June 27th to the booking calendar. By so doing we should still be able to open for those who have booked should Step 4 not happen. If in the end, Covid restrictions are removed before the 27th we can still decide to revert to pre-Covid operating when booking was not required.

**"Covid" regulated service - there is a lot to tell you here, but please read through to the end.**

Unfortunately, we are not still going to be able to operate all of our railways with the Covid regulations as they currently are. So, we will continue as last year with the "new" ride combining the Summerfields Line (the 'main line') from Haynes End with the Springfield Line at Hammer Hill. This gives a journey time nearly twice that of the old main line run. The trains will not be stopping at Hammer Hill.

Trains will have only one carriage and the passengers on each train must all be from the same household or "Bubble". .

Our Buffet will open as a take-away service with tea, coffee, soft drinks and packaged snack items. Our picnic tables will be available outside - suitably distanced!

**Toilets** - as you may know the toilets do not belong to Bedford MES but are provided as a communal facility by our landlord for those on the Summerfields Barns site. Although they are not our responsibility, we will endeavour to check them on a regular basis. We will be providing hand sanitiser in a dispenser just outside the toilet block.

In common with other visitor attractions we have had to move to booking in advance in order to better manage passenger numbers on our site, and **all** payments will have to be made using contactless card.

We use your details to process your booking but we are also required to take contact details of visitors for Track and Trace purposes. No data will be retained beyond one month after your visit and will not be used for purposes other than those stated.

Therefore, we are asking that everybody who wants to ride our trains, first makes a booking online. Payment will still be taken at our Ticket Office but, again as other venues, **only** by contactless card.

**Our trains will carry a maximum of six passengers with a maximum of four adults.** Please do not attempt to book more than this on one train.

A round trip ticket will cost £4 **per person** . Children under the age of two still travel free. We hope that you will understand that the price increase this year was unavoidable. We have not increased prices for several years, and it was set to happen last year, but we deferred that increase. However, with our receipts last year only around 50% of the previous year a price rise this year was necessary if the railway was to survive for you to enjoy.

So, please pick a time and date on the booking form at the bottom of this page, complete with your details and submit. You will receive a confirmation email by return.

**Please ensure that you bring the confirmation email with you on the day as it is your E-ticket.**

In the event that you have to CANCEL we would **really** like you to let us know (before your day of travel if at all possible, please), by clicking the REPLY button to the confirmation email and dropping us a one-liner.

Since we started this new way of working we have always been fully booked. However we have found that between 15% and 20% of the folk who have booked simply do not bother to show up, thus denying others the chance for a ride (and us some much needed funds).

**We would rather not take payment at the time of booking but what we will do is reserve the right to offer the slot to anyone wanting another ride if you are not checked in at the car park entrance a minimum of TEN minutes before your train departure time. Please, please make sure that you are checked in with our car park staff at least ten minutes before your train is due to depart – if you are later than that, we will not be able to guarantee your ride.**

And lastly, it is a *railway* so, just like the "big" trains, departure times may slip a bit from your booked time due to operational circumstances. We will do our very best to be on schedule, but please be patient with us if we should be running late!

**Thank You** for your understanding and for supporting our railway - as always, we are looking forward to seeing you.

Please refer to [\*\*www.bedfordmes.co.uk\*\*](http://www.bedfordmes.co.uk).



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**As things stand, our next online meetings will be on Saturday 3 July and 5 August 2021, 11am.**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 334 851 8015

**We'd love to hear from you! Daksha & Phil Trivedi,**

Email: [daksha.trivedi@btconnect.com](mailto:daksha.trivedi@btconnect.com)

Tel: 01462 813943; M: 07961 377526



## In Memoriam

The whole Messenger sends deepest condolences to the family and friends of :

Mrs Ann Hutchinson, passed away 12<sup>th</sup> June aged 86 years.

Ann was mother of Sue and Mark Hyde.


## Birthdays

The Messenger sends birthday best wishes and greetings for the coming month to...

Alan P who will be 91

Margaret G who will be 86

\*\*\*\*\*

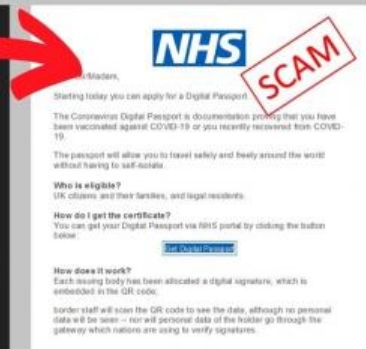


# SCAM ALERT

June 2021

## Covid digital passport scam

**A new email scam about Covid is circulating and we want to advise you what it looks like and what steps you can take.**



**Your vaccination status is obtained FREE through the NHS App, website or by calling the NHS on 119.**

You may receive an email which looks similar to the one shown. Clicking on the link takes you to a convincing but fake NHS website that asks for personal and payment details. (for an admin fee).

