

Contents

Editorial by Mick Ridley and James Read	2
Letters to the Editors	3
Meppershall Parish Council – Approved Minutes	4
Neighbourhood Watch – 40th Anniversary Activities	9
Parish Council Needs New Team Members	10
Time to get FIT – Bowel Cancer Screening	11
Central Bedfordshire Council - Your Experiences Of Cyber Crime	11
Central Beds Pilots New Digital Online Support For Unpaid Carers	12
GNOMES (Meppershall Good Neighbours)	13
Time to Get Out Walking Again!	13
Start-Up School For Seniors	14
Snowdrop Season	15
Shefford Leisure Group by Enid Pamment	16
Friends of St Mary’s Meppershall – Village Quiz Update	17
Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin (Church of England)	18
Church News and Events in February	20
Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers	20
Meppershall Social Club	21
Gemma Nicole Appearing at Meppershall Social Club	22
The Meppershall Players	23
Financial Matters by Paul Savuto	24
NEED SOMETHING DONE? LOOK IN THE MESSENGER FIRST!	26
Birthdays	26
In Memoriam	26
A Tribute to Ted Putwain	27
Apologies to Wordsworth	30
Could You Foster?	31
Mid Beds Cancer Group	32
Meppershall Wanderbus Timetable	33
Useful Contact Details in Meppershall	34
The Team and Collation Dates	36

Editorial by Mick Ridley and James Read

Well, hello 2022! Thank you to Jeremy Holden for this month's cover picture – a wintry manor house scene! We hope this year brings you lots of what you like and some new inspiration. We hope you stay safe and find more and more ways to recover your normal way of life amid the pandemic challenges. As a community here in Meppershall, we hope we find new energy in this time of change. There are lots of ways to get involved in village life, lots of ways to make a difference...



There are also lots of ways to please yourself and ignore the community around you. We don't want to dwell on the negatives, but littering and even fly tipping (yes, leaving your garden waste or other trash on other people's land) are happening in the village. These things are a disgrace – they speak volumes about people. Still, it makes it all the more important to have a think about the kind of village we want to live in – and what part we want to play in it. It is about each of us.

I happened to visit the Village Hall today and I found the Henlow Amateur Theatrical Society busy preparing their production. The curtains and the stage looked wonderful, seats were set out in anticipation of the performance, there was a really happy atmosphere. We were delighted to receive the encouraging letter from The Meppershall Players which appears in this issue. People coming together to achieve great things, that's what it's all about.

It was interesting and positive to see a discussion on the facebook Meppershall Noticeboard on local cycle routes. Positive comments about the quality of cycling that is possible locally were clear, with recognition of the challenges and the need for better dedicated routes for bikes (cycling to the station at Arlesey is currently difficult).

Issues like this (and many others) are ultimately led in part by the Parish Council, with other authorities and agencies. You'll see a request in this issue for new Councillors. Could this be you? Experience not necessary – just a passion for Meppershall and an interest in good governance. Among our much-valued Councillors, there's only one female currently. Whatever your background (age, gender and experience) have a think - could you bring something new in this area of village life? There's also a call for new local Special Constables (see the Parish Council minutes in this issue).

Your village magazine is also in need of volunteers! We need people to bring new ideas and contributions across everything from writing and promoting the magazine to printing, producing and distributing it. We'd love to meet you if you want to know more. Find our contact info at the back of the magazine.

And finally, there could be no better example of someone giving time to village life over many years than Ted Putwain. With condolences to Brenda and family, it is our privilege to include a tribute to Ted in this issue following his sad passing recently. May all our lives be so rich with appreciation from the people we come into contact with, and so well remembered.

MEPPERSHALL MESSENGER
Annual Advertising Charges 2022-23
For ALL 10 issues

Size	Black & White	Full Colour
Full Page	£215pa	£320*pa
Half page	£140pa	£215pa
Quarter page	£85pa	£140pa

The Messenger now reaches 850 homes, and so could
your business.

Every letterbox in the village, 10 times a year.

For further information, contact Andrew Pain
Advertising Manager, on 01462 817192 / 07875 580069
Email: [andrewgpain@hotmail](mailto:andrewgpain@hotmail.com)

NOTE* an additional rate applies for "Premium Positions"
Add 15% for back cover, add 10% for inside front and back cover.

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements

TJ PLUMBING SHEFFORD Ltd

☎ 07976 310574

✉ info@tjps.co.uk

Boilers, Heating & Powerflushing...

Get in touch with Emma or Terry
on 01462 860043 for a free quote

We provide the full range of plumbing
and heating services to customers across
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire



see our new website www.tjps.co.uk



Independent Financial Advice provided by



Who are we?

We are Chartered Financial Planners At DGS our decisions are based on what is best for our clients. We do not sell our business by offering our clients a first class financial advice service that is tailored to their individual needs. Whatever your goals we are able to implement a plan to help you achieve them. We view the relationship with our clients as long term, and pension funds, or a regular income to sustain you in retirement, the advisers at DGS and adapting our advice as our clients circumstances change.

✓ Savings & Investments

✓ Employee Benefits

✓ Retirement Planning

For a FREE financial health check contact
Paul Savuto - Meppershall based
Chartered Financial Planner

07834 499595

or e-mail ps@dgsifa.com

DGS Independent Financial Advisers Limited,
6 Parkway, Porters Wood, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6PA

✓ Inheritance Tax Planning

✓ Mortgages

✓ Protection

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements



Shefford Building Supplies Ltd

All your building & D.I.Y requirements
under one roof.

Key cutting, paint mixing, timber & sheet
materials cut to size,
ironmongery,
domestic, electrical
and much, much more.
Free local delivery

TEL: 01462 813381 FAX :01462 811754
44 High street, Shefford,
Bedfordshire SG17 5SD

www.sheffordbuildingsupplies.co.uk



Engraving, Trophies & Occasions

Trophies, medals, plaques,
house signs, glass engraving,
safety signs
and giftware.

All engraving work
undertaken
Fast turn around
Competitive prices

www.engravingsuk.com
engravingoccasions@live.co.uk



Monday - Friday 9.00 - 5.30 •
Saturday 9.00 - 12.00

Telephone
01462 811852

14a Clifton Road, Shefford,
SG17 5AE

Independent Family Business established over 35years

Eye Examinations • Contact Lenses
Ocular Coherence Tomography with Retinal Photography

Free NHS Eye Examinations & Free Children Spectacles (conditions apply)

www.hingopticians.co.uk



Wayside KENNELS & CATTERY

GIVE YOUR PETS A HOLIDAY TOO

www.waysidekennelsandcattery.co.uk
CHAPEL ROAD, MEPPERSHALL, BEDS, SG17 5NQ

01462 813261

ESTABLISHED OVER 40 YEARS

FULLY LICENCED AND INSURED

MODERN LUXURY HEATED KENNELS AND CAT CABINS WITH INDIVIDUAL COVERED RUNS

DOGS GET REGULAR INDIVIDUAL USE OF OUR EXERCISE FIELDS

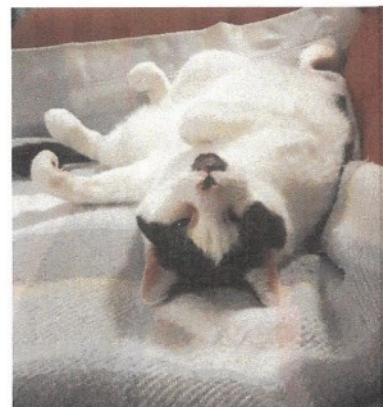


FULLY VACCINATED DOGS AND CATS
ONLY, INCLUDING THE KENNEL
COUGH VACCINE FOR DOGS

FULL GROOMING SERVICE AVAILABLE
FOR BOARDERS

VIEWINGS WELCOME BY
APPOINTMENT PLEASE

DAY BOARDING AVAILABLE



Seasoned Hardwood Logs

**Bulk & barrow bags
available.**

Meppershall based.

**Free delivery within
20 miles of Hitchin**

**Delivery can be made to
Woodstore/shed.**

Call Patrick Sinclair

Mobile: 07870396007

Canine Studio Dog Grooming

CONTACT

07795067357

- Bath and Pamper
- Full Grooms
- Puppy Grooms
- Nail Clipping
- Teeth Cleaning
- Fully Insured

Unit 9 Rectory Farm Business Centre Upper
Stondon SG16 6LJ

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

It has been brought to the attention of the Meppershall Players that H.A.T.S. drama group is being blamed for the Players not being at Meppershall Village Hall. This is totally untrue; back in 2018 the Players encouraged H.A.T.S. to come to the New Hall being built at Meppershall, as their lovely theatre at Henlow Camp would be going, along with the RAF base, in the-not-too-distant future. The idea was that we the Players would have our Wednesday evening (which we'd had since 1972) with H.A.T.S taking the Monday after Brownies. We the Players also envisaged an amalgamation with H.A.T.S a few years down the line.

Unfortunately this was not to be, as after a meeting with members of the Village Hall committee, it was made clear to the Players that someone else wanted to hire the hall for one hour on Wednesday evening (not H.A.T.S.), although the Players wanted to retain their two hours on a Wednesday evening, paying the requested hire charge. It was made clear by the Village Hall members present that the Players were not wanted on a Wednesday evening, it was even suggested that we move to a Sunday morning.

The Players decided to go to the STMA (Shefford Town Memorial Association) Digswell Hall at Shefford, where we now meet on a Monday evening and have been made to feel very welcome by the STMA committee. In many ways the Village Hall members present at that meeting did the Players a huge favour, as we could never have afforded to kit the stage out at Meppershall; and we would never have experienced how lovely the committee members are down at the STMA, where nothing is too much trouble and there's always a solution if any problems arise, with give and take on both sides.

Thanks everyone for your continued support - and please support H.A.T.S. So many amateur drama groups have folded due to lack of support both in the audience and on the stage. The Players, like H.A.T.S., always welcome new members. We love entertaining our wonderful audiences. See what we have planned in this our 50th year of the Meppershall Players on page 23. **Karen Mitchell, Players' Secretary**

Dear Editors

There has been shock and surprise at the removal of the long standing (ancient?) hedgerow on the Shefford Road perimeter of the Davidsons Homes development. Does anyone have any further information? Was this always the plan? Many of us were pleased that it had been protected by Davidsons. How naïve. **[Name supplied]**

Dear Editors

A Meppershall resident has compiled and edited an anthology of poetry written during the 2020-2021 lockdowns, and is selling it to raise funds for two charities that will support people affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. The book is entitled **Poems from Lockdown 2020-2021**, and comprises 50 poems by writers living in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, together with 8 original illustrations and an original cover painting, also the work of the writers. **The book is for sale at £8 (or £10 if posted), and for every copy sold a minimum of £5 will be donated to charity.** The two chosen charities are **Young Minds** (which supports young people's mental health) and **HelpMusicians.org.uk – a Coronavirus Hardship Fund**. Copies can be ordered by emailing susana.b@btinternet.com.

Meppershall Parish Council – Approved Minutes

An Ordinary Meeting of Meppershall Parish Council (MPC) took place on Monday 13th December.

Public Session

CBC Ward Councillors Mark Liddiard provided an update on Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) activities:

- New defibrillator – Would welcome funding application via Ward Councillor grant scheme.
- COVID numbers – The number of recorded Omicron cases in CBC is now 22 confirmed and 4+ suspected. CBC are issuing a plea to all residents to get jabbed. The vaccination centre at Priory House is accepting walk ins. Over 2000 vaccinations were administered over the previous weekend.
- Festive season waste collections – Collections will be on Thursday and not Wednesdays over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Christmas trees can be recycled at local Tidy Tips or with recycled waste.
- Housing Allocation Scheme – MPC encouraged to respond.
- Community & Village Hall consultation – To be issued shortly by CBC.

Questions / comments from the public

- Is Cllr Liddiard available to attend a meeting with Cllr Dalgarno and MPC on 12th January? *Unfortunately not.*
- Is there any update on the resurfacing of footpaths in Brookside and Brookmead? *Cllr Liddiard - Yes, 3 areas have been highlighted to the CBC Highways team for resurfacing and they include Brookside, Brookmead and Shefford Road. These will be added to their Asset Management Plan.*
- What does it mean 'added to the Asset Management Plan'? *The Asset Management Plan is a 'priority list' that includes Highways assets that require maintenance (repair or replace). Addition to the list does not guarantee work will be done but adds it to the maintenance plan and schedule.*

Procedures, Consultations and Legal

i. Co-Option

The Clerk had previously circulated the application of Mr W Addy (present at the meeting) to all councillors and confirmed having spoken to him at length regarding the role. Councillors commented on how impressed they were with the application and felt that his skills would be beneficial to the Council. *Council resolved to co-opt Mr Addy.*

Cllr Addy signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the Clerk and Proper Officer and was then asked to join councillors in deliberating the business of the meeting by the Chairman.

ii. Procedures

- a. Council resolved to re-approve MPC Application for Financial Assistance v2.0, Reserves Policy v1.0 and Document Retention Policy v1.0.*

- b. Council resolved that the Clerk open another bank account for savings and transfer no more than £85k into it, and that members of the Finance Working Group and the Clerk be appointed signatories to the new account.*

iii. Consultations

Councillors considered to what extent the proposed changes to CBC's Housing Allocation Scheme would affect Meppershall residents. For new affordable housing allocations in the village, Meppershall residents should be given priority as they are people with local connections to the village. Councillors agreed that they would support changes that placed importance on local family community cohesion and looked after all generations of the community. *Council resolved that the Clerk respond to the Housing Allocation Scheme consultation in support of proposed changes especially where the emphasis is on supporting residents with a local connection.*

iv. IT – Website and Email

Cllr Standbridge reported that the gov.uk domain is now available and a changeover will take place in January 2022 (website first and then emails to follow). 477 people visited our website in the last month. The Clerk and Cllr Standbridge will schedule review of the MPC logo after the gov.uk changeover has been completed.

v. Centenary Field Parish Facilities

- i. The Clerk reported that Croudace are yet to confirm receipt of the Settlement Agreement and land transfer and send us a signed copy of the documentation however all funds have been received from them. The water meter has not yet been handed over.
- ii. The Clerk confirmed that wording of the Project Practical Completion Certificate had been altered and approved by MPC Solicitor. *Council resolved that Cllrs Thompson and Chapman, together with the Clerk sign the Project Practical Completion Certificate as confirmed by the MPC Solicitor.*
- iii. The Clerk and Cllr Morgan met with Sheriffs on 17th November with regards to planned works to Centenary Field and agreed the following:
 - Sheriffs to provide an invoice for works completed to date on pitch (rolling, fertiliser and cutting).
 - Due to weather conditions it would not be advisable to carry out landscaping and drainage works until early spring March / April. This will require re-quoting due to costs having increased. When on site machinery will be secured in the pitch area.
 - Revised quotes to be provided for all areas
 - Heras Fencing – MPC to remove Heras fencing facing Village Hall and leave track fencing in situ. Sheriffs will re-install fencing as required prior to works starting.
 - Area of MPC/MVH car park will be boarded for material to be deposited on. Amenity lands will not be usable until grass is re-instated. Topsoil removed for running track will be re-used to enlarge top left hand corner of track and to create the bunds (banks of earth). All other material will be deposited on site near hedge to avoid cost of removal.

vi. Stocken House Green Space

- i. Ross Williams appointed as Solicitors acting on behalf of MPC. She has been liaising with Davidson's solicitors and working at pace and efficiency. Both The Clerk and Cllr Thompson have been impressed with the quality of communication and advice provided so far.
- ii. MPC Solicitors have suggested purchasing indemnity insurance at a cost of £250 when the contract with Davidsons is completed. Indemnity insurance as opposed to searches has been suggested because of the potential for delay. An assumed indemnity cover amount of £500,000 is proposed which is bit of a stab in the dark. Ordinarily we would get insurance for the value of the property (if a house) as that is the potential maximum loss. Searches would cost more than this insurance. Procedures and legal working group consider this a prudent expenditure. *Council resolved that MPC purchase indemnity insurance via MPC solicitors regarding Stocken House Green Space.*

vii. Wry Close Allotment Track

Council resolved to approve 6 month extension to Licence Agreement between MPC and the Sugarloaf PH permitting anchoring of a gazebo on Wry Close Allotment track with inclusion of review meeting in June 2022.

Finance

- i. **Grant applications** - Cllr Thompson did not participate in this part of the meeting having previously declared an interest. Cllr Parsons took over as Chairman of the meeting for this agenda item. The Messenger grant application was circulated to councillors with meeting papers. The £750 was requested to assist with the purchase of 100% recycled paper for future printing use. *Council resolved to approve grant application of £750 to Meppershall Messenger (Local Government Act 1972, s.142).*
- ii. **Purchase orders**
 - i. *Council resolved that the Clerk attend the Practitioners' Virtual Conference at a cost of £75.*
 - ii. CBC Highways have advised that there is a £500 per site cost for traffic monitoring assessments. The Clerk has contacted the OPCC who have stated that "The funds issued should be used to achieve the outcomes mentioned in your bid, it will be for your project to decide how the money are spent to delivery those outcomes". Therefore it is assumed they can be used for payment of traffic monitoring. Monitoring will be conducted prior to Christmas at the following locations:
 - The entrance to the village on Shefford Road,
 - High Street heading towards the School between Fowlers Drive and Gregory Close,
 - Fildyke Road heading towards High Street between Chapel Road and Lyspitt Common and,
 - At some point between 32 Shefford Road and the location of the existing VAS on Shefford Road (to replace this VAS).

The Clerk was asked to confirm with CBC who would be responsible for VAS maintenance post installation. *Council resolved to approve £2000 cost of traffic monitoring assessments as part of VAS installation suitability.*

- iii. **Precept and budget 2022-2023** - This item will be deferred to the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to arrange a Finance Working Group meeting on 4th January at 10am to review the draft budget prior to presentation at the next meeting.
- iv. **Standing orders and direct debits** - *Resolved to approve updated standing orders and direct debit list as presented and signed by Councillors.*
- v. **Document approval** - *Council resolved that Bank Statements and Reconciliation reports 150 Current Account and 025 Savings Account be approved and signed.*
- vi. **Orders for the payment of money** – *Council resolved that the schedule of payments as presented be approved and authorised for payment by Cllrs Thompson or Parsons.*

Planning and Housing

a. Planning applications

- i. **CB/21/04142/OUT - The Airman Hotel, SG17 5JF** - Outline Application: extension to the existing hotel to provide an additional 30 en-suite bedrooms and the erection of 9 self-contained lodges. The existing car park to be expanded and remodelled to provide a total of 80 car parking spaces. A new point of access from the Hitchin Road to provide a delivery access with turning and unloading facilities and 15 staff car parking spaces. Landscaping and biodiversity enhancements. All matters reserved apart from access. *Council resolved that the Council objects on the grounds of highways issues, design, impact on landscape and environment and noise pollution.*
- ii. **CB/21/04098/FULL - Meppershall Airfield, Campton Road** - Two new 3 bedroom semi-detached staff dwellings. *Council resolved to object on the grounds of impact on landscape and noise.*
- iii. **CB/21/04970/FULL - The Mow, Hoo Road, SG17 5LP** - Erection of 9 residential dwellings and all ancillary works. *Council resolves to object on the grounds of contrary to policy, design and layout, environmental and landscaping issues and other identified issues.*

Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group reported that the grant application for £2,740 has been approved and money should be with MPC shortly. The plan is under review by the Clerk and Mrs Chapman. Mr Pain will arrange to remove the Regulation 14 banners shortly.

Highways and Transport

The Clerk advised that:

- Hoo Road Bridleway Bollards – Damage and removal of bollards reported to CBC ROW officer with photos
- Footpath outside Sugarloaf to be replaced in early 2022.

- Meeting with Cllr Ian Dalgarno – Highways portfolio holder on 27/11 to discuss Meppershall OPCC funding and issue. He has advised that the CBC draft SID Policy is pending. Meeting with CBC Portfolio holder Ian Dalgarno arranged for Wednesday 12th January at 2:00pm (Cllr Morgan to attend).

Environment and Leisure

- a. **Tree planting plans** - Councillors asked for this cost to be included in the 2022-2023 budget.
- b. **ORM development plans** - Councillors asked for this cost to be included in the 2022-2023 budget.
- c. **MPC Signage** – *Council resolved that the Clerk organise the purchase and installation of all required signage in MPC owned locations and also the installation of noticeboards.*
- d. **Allotments**
 - i. Circa £879 received in allotment rent with £770 pending.
 - ii. Mr B J Foster has quoted £1348 to replace 5 support gates holding stop cocks, supply and fit 6 replacement taps and supply and fit new isolating stop cock on supply pipe from High Street. Council *Resolved to accept quotation for tap repairs and replacement and associated works from Mr BJ Foster at a cost of £1348.* The Clerk was also asked to engage with Mr Foster regarding Phase 2 works on the allotments to increase access to water facilities.
 - iii. A request has been made to rent 2 allotment plots in order to cultivate flowers for commercial sale. The Clerk has not provided a definitive response pending council guidance and resolution. Councillors reviewed the MPC Allotment Tenancy Agreement and associated documentation that follows the key legal restriction contained in the Allotments Act 1922, whereby there is a general prohibition on any “trade or business” being conducted on the allotment garden. An allotment garden must, by definition, “be wholly or mainly cultivated for the production of vegetable or fruit crops (MPC added in flowers) for consumption by the occupier or his family”. The MPC Allotment tenancy agreement makes reference to “A small amount of surplus produce may be sold as ancillary to the provision of crops for the family”. MPC allotment tenancies do not currently allow for the renting of plots for commercial production. MPC allotments are subsidised by the Parish Council and therefore any commercial gain made by tenants may be considered an inappropriate use of public funds. *Council resolved not to permit the renting of allotment plots for commercial cultivation.*

Health and Safety

- a. **Old Road Meadow Risk Assessment** - The Clerk and Mrs Thorne completed a Risk Assessment at ORM on 7th December. Upon review councillors requested that the Clerk discuss with the CBC Rights of Way Officer access to ORM via Fildyke Road. *Council resolved to confirm receipt of ORM Risk assessment.*

b. Special Constable to cover Meppershall with Shillington and Gravenhurst -

The Chair of Shillington PC has contacted the Clerk and Gravenhurst Parish Council to see if we are interested in supporting a Special Constable that would cover Meppershall, Shillington and Gravenhurst. CBC Cllr Graham has spoken to the PCC and the Beds Police Chief Constable who are discussing it seriously. They are happy for villages to start to try to identify interested people in their communities as of now, as it cooperates with the force. Dividing a Special's commitment between villages would be fine. The official recruitment and training will take at least a year, before the specials would be operational in their communities. Although councillors were supportive of this initiative they had many unanswered questions such as:

- Would any financial contribution from MPC be required?
- Would we have a guarantee that the Special Constable would be working in our area?
- How many hours would they work a week / month?

Councillors requested that the Clerk and the Chair request more information on the proposal and perhaps ask the PCC to attend one of our meetings to discuss.

Staffing – Training – *Council resolved that the Clerk enrol Mrs Thorne on the ROSPA Visual Inspection Training course.*

John Thompson - Chairman - Meppershall Parish Council

Neighbourhood Watch – 40th Anniversary Activities

We received the following update and information from the National Neighbourhood Watch Network Central Support Team:

Happy New Year, and welcome to our first newsletter of 2022 for Neighbourhood Watch supporters across England and Wales!

This year, we are thrilled to be celebrating 40 years since the first Neighbourhood Watch group was formed in the UK in Cheshire in 1982. To kick-start our celebrations, we have proudly launched a special-edition 40th anniversary logo, which you can choose to use from now and throughout 2022 as you wish. We will be sharing more ways to celebrate our special anniversary throughout the year – for now, save the date for NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK 2022 from 30th May - 5th June. You may notice this falls on the same weekend as the Queens Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend and The Big Lunch – which presents a fantastic opportunity to host a street party and connect with your neighbours.

To download our anniversary logo, find top tips on how to organise a street party, or see how you can play your part in tackling terrorism, read our newsletter here:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2022-01/Jan%202022%20OUR%20NEWS.pdf>

Or visit the website: www.ourwatch.org.uk

NEW TEAM MEMBERS REQUIRED

Meppershall Parish Council needs 2 new team members; if you think you would like to join the team contact the Clerk on 07930 813808 or email clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk

What is a councillor?

Councillors are elected or co-opted to represent a 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 due to previous resignations.

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://meppershall-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/members-of-the-council/> for more information and contact the Clerk to the Council on 07930 813808 or email clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk

GO ON, GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!



**22 Bedford Road
Lower Stondon, Beds.
SG16 6EA
01462 416416**

BUSINESS HOURS

**Mon - Fri : 8.30 a.m. - 6.30 p.m.
Saturday : 9:00 a.m. – 12:00
noon
Sunday - CLOSED**

Sheridan's
*estate agents and
surveyors*

**Estate Agents
Surveyors
Property
Management
Block
Management**

Residential Property Services
Sales and Lettings / Homebuyers Surveys / Valuations / Lease Extensions

Commercial Property Services
Commercial Agency / Development Advice / Landlord & Tenant / Commercial Valuation



**22 High Street, Shefford
01462 814087**



THE AIRMAN KITCHEN
Authentic Turkish Cuisine

**NOW FULLY OPEN 2-9PM 7 DAYS AS WELL AS
TAKEAWAY COLLECTIONS AND DELIVERIES**

**TEL 01462 814495 TO ORDER OR BOOK. SEE OUR
AUTHENTIC TURKISH MENU AT
theairmankitchen.co.uk**

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements



Walnut Tree

CAFE

Located in
Meppershall
Village Hall

Serving locally roasted coffee,
all day breakfast, lunch, and
homemade cakes.

Come in and take a look at our
new Winter Specials!

Opening times:

Tuesday - Friday: 9am - 3pm *

*kitchen closes at 2pm

Saturday morning breakfast:
9am - 12pm



Phone: 07376632207

walnuttreecafe2020@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook
@walnuttreecafe


FULL WORKSHOP FACILITY



HITCHIN MOTORCARE LTD
JAPANESE VEHICLE SPECIALISTS
Sales of Nissan cars
Repairs and services on all makes and models
1-3 WALLACE WAY, HITCHIN **01462 441122**
OPENING HOURS: Monday-Friday 8am-6pm,
Saturday 8am-1pm
www.hmccars.co.uk




Orchard House Counselling



I offer Person-Centred counselling for adults and young people
for issues including:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Relationship and family issues
- Stress
- Bereavement
- Addiction



If you need help in exploring and working through problems, or support
while making changes in your life, please contact me.

Lindsey Gibson
Tel: 07970 813554
Email: lindsey.gibson23@gmail.com

Budgens

OPEN: Mon— Sat: 7AM—8PM
Sun: 8AM—8PM


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

 51455 

Paul Donald
Gas Plumbing & Central Heating

Based in Henlow
Boiler Changes,
Boiler Repairs & Servicing
Power Flushing,
Unvented Cylinders,
Central Heating & Bathroom Installations,
Underfloor Heating

Free estimates
No job too big or small
35 years experience



07973 410957 | 07415 100610 | 01462 815386

Time to get FIT – Bowel Cancer Screening

FIT or faecal immunochemical test, is a free bowel cancer screening test for those aged over 60.

So, let's rid the taboo about poo! This simple, lifesaving test is easier than you may think; most of us are able to do this independently, and in the privacy of our own bathroom. You can't always see the signs and tests can detect early signs of cancer. When spotted early, treatment is more likely to be successful and most will survive bowel cancer when an early diagnosis is made.

The statistics can be difficult to read; around one in 15 men and one in 18 women will have bowel cancer in their lifetime; with over 42,000 people being diagnosed and 268,000 living with bowel cancer in the UK each year.

Although more commonly found in those aged 50 and over, around 2,500 people under 50 are diagnosed each year.

For those aged 60-74, a FIT kit will be sent automatically by post, and repeated every two years; those older can ask to be tested by calling the free NHS helpline 0800 707 6060.

If you have symptoms which can include blood in your poo, a change in your normal bowel habits, a pain or lump in your abdomen, weight loss or tiredness for no obvious reason, then make an appointment with your doctor or nurse practitioner without delay.

To request a free FIT kit or for more information about bowel screening, go online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bowel-cancer-screening/> or call the NHS bowel cancer helpline free on 0800 707 6060.

For registered patients at Shefford Health Centre, Lower Stondon Surgery, Larksfield Surgery and Arlesey Medical Centre; you can contact Ivel Valley South Primary Care Network for more information, by emailing bedccg.carecoordinator@nhs.net

Central Bedfordshire Council - Your Experiences Of Cyber Crime

Council launches new survey

Central Bedfordshire Council has launched a new cyber crime survey and is encouraging members of the public to take part.

Cyber crime is the term given to criminal activity that either targets or uses a computer, or a networked device such as a mobile phone. The aim for most cyber criminals is to achieve financial gain.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggests that people are more likely to become a victim of cyber crime and fraud than any other type of crime, but it is significantly

under reported. Therefore, in its 2021-2024 strategy, the Community Safety Partnership – made up of Bedfordshire Police, Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Services, National Probation Services and Bedfordshire's Clinical Commissioning Group - identified cyber crime as an 'emerging priority'.

To take the survey, visit: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations>

To request a copy of the survey in another format, please email: community.safety@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

The survey will close on 4 February 2022.

Elaine Mountfort, Safer Communities Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council

Central Beds Pilots New Digital Online Support For Unpaid Carers

Central Bedfordshire Council has teamed up with digital provider Mobilise to pilot a new service to connect unpaid carers. The three-month pilot project started on 29 November and will use social media and digital marketing to help to find and identify unpaid carers, connecting them immediately with others in a similar position, and providing relevant, timely support. The service is free.

Mobilise will work in partnership with the existing carers support services provided by Carers in Bedfordshire and Central Bedfordshire Council, offering a range of online support, from regular contact through emails, guide to caring e-course to 'virtual cuppas' and even individual support calls - seven days a week.

Around 30,000 people in Central Bedfordshire – that's around 10 per cent of the local population – are thought to be unpaid carers.

Councillor Carole Hegley, Executive Member for Adult Social Care at Central Bedfordshire Council, said: "Many residents who provide unpaid care do not see themselves as carers because they are simply doing what they can for a relative, a friend or a neighbour who needs them because of their disability or illness. By connecting carers, we can ensure they are supported, particularly during the difficult winter months, and can continue to provide their crucial care. Mobilise is a great way for people to connect and receive support from others who can relate to their similar and shared experiences."

Suzanne Bourne, Co-founder and Head of Carer Support at Mobilise, stated: "There are carers out there who may need advice who are not currently accessing it. Creating a Mobilise carer peer support network in Central Bedfordshire will see an improvement in their wellbeing. Carers are less likely to reach breakdown and require emergency assistance."

The service is free for Meppershall residents – access it at:

<https://www.mobiliseonline.co.uk/central-bedfordshire>

GNOMES (Meppershall Good Neighbours)



On **Thursday 10th of February** the GNOMES are hosting our next regular monthly coffee morning in the **Walnut Tree Café** in the **Meppershall Village Hall** from **10.30am**.

The March Coffee morning will be on **Thursday 10th March** in the Café' at **10.30am**. All are welcome, so come along for a friendly chat and a cuppa from the café or even try a tasty treat too!

The **GNOMES** are available to help, the phone is manned, and our volunteers are ready to assist where we can.

Our Facebook page is regularly updated with useful information on help and resources available locally and please remember we are here to help. Follow us at

www.facebook.com/meppershallgoodneighbours



**Good
Neighbours
Offering
Meppershall
Excellent
Services**

Whatever your need, call us on **07760 793921, Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm** we'll try our best to assist. And if you have a neighbour who you think might need some help like this, you don't have to be a **GNOME** to ask them. If we can't assist, we will try to find someone or some organization that can.

Have some spare time? Like to help people in the community? Then please consider volunteering on a one-off or regular basis. Give us a call on 07760 793921 or email gnomes.secretary@meppershall.org and join our friendly team of insured and DBS checked volunteers helping those who need a helping hand at times.

Time to Get Out Walking Again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks? Walking in Bedfordshire (www.walkinginengland.co.uk/beds) has hundreds of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place. John Harris (the custodian of the website) said, 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Bedfordshire (part of the Walking in England website – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris www.walkinginengland.co.uk john@walkinginengland.co.uk



Startup School for Seniors

**Have an idea for a business
but don't know where to start?**



**Join our free course for over 50s
and we'll help you get your
business off the ground***

Find out more at:
startupschoolforseniors.com



**"A really enjoyable and informative
course... suited to those with some
life experience behind them"**

Helen, hat maker



*Terms and conditions apply

Startup School for Seniors is an 8-week eLearning programme specifically aimed at the over 50s to become self-employed or set up their own business and funded by Central Bedfordshire and Bedford councils.

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS...

Visit Chandlers Country Stores
for all your pet supplies, country
clothing, equestrian and small
holding products.



Chandlers

**Country
Stores**

Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5QB.

01462 810190

BestSalon

OLAPLEX.

WE OFFER OLAPLEX TO DRAMATICALLY
REDUCE BREAKAGE DURING COLOR SERVICE.



01462 817151

Established for 29 years.

Let us make the Best of you

**We offer free consultations & free
skin/strand tests. Call in to pick up a
price list and discount voucher at**

**197 Station Road, Lower Stondon
(Next to the Post Office/Pharmacy)**

5 Star Google reviews

**Unisex
Hairdressing
Gel Nails
Beauty Therapy
Wedding &
Prom Packages
Ombre'/Balayage
Hair Ups
Accessories & Gifts**



**Plastering, Cornice,
Painting & Rendering
All aspects of
Lime Works,
Period Properties
a Speciality**



**Carl Coxall
Plastering & More**

158 Station Road, Lower Stondon

Tel Home : 01462 817531

Mobile: 07803 383222

VAT Free, No Job Too Small

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements



A FAIR MOT TEST FOR A FAIR PRICE

WWW.THEGARAGESHEFFORD.CO.UK

E: INFO@THEGARAGESHEFFORD.CO.UK

T: 01462 414820

**A: 2B ST FRANCIS WAY, SHEFFORD, SG17 5DZ
(NEXT TO MORRISONS)**

The Garage Shefford is a small friendly and family run company. Our team has over 40 years experience in the motor trade and provides an honest, reliable and cost effective service, which is approved by both the Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMI) and Trust My Garage. We believe in providing a fair MOT test for a fair price.



MOT Testing NOW £35!

Including classes 4 • 5L • 7
(Cars, vans, minibuses, motorhomes,
and goods vehicles up to 3500kg)



SERVICING & REPAIRS



A/C RECHARGE



COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR:

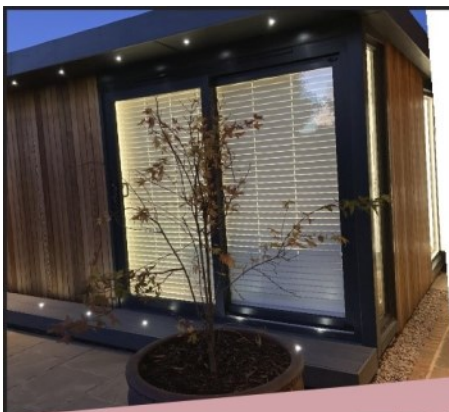
- **SERVICES:** add an MOT to your Interim, Annual, or Major Service to save
- **UNIFORMED SERVICES:** 10% discount when you show your ID
- **SENIOR CITIZENS:** automatically qualify for 10% off

The Garage Shefford reserves the right to revoke or rescind these offers at any point, without notice.
Identification may be required for Uniformed Services (professional ID or Blue Light Card) or Seniors discounts.

PROUD TO BE APPROVED BY...



Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements



Browzers



TREATMENT STUDIO

- Laser Hair Removal • LVL • Microblading • Tattoo Removal
- Eyebrow Wax & Tint • Vitamin B12 boosters • Red Thread Vein Removal
- Microdermabrasion Facials • Treatment for Onychomycosis (toe fungal)

Call, email or text to book -
We have availability 7 days a week, including evenings

Browzers Studio, 42 Coneygate, Meppershall SG17 5GB

07960 780860

info@browzers.org

www.browzers.org



@browzersstudio



ROGERS BAKERY

High St. Meppershall
Shefford, Beds.
SG17 5LZ

01462 813398

RogersBakery@aol.com



1983 - 2021
38 Years
Quality & Service

Fresh Bread Daily
Celebration Cakes
our Speciality
Filled Rolls &
Sandwiches

Snowdrop Season

This time of year brings so much hope and anticipation in the garden. As I sit in the warm, by the fire with a cup of tea in hand I think of all the hundreds of bulbs I have planted in both my own and clients gardens. I can't wait for them all to emerge and bring joy. They never fail to bring a smile with each and every one bringing their own beauty.

Although the garden seems lifeless, it is just having 40 winks and soon fresh green shoots will emerge. Nature never let's us down and that's why I love living in the English countryside. I feel spoilt as we are indulged with the different seasons and all the flora they have to offer. With the varied climate, I know we moan sometimes but, without the rain we would not have this green and pleasant land to enjoy!

Each plant will, soon be putting on its own display of colour, scent and shape. Always giving us seasonal interest and pleasure. You cannot fail to feel relaxed and uplifted going into the garden. I really miss it If I haven't had my fix either working in clients gardens or pottering in mine.



Of course Snowdrops have a special place in the plant calendar, as they are the first and bravest of the spring flowers. Although looking so delicate are in actual fact very tough cookies. In the bleak Midwinter you know once you see drifts of white they are heralding the others to set to work spreading colour and warmer and longer days are on there way.

In contrast the egg yolk yellow of the winter aconites do their own dance to welcome the springtime in.

Hellebores seem shy as they bow their heads in the garden but they really no need, as lift their heads and you will find an array of gorgeous pastel shades, they come in single and double forms. Some patterned with delicate freckles.



Hellebores like deep, moist soil in semi shade and enjoy a leaf mould mulch. Remove all the old foliage that looks tatty and have any black spot.

Then of course we are blessed with the cheery daffodils that seem to dance for joy that spring has arrived! So enjoy the garden as nature unfolds its paint palette!

Donna Cameron
Donna's Garden Designs
07833670934

Jobs in the Garden for February

- Add manure and slow, release fertiliser around base of roses and flowering shrubs
- Prune late flowering clematis to 30cm above ground
- Cut back deciduous grasses
- Prune Wisteria, hardy evergreen hedges and winter flowering shrubs such as Mahonia and Winter Jasmine
- Prune Buddleia if large down to base to keep to a reasonable size
- Divide herbaceous perennials
- Divide Snowdrops once finished flowering
- Prepare vegetable beds
- Chit potato tubers
- Winter prune fruit trees and add sulphate of potash around the base
- Cut off spent Amaryllis heads but leave stalks to die down naturally
- Sow Sweetpeas in greenhouse or on window sill
- Set up nest boxes
- Wash greenhouse
- If snowy, knock snow off shrubs to prevent damage.

Shefford Leisure Group by Enid Pamment

MY SWAN SONG!!



What a year this has been!! In a funny sort of way we have managed to get things done. People have spent more time in the garden, taking walks and admiring the countryside. This is one big reason why I feel we really are lucky with such lovely spectacular scenery and superb sunsets with beautiful skies.

I am sorry but I have decided to 'retire' from the 'Leisure Group', close it down and as such this will be my last piece for the Messenger. This decision has not been taken lightly but as I have been running 'Shefford Leisure Group' for over thirty five years I feel I should get out and about in our lovely countryside a little bit more!

Whilst on the subject I really must say a big 'thank you' to John Thompson who has advised, supported and been so thoughtful and kind to me. John has printed all the postal newsletters and other items which needed doing. Also, a big thank you to Mick Ridley and James Read (Editors of the magazine) and Andrew Pain, always around to offer a word of advice when needed – also to remind me what date it is when I exceeded the deadline!!.

Over the course of 38 years as Group Organiser I have been able to find or source and book a wide variety of trips and excursions both near and far and abroad. Too many

to highlight any particular favourite, but all were enjoyed by those who travelled with the Group with many members returning with the Group to annual favourites not least of which has been our final excursion to Thursford Christmas Spectacular.

Although I will be closing the travel doors to the Leisure Group, do please remember my fellow travel colleague Philip Howe (Stevenage Group Travel <https://stevenagetravel.co.uk>) and of course Landmark Coaches (<https://www.landmarkhire.com/what-we-do/day-trips/>). Both will continue to offer trips and excursions going forward which I hope you will consider and enjoy going forward.

Finally, I would like to say just a very big 'THANK YOU' to you all and grateful thanks to you all for your past support.

Enid xx
09-11-21

Friends of St Mary's Meppershall – Village Quiz Update

Part of the usual rhythm of life in Meppershall is the annual Meppershall Village Quiz organised by the Friends of St Mary's Meppershall (FOSMM) which takes place each year in January.

Owing to ongoing uncertainty (at the time of writing) regarding the pandemic, and the closely-packed event that we usually run (with up to 150 people squeezing into the Village Hall) the Trustees of FOSMM decided not to go ahead with this year's event. However we are looking at dates later in the year and working with the Village Hall to find an appropriate Saturday on which to run the quiz.

This is also subject to the kind support of Graham Jackson and Jenny who have patiently helped with rearranged dates and postponements during the challenging lockdown months.

FOSMM is a charity that exists alongside the church itself, with the aim of fundraising specifically for the fabric and upkeep of the church building. In recent years it provided a donation to the church to cover the maintenance of a boundary wall and it is currently in the process of making a larger donation towards the costs of major repairs that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are aiming to undertake in the near future.

The charity was founded in 1993 and its fundraising has focused on the annual quiz as well as concerts held in the church. Most memorably this has included visits by renowned jazz musician, the late Kenny Ball. The FOSMM trustees would very much like to resume these kinds of events, lockdown permitting. But we need volunteers and new trustees to help us continue the mission of the charity and if anyone is interested they are very welcome to get in touch using the church contact details.

Root 'n Branch

Your Local
Friendly & Reliable Gardener

All aspects of
Garden Maintenance
undertaken

**PRUNING • MOWING
WEEDING • PLANTING
HEDGING**

Contact Kevin on

Tel : **07771 537385**

Email: whooley@hotmail.co.uk

Sheffield based

RDG

PLUMBING AND HEATING SERVICES

Locally based in Henlow
Well established company
GAS SAFE registered

Tel: 07850 441762

email: robgooda@aol.com



Marc Dellar GARDEN SERVICES

Upper Stondon

- Grass Cutting
- Hedge Cutting
- Strimming
- Overgrown Gardens Cleared



Please Call Anytime

01462 850562 or 07792 227913

Malc's Garden Services



Grass and hedge cutting
Fence and Shed Repair
Small General Maintenance
Telephone: 07921572065
malcsgm@hotmail.co.uk



Musical Bumps

real music... real education... real fun!

Outstanding music classes
from birth to school

Classes in Meppershall
on Mondays

BOOK A
FREE
TRIAL CLASS

Percussion
& puppets

Rhythm
& rhyme

Listening
& learning

Ready...
steady...
sing!



facebook.com/musicalbumps.centralbedfordshire

Contact Alex Martin Tel: 07397 776357
musicalbumps.com alex.martin@musicalbumps.com

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to an advertisement

Philip Allen Tree Surgeon

- Comprehensive trees service
- Fully insured & all work carried out to BS3998
- Crown reductions and lifting
- Felling
- Hedge shaping and maintenance
- 24 hour call out
- Free estimates
- All materials completely recycled
- Seasoned hardwood logs available

Contact Phil Allen on
Hitchin 834411 or 07909 716 631
or email on
allentrees@btinternet.com

Defibrillator



LOCATED OUTSIDE

MEPPERSHALL ACADEMY AND THE POST OFFICE
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE ON FRONT OF CABINETS

SHEFFORD LEISURE GROUP

Open to the local Community
Friendly day trips and holidays

See Messenger for newsletter

***Raffle monies raised for
Keech Hospice Care for
Children***

To receive monthly newsletters or
for further information contact:

Enid Pamment Tel: 01462 851397
e-mail: enid.pamment@gmail.com

ROGER CHAPMAN Home & Garden Services

- Patios
- Driveways
- Fencing
- Brickwork
- Tiling
- Painting and decorating



**30 Years' Experience
No Job Too Small!**

**01462 850575
or
07950311881**

Chiropodist

Mobile Surgery

Graeme Harley

m.s.s.ch m.b.ch.a

H.P.C. Registered

**15 New Street,
Shefford**

**Tel. 01462 816 458
Mob. 0773 9101 396**

**Dance Lessons in
Shefford, Campton and
Fairfield Park**

**Ballet Tap
Modern Jazz**

Classes offer, exercise, confidence,
Self-esteem, posture, flexibility, social skills and lots of fun.

Trial lesson free!

Fully qualified dance teacher (ISTD, RAD & IDTA)
with 25+ years experience teaching

Find us on FACEBOOK
@CamptonSchoolOfDance

For details, phone Lynda 01462 813213

MARTIN ROE
PAINTING & DECORATING

*Quality assured
All aspects*



Telephone: 07973 532430

Derek Harris & Sons
Landscaping

Est 1976, Free Estimates,
Friendly & Reliable Service

Turfing, Patios Laid,
Block Paving, Brick Piers,
Garden Walls, Fencing,
Tree & Hedge Cutting,
Gardens Cleared
Registered Waste Carriers

Tel: 01234 381854
07885 442800, 07398 268956
www.dhandsons.co.uk

Webulike.co.uk Ltd

**Your one stop shop
for website solutions**



Webulike.co.uk

Our services include:

Hosting - Design - Site Updates

Site Maintenance - Revamps

Databases - PC Maintenance

Web: www.webulike.co.uk

Email: sales@webulike.co.uk

Telephone : 01462 816377

Lawton Property Services Ltd

Carpentry & Building

**Tel Chris: 01234 381065
Mobile: 07939 004561**

Jon Lambley WINDOW CLEANER

For quotation call

07796 303908

01462 811945



15 years experience,

Reliable, Professional & Fully Insured

Meppershall based

Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin (Church of England)

Church Road, off Campton Road, Meppershall

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



Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman

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

Churchwardens:

Chris Valentine 01462 815971 Peter Clark

PCC Secretary:

Anne Parsons 01462 813333 Email: annie10639@gmail.com

Message from St Mary's

Firstly I hope the new year has got off to a good start for you.

Christmas may seem now to have finished some time ago, but although most of us will have put away our Christmas decorations on 12th night - the Christmas and Epiphany Seasons are only coming to an end in Church on the 2nd Feb when we remember Jesus being presented in the Temple... And then it is time for us to finally pack away the Crib until next year.

This is also the time I must gently remind you to remove Christmas wreaths and decorations from the Churchyard and check that your graves are being looked after according to the guidance laid out in the Diocese of St Albans Churchyard Regulations 2020 at www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk. Please remember that your memorial stone, if there, remains your responsibility, and check that it is securely in place and not "wobbly". I know that some of the stones in the Churchyard are in need of attention, so if you know that is yours, please do talk to me.

Our desire is to maintain the churchyard as a place that is safe and welcoming for all who wish to use it. We hope that our care, and the care of relatives, for the churchyard and the graves, will maintain it as a place that truly honours the memory of all those buried here.

I often find February a strange month - after winter (?)... but not quite spring; enlivened by Valentine's Day celebrations for some - and then, though not this year, launching us into Lent (Ash Wednesday is 2nd March this year). This year though, I find myself approaching February much more excitedly.

Maybe it is the winter sunshine and blue skies we have been enjoying (even though it is chilly!), maybe it is having the windows open more and listening to the birdsong, maybe it is walking around my garden looking at the patches of bare brown earth and seeing in my mind's eye what was there before that I really hope will come again! In

fact, I have just crunched my way around the garden on the frosted grass and so many plants are already beginning to break through the earth towards the sun, while in a shady corner the purple buds on the hellebores are fit to burst!

(The weather forecast is not quite so promising, and suggests that more winter is coming at the end of the month!)

I remember that one evening when we were driving in the car with our children and the sun was setting - a really beautiful sunset - a little voice in the back of the car said, "Oooh look, Mummy! It's God's painting time!"

And perhaps, if we pause to take it in, each year we are privileged to watch God work on his canvas for the year. The psalmist said:

"The heavens tell about the glory of God.

The skies announce what his hands have made.

Each new day tells more of the story,

and each night reveals more and more about God's power.

You cannot hear them say anything.

They don't make any sound we can hear.

But their message goes throughout the world.

(Psalm 91:1 ERV)

I am not usually the most observant of people - but this year I don't want to miss a single brushstroke!

And applying that image to the whole of life now, it looks as though after living a long time with fear and restrictions - we may at last be stepping out into a new season...

I do not know what this year will hold but I pray that we will move forward with God.... recapturing what was good but has been "on hold", and moving forward inspired by new hopes and new dreams and new visions of who we want to be and the world we want to shape around us.

With best wishes, Rector Roni

Church News and Events in February

Sundays	11.00am	Morning Worship every Sunday including Holy Communion on the 2 nd and 4 th Sundays (13 th and 27 th Feb)
Every Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion in church
Tuesday to Saturday	10.00-3.00 for you	Private prayer and quiet time – the church open to sit and visit during the day
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>

Come and enjoy your local, historic Parish Church on your own, or with friends, or with your family. The church community is a diverse bunch of people of all ages and you are bound to find new friends. A warm welcome awaits you in the beautiful setting of the oldest building in the village.

We observe COVID-safe practices and have returned to a service in church every Sunday. If you are planning to come to a service, it is helpful if you can drop us an email or phone call so we can plan seating to ensure social distancing. At the time of writing we are not doing teas and coffees after services but we hope to resume that in line with national guidance in due course.

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).

Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers

The Strollers have returned to monthly walks and the February outing starts at 2pm on Sunday 13th February from the Village Hall car park. We'll head to Sandy Smith Nature Reserve via Crackle Hill and Campton, ending with a quick loop of the Nature Reserve itself - around 4 miles in total. Some walkers will likely return on foot, others will come back by car. Car parking for the end of the walk is at SG17 5PL and if you want to team up on lifts/cars just get in touch! For more info call Miriam or James on 857836 or find the Strollers at <https://www.facebook.com/MeppershallStrollers>.



Every Tuesday
in the Sugar Loaf car park (for now)
3.30-7.00pm

Pop down and 'Try our Fry'!
To avoid waiting in the cold,
call to place your order:

07833 786108

A Big Thank You to all our customers
who have loyally supported us



The Cafe at W&H Peacock is

OPEN

View the salerooms for our upcoming
auctions and then relax with a coffee
and a slice of cake.

Our unique cafe in Bedford Auction Centre with free
wi-fi comfortably seats over 100 customers.

We serve cooked breakfasts, paninis and
sandwiches, light lunches and snacks plus
a range of hot and cold drinks.

Eastcotts Park,

Wallis Way,

Bedford, MK42 0PE

01234 266 366

Visit

www.peacockscfe.co.uk

for more details on our opening
hours and to view our full menu.

Computer Repairs

We Speed Up Slow Computers

- No Fix No Fee
- We come to you
- PC & Laptop Repairs
- Laptop screen replacement
- Full Tune Up Service
- Data Recovery
- Virus or Spyware Removal
- Upgrades and systems built to order
- Network Setup & Repairs
- Software Errors Fixed
- Not Booting or Blue Screens
- PC Crashing or Freezing
- Internet & Wifi Setup Service
- Software Installation
- For Home and Business
- At Affordable Prices
- Over 20 years Experience

Call us, we are here to help

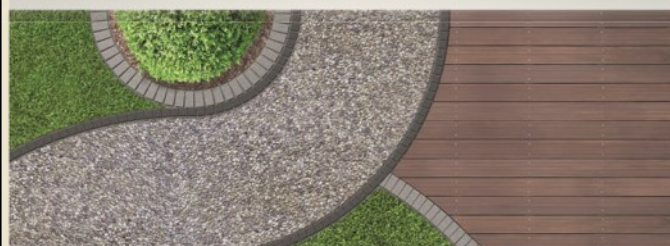
henlowcomputers@btopenworld.com

01462-850033

M.J. Ryall

Building Supplies Ltd.

Suppliers of Timber and all Building Materials



- Paving & Walling
- Bricks
- Aggregates
- Timber
- Turf
- Fencing
- Calor Gas
- Plumbing
- Tools

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - Tel. 01462 730169

100 Norton Road, Stotfold SG5 4PG

www.mjryall.co.uk • info@mjryall.co.uk

FAB FLOORING

CARPETS & FLOORING

CARPET
WOOD FLOORING
LAMINATE & VINYL
RUGS



CRUCIAL TRADING
Where Inspiration Begins

Showroom open
Mon - Fri 9-5pm
Saturday 9-4pm

01462 815755 | sales@fabflooring.co.uk | 01462 817612

www.fabflooring.co.uk • Unit 12D Old Bridge Way • Shefford Industrial Park, Beds SG17 5HQ

How are you going to live your life?

Staying active and healthy is vital. We're here to help.

- Support your immune system
- Reduce aches and pains
- Recover from injuries



01462 811006 www.SheffordOsteo.com
14a Clifton Road, Shefford, SG17 5AE

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements




THE CONIFERS
 CANINE HOTEL

**LUXURY
ACCOMMODATION**

HOLISTIC FOOD SHOP

www.the-conifers.co.uk 01525 860339 The Causeway, Clophill 

James Cullip
 Painting & Decorating

- interior/exterior - all aspects
- wallpaper hanging
- coving
- general household maintenance
- plastering services available
- free estimates
- fully insured

References available

t: 01462 817 122 m: 07899 888 545
 e: go_on_james@hotmail.com
www.cullippaintinganddecorating.co.uk

**E.T.
Accountancy
Services** 

Experienced Accountant and Tax
 Adviser based in Clophill,
 Bedfordshire providing a full range of
 accountancy and taxation services to
 businesses and private individuals.

To arrange a free initial consultation
 please telephone me on:
01525 590465
 or
 email emma@et-accountancy.co.uk

*Chartered Accountant and
 Chartered Tax Adviser*

Emma Thoulass FCA CTA
emma@et-accountancy.co.uk 01525 590465

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements

Meppershall Social Club

MSC hope you all had a great Christmas & we wish you all a peaceful new year.

We have a great line up for 2022, especially as restrictions are being relaxed re covid, however, please maintain hand washing & sanitising (sanitizing items provided).

We have Stuart's CLUBSOUND Karaoke on 11th February. Whether you can sing or not, it's a fun night with friends, over a drink & a tune or two!

February 18th brings a Music Night with the fabulous local talent of Gemma Nicole. Born and bred in Meppershall, these days she is a talented professional cruise ship singer/entertainer - a night not to be missed! Tables are limited, so please book in advance for your chance to be entertained by this amazing, talented young lady!

February 25th or 26th (See Meppershall Social Club or Meppershall Notice Board facebook pages for details & date) is the return of A & Bs vinyl roadshow where you choose the music to dance the night away or bring your own vinyl for a spin.

All the above events are free, advance reservations are optional but are recommended to guarantee your seat!

Don't forget MSC have bingo every Friday, eyes down at 7pm, cash prizes, just pay & play (18 & over).

MSC are currently running a promotional rate of £2 per hour for Snooker, so if that's your forte, then come along and test your skills at this limited promo rate, no advance booking required, just pay & play. However, Bookings can be taken in advance, please speak to a bar member or message Meppershall Social Club on facebook.

MSC politely remind you that membership for 2022 is now due. If you have not renewed or joined by 1/02/22 then non-member prices will apply (typically 40p more per drink & full price entry to events MSC may charge for!

Membership prices as follows:

Family £15 per year, includes children up to 16 years

Single 18 & over £7.50

OAP family (one over 60) £10

Single OAP (60 & over) £5

Persons aged 17 £5 per year

Please renew/join by 31 January; thereafter, non member prices will apply.

Any questions/queries please message MSC on their Facebook page, Meppershall social club. MSC look forward to welcoming you all in 2022.

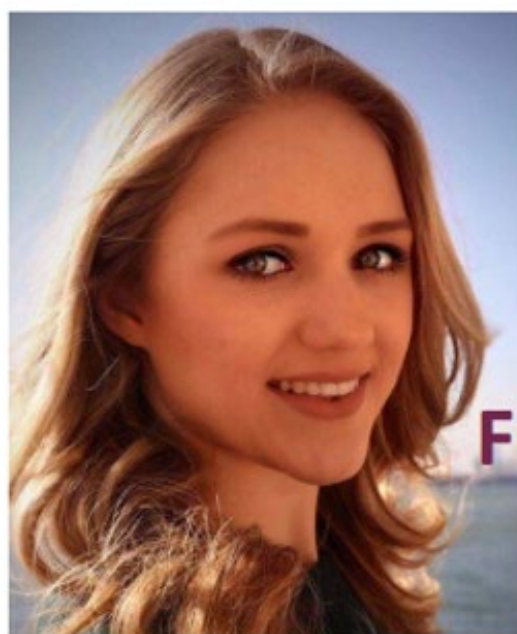
New to the village! You are welcome to join at any time.

Meppershall Social Club
Presents

GTC ENTERTAINMENT

Music Night

**With live music From our good
friend and Meppershall local**



**Professional singer
Gemma Nicole**

**Friday 18th February
8pm till late
In bar area**

**Please book a table as seating is limited by talking to
bar staff or by calling or texting Gemma on
07968529282**



The Meppershall Players



Let me start by saying a huge THANK YOU to everyone who came to see our Panto 'Jack & the Beanstalk' it was lovely to see so many of you there. And we had so much fun after not being able to perform for you all for such a long time.

Happy 50th Birthday Players! We've got a slight change of programme for you this year. We've decided to defer our V.E. Musical Play until 2025 (it's only three years away and if it goes as quickly as the last three it'll be here before you know it). Instead, to celebrate 50 years of the Players and 70 years reign of our beloved Queen Elizabeth, on Saturday 14th May 2022 we will be performing 'The Jubilee Variety Show' at the STMA Digswell Hall, 10 Hitchin Rd, Shefford SG17 5JA.

We will be doing a Matinee performance at 3pm **all tickets £5**, and an evening performance at 7.30pm tickets £10 & Concessions £5 (3yrs-17yrs & 60yrs and over) Yes, we've kept them at the same price as our panto. A fun for all the family show, the seating will be at tables and we encourage you to bring your own picnic/afternoon tea to the matinee, and your own supper to the evening performance.

Tickets are on sale **NOW** and can be purchased online at - **ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers** or call **01462 816336** to reserve.

Our Pantomime this year is 'Aladdin' which will be performed on Saturday 3rd & 10th December 2022. Tickets for this show will be on sale from Tuesday 1st March 2022 online at **ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers**.

We also hope to bring you another "Ultimate Decades Disco" incorporating all the great sounds of the 60's, 70's & 80's.

As soon as we have a date we'll let you know when.

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

The Players meet every Monday evening at 7.30pm at the STMA, 10, 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. Interested? We look forward to meeting you.

Karen Mitchell (Players' Secretary) 01462 816336



🏠 97 Hitchin Road
Shefford
Beds. SG17 5JB

☎ **01462 813338**
✉ denmanautocare@outlook.com
🌐 www.denmanautocare.co.uk

Your local garage for all your vehicle needs. Fast, friendly reliable
And efficient service that does not cost the earth



MOT's £40



Full Service from £195 + vat



Diagnostics £36 + vat

All parts and labour fully guaranteed

FREE COURTESY CAR OR COLLECTION

For all your vehicles needs



RMI



Donna's Garden Designs

RHS Qualified

Fully Insured

Garden Designs

Planting Plans

Horticultural Advice

Hard Landscaping

Donna Cameron 07833670934

donnacameron710@gmail.com

W&H PEACOCK
AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS



Weekly Auctions

Visit the Bedford Auction Centre to enjoy
the excitement of a live auction.

Antique & Modern Furniture • Clocks • Books
Ceramics & Glassware • Pictures & Prints
Bicycles • Jewellery & Watches • Collectables
Garage Tools & Equipment • Household Electrical Items
Office Furniture & Equipment • Retail Products & Stock
Vehicles • Horticultural & Commercial Equipment
Building Materials • Garden Furniture & Effects

Eastcotts Park, Wallis Way, Bedford MK42 0PE
01234 266 366 peacockauction.co.uk

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements



A G Plumbing Services (Shefford)

Taps, Tanks, Toilets, Showers,
New Bathroom Installations &
Repairs, Cylinders, Sinks, Drains

- Local Friendly, Fully
Reliable Professional Service
- No Call Out Charge
- Free Estimates
- All Work Fully
- Explained & Guaranteed

Contact Andrew Good: 01462 817220

Or Mobile: 07815 735433

Professional Carpet,
Rug and Upholstery
Cleaning
Trusted Locally
for over 20 years



THE CARPET CLEANER

Spot and Stain
Emergency
Call Out ✓

Powerful
Truckmounted
Cleaning ✓

Tile and Grout
Cleaning ✓

Cleans Deeper and
Dries Quicker ✓

We provide
all Power and
Hot Water ✓

Fully Insured ✓

Established 1984 ✓

For a Free On-Site Estimate

01438 211763 or **07973 855007**

Old Town, Stevenage, Hertfordshire
email thecarpet.cleaner@ntlworld.com

www.thecarpetcleaneruk.com



ACE PEST LTD

Fast, efficient, friendly service with very competitive rates

Available - 7 days a week

Local company - Established 1988

We specialise in all pest problems especially WASPS

Phone: 01767 627417

www.acepestcontrolbeds.co.uk

NEIL BRADSHAW

LOCAL BUILDER

SPECIALIST BRICKLAYER

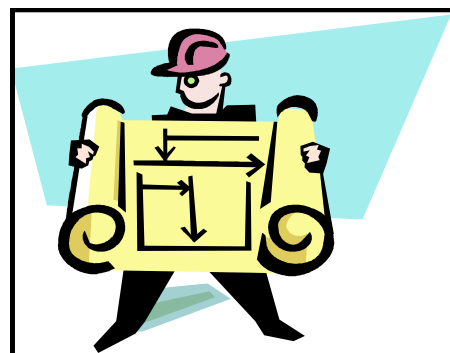
ALL KINDS OF BUILDING WORK UNDERTAKEN

**EXTENSIONS, ALTERATIONS, GARDEN WALLS,
GROUNDWORK, PATIOS, FIREPLACES**

Shawford House
118a, Shefford Road
Meppershall
Beds. SG17 5LL

t - 01462 815016 or 07774 878244

E - nbradshawbuilders@hotmail.co.uk



LUCAS, HUNTLEY & CO

Established 1978

Quality PVC-U windows, doors & conservatories

Window and door repair specialists

PVC-U fascias, soffits, guttering etc.

We are a Fensa registered, local, family run business.

Contact: Paul Lucas on: 01462 811581

Mobile: 07778 312504

51A High Street, Meppershall, Beds SG17 5LX

pclucashuntley@gmail.com

Financial Matters by Paul Savuto

Building financial resilience in the new year

The start of a new year is always the perfect time to take control of your finances and grasp any opportunities that may lie ahead. This year the case is even more compelling with rising inflation and tax increases set to challenge household budgets up and down the country. So now really is the ideal time to quantify your assets and position them appropriately in order to build financial resilience for your future.

Millions set to be worse off

Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) shows that living standards are set to stagnate over the next few years. This year specifically, an average middle-income earner will see take-home pay fall by around 1% as soaring household bills and increased tax burdens outpace any anticipated rise in wages. Research¹ also highlights the pandemic's impact on finances, with almost 16 million Brits feeling more financially vulnerable than before COVID struck.

Plan for your future

This situation is exacerbated by the fact people typically devote relatively little attention to financial matters. A survey, for example, found more than four in ten adults would either struggle to locate and access or had 'no idea' whatsoever about their pension pots². Building financial resilience, however, lessens the impact of any unforeseen circumstances and ensures you are prepared for life's key events, such as retirement. It's therefore vital to plan now for the future you deserve.

Inflation-proof your finances

At the moment, inflation and its erosive impact on savings is a key concern for many. This has resulted in savers increasingly switching money from deposit-based accounts into investments, with research³ suggesting over half of adults have already done so.

Build a diversified portfolio

The spectre of rising inflation certainly means investors need to carefully consider the composition of their portfolios to ensure their money is potentially inflation-proofed. As