The website has since been taken down, however, as with many scams of this nature, there will be others.

More information can be found on the gov.uk website;  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/demonstrating-your-covid-19-vaccination-status-when-travelling-abroad>

**Send suspicious emails to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) at [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).**

## www.ourwatch.org.uk

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## Sheffield Leisure Group by Enid Pamment



What glorious weather we have been having, the gardens are looking lovely and the roses in their beautiful colours are looking vibrant. I know maybe it is a little too hot for some but the colours in the skies are beautiful especially the sunsets when the sun is sinking – one minute it is there and next time everything gone and starts to get dark!

One of the large travel companies we deal with invited us for a couple of days at the beginning of June staying at Heythrop Park Resort in The Cotswolds. This was first offered to us in the beginning of this year, but everything went haywire with the Covid and the visit had to be cancelled

This was a beautiful building in lovely surroundings and was taken over by Warner's Leisure Hotels who anticipate re-vamping the building in stages. Part of the building has been modernised and the entrance hall is magnificent – likewise our guest rooms.

We really were very well looked after in very difficult circumstances, since the lockdown they had trouble employing staff even on a temporary basis! I must say the staff even though some did not understand too much English were extremely polite and nothing too much trouble. When completed, Warner's are hoping this site will be their prime location.

With the same company, I have booked Warner's Gunton Hall Coastal Village from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October (4 nights) half board. This includes coach travel, ensuite accommodation, entertainment and coach excursions. The trip is booking up quickly. So please do not leave it too long to book to save disappointment.

As you may appreciate, booking trips has not been easy as some had to be cancelled through various reasons such as lack of support, cancellations etc. For example, I had booked Lavenham for July but when I telephoned people who had shown interest, they had a change of heart, so this had to be cancelled.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July The Tower of London – the same thing happened and people who had shown interest decided they would rather not risk the trip.

So our programme now looks like this for the rest of 2021.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021** Warners Gunton Hall (own insurance if required) Price inclusive £289.00.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November** – The ever popular Thursford Christmas Spectacular – Leaving Sheffield at 9am and arriving home between 8.30 and 9pm.

**Enid xx**





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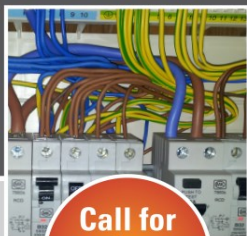
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**Tony Bass**

**Tel: 01462 235205**

**Mobile: 07778 318027**

Email: [bes.luton@sky.com](mailto:bes.luton@sky.com)

Based in Meppershall



## Linda Allsop

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[lindaallsop@btinternet.com](mailto:lindaallsop@btinternet.com)

**Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements**

# The Countryside Code



## Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside

### Respect everyone

---

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

### Protect the environment

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- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- take care with BBQs and do not light fires
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance

### Enjoy the outdoors

---

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory



# MEPPERSHALL - WANDERBUS

Bookings & Info : Tel :0300-123-3023 [www.wanderbus.org.uk](http://www.wanderbus.org.uk)



Service open to everyone. Cash fares /concessionary travel passes accepted

As of 6 <sup>th</sup> MAY 2019		“Stops at all Bus Stops on Request”	
<b>W2 BEDFORD</b>	- Every Wednesday	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Shefford Rd, all stops		09.00	RR
High St., all stops		09.01	RR
Rectory Rd		09.03	RR
Bedford - Corn Exchange (St Pauls Square)		09.45	12.00
<b>W3 BIGGLESWADE</b>	- Every Monday	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Road		09.27	RR
High Street, All Stops		09.28	RR
Shefford Road, All Stops		09.29	RR
Biggleswade - London Rd Retail Centre		10.05	12.05
Asda Superstore		10.10	12.00
<b>W5 A1 RETAIL PARK, BIGGLESWADE -2<sup>ND</sup> &amp; 4<sup>TH</sup> Fridays</b>		<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Outside Entrance of New Village Hall		13.38	RR
Shefford Rd – all Stops		13.40	RR
Asda Superstore		14.11	16.05
A1 Retail Park, Biggleswade		14.16	16.00
<b>W6 SHEFFORD</b>	- Every Friday	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Road		09.18	RR
High Street, All stops		09.19	RR
Shefford Road, All stops		09.20	RR
Shefford - St Francis Way nr. Morrisons Supermarket		09.26	10.50
<b>W9 ST NEOTS</b>	- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Month	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd		09.16	RR
High Street, All stops		09.17	RR
Shefford Rd, All stops		09.18	RR
Roxton Garden Centre (On request)		10.00 OR	12.20 OR
St Neots - Market Place		10.10	12.10
<b>W11 MILTON KEYNES</b>	- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd		09.16	RR
High St., All stops		09.17	RR
Shefford Rd, all stops		09.18	RR
MK - Midsummer Blvd / Debenhams & M&S		10.10	
/ John Lewis		10.12	13.15
<b>W12 HITCHIN</b>	- Every Tuesday	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Shefford Rd, All stops		09.18	RR
High Street, All stops		09.19	RR
Rectory Road		09.20	RR
Hitchin – All stops to Bancroft Stop D		10.05	
Hitchin – Bancroft Stop G (Outside Paperchase)			12.10
<b>W14 WELWYN GARDEN CITY</b>	- 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of Month	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Road		09.14	RR
High Street, All stops		09.15	RR
Shefford Road, All stops		09.16	RR
WGC Central Bus Station		10.00	12.15

EXCURSIONS – 4<sup>TH</sup> Thursday of Month – call For Details – E: [Thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:Thewanderbus@gmail.com)



# EXCURSIONS 2021

DATE:	DESTINATION: <i>(Subject to change should Government guidelines become restrictive again)</i>	ENTRANCE FEE: <i>(As per Current Website)</i>	BUS FARE:
Thursday 22nd JULY	<b>Cottesbrooke Hall and Gardens, Northants.</b> Cottesbrooke is a wonderful Queen Anne house dating from 1702, set in delightful award winning gardens in rural Northamptonshire. (afternoon opening only)	<b>£10.00</b> guided tour of house & includes gardens.	<b>£10.00 -</b> <b>Pick Up:</b> 12.30/13.00 <b>Return/Depart:</b> 16.30
Thursday 26th AUGUST	<b>Castle Ashby Gardens. Castle Ashby is the ancestral home of the 7th Marquess of Northampton.</b> Wander through its gardens, open 365 days of the year, and you are taking a walk through history. Set in the heart of a 10,000-acre estate, the 35 acres of extensive gardens are a combination of several styles including the romantic Italian Gardens, the unique Orangery and impressive Arboretum.	<b>£10.00</b> for Gardens	<b>£10.00 -</b> <b>Pick Up:</b> 10.00/10.30 <b>Return/Depart:</b> 15.00/15.15
Thursday 23rd SEPTEMBER	<b>Wimpole Hall, Cambs.</b> The mansion, at the heart of this estate, is evidence of Elsie Bambridge's success in creating a home. Intimate rooms contrast with beautiful and unexpected Georgian interiors, including Soane's breath-taking Yellow Drawing Room and wonderful plunge bath. The fascinating basement corridor offers a glimpse into life below stairs. Stroll around the colourful parterre garden and wander through the Pleasure Grounds to the Walled Garden, abundant with fruit, vegetables and beautiful herbaceous borders. Free for National Trust members.	<b>£18.95</b> House & Gardens. <b>£10.00</b> Gardens only. <b>Free</b> to National Trust Members.	<b>£5.00</b> <b>Pick Up:</b> 10.00/10.30 <b>Return/Depart:</b> 15.00/15.15
Thursday 28th OCTOBER	<b>Stockwood Discovery Centre &amp; Gardens, Luton.</b> The former Stockwood Park Museum was transformed in July 2008 into the Stockwood Discovery Centre - a spectacular visitor attraction and museum for the 21st century. A paradise for garden enthusiasts, Stockwood Discovery Centre is one of the few places in the country where the work of acclaimed artist Ian Hamilton Finlay can be seen on permanent display. His Improvement Garden is a classical garden in which the sculptures are an integral part of the landscape. Once part of the original Stockwood House walled areas, the Period Gardens reflect the changing styles of gardening in this country. New areas include a contemplative Sensory Garden, a colourful World Garden and a Medicinal Garden highlighting the usefulness of plants.	<b>Free</b>	<b>£5.00</b> <b>Pick Up:</b> 10.00/10.30 : <b>Return/Depart:</b> 15.00/15.15
Thursday 25th NOVEMBER	<b>Christmas Market - Details To Be Confirmed.</b>		

To Book : Call 0300 123 3023 or email: [thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:thewanderbus@gmail.com)

We do require a deposit of £5.00 p.p. for any excursion. A cheque to Wanderbus, 5 The Pastures, Upper Stondon, Beds SG16 6QB or a bank transfer to : CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code 40-52-40, Acc. No. 00013118 Name: Wanderbus Ltd (Use your name in Reference)

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\* Subject to availability.

**Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements**

## Useful Contact Details in Meppershall

### DEFIBRILLATORS – outside School and Post Office/Village Stores

### DOCTORS, DENTISTS, PHARMACIES

<b>NHS Direct</b>	<b>111</b>
Dr Griffiths & Ptrs	
Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive, Shefford SG17 5FS	
Appointments	01462 810034
General queries, prescriptions etc.	01462 818620
Drs. Collins, Garragher and Neal	
109 Station Rd Lower Stondon SG16 6JJ	01462 850305
Shefford Dental Practice, 34 High St Shefford	01462 814020
Shefford Dental Clinic, 99 Hitchin Road, SG17 5JB	01462 648465
Lloyds Chemists, 7 High St Shefford	01462 813283
Shefford Pharmacy	
Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive	01462 818633

### Police Emergency 999, non-emergency 101

Report crime online at [www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report)

### Hospitals

Bedford Hospital	01234 355122
Lister Hospital, Stevenage	01438 314333

### Utilities

Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Anglian Water	03457 145145
Electrical (power cuts, overhead cable down etc)	0800 838838

### Central Beds Council 0300 300 8301

CBC councillors:

Tony Brown	<a href="mailto:anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Mark Liddiard	<a href="mailto:mark.liddiard@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">mark.liddiard@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>



## Meppershall Parish Council

Parish Council Clerk Alessandro Marabese      [clerk@meppershall.org](mailto:clerk@meppershall.org)

## Member of Parliament

Nadine Dorries MP      [dorriesn@parliament.uk](mailto:dorriesn@parliament.uk)

## St Marys Church

Rev. Veronica Goodman, The Rectory, Church Road      01462 339962  
(see the church section of The Meppershall Messenger for full details)

## Library

High St, Shefford      0300 300 8067  
Check times: Closed Mondays. Tuesday - Friday 9 - 6, Sat 9 - 4.  
Pre-order for collection.

## Whitbread Wanderbus Service

Stephanie Kirby      [thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:thewanderbus@gmail.com)

## Shops

Village Stores, newspapers, Post Office, High Street      01462 811252  
Rogers Bakery, High Street      01462 813398  
Mobile Fish & Chips, Tuesdays 3.30 -7.00, Sugar Loaf car park

## Schools

Meppershall Academy, High Street      01462 813293  
Meppershall Pre School (Village Hall) Tamsin Osborn      07816 357159  
[meppershallps@gmail.com](mailto:meppershallps@gmail.com)  
Robert Bloomfield Academy, Shefford      01462 628800  
Samuel Whitbread Academy, Shefford      01462 629900  
Etonbury Academy, Stotfold      01462 730391  
Henlow Academy      01462 813733  
Redborne Upper School, Ampthill      01525 404462

## Organisations

Meppershall Players Karen Mitchell      01462 816366  
Meppershall Good Neighbours (GNOMES)      07760 793921  
Meppershall Brownies, Suzanne Brightwell      07817 392325  
Shefford Guides, Angie Griffiths      07957 462519  
Shefford Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)  
Kathy Georgiou      01462 629313

## 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 sent by post, or left in the folder kept at the Village Stores. Contributions should run to not more than one A5 page (except by prior arrangement) and should be received by the Editor not later than the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication at the end of that month. Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

### **DISCLAIMER**

The Editor reserves the right to omit or alter any advertisement or article and to change the content, format or issue date of the magazine without prior notice. The Editor cannot be held responsible for the factual correctness of, or for any libellous comment or statement made in any advertisement, article or other contribution published in this magazine. Every effort will be made to avoid any deliberate attempt to mislead or otherwise cause harm or damage to any person or persons by any advertisement, article or any other contribution published in this magazine.

### **THE TEAM**

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Treasurer	John Thompson	16 Brookmead	812983
		Email: meppershallmessenger@meppershall.org	

<b>Collating Dates 2020-21</b>			
Aug-Sept Double Issue	July 26 <sup>th</sup>	December-January Double Issue	November 29 <sup>th</sup>
October Issue	September 27 <sup>th</sup>	February 2022 Issue	January 24 <sup>th</sup>
November Issue	October 25 <sup>th</sup>	March 2022 Issue	February 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Please contact Colette to confirm arrangements (contact information above).</b>			

***Please note that dates in the above table USUALLY show when collating will take place, at 2.30pm in the Sugar Loaf, for the corresponding month, displayed to the left. The issue being collated usually relates to the following month. However, during the coronavirus social distancing measures, our collation procedures have changed and we will review our plans for the printed magazine in line with government guidance.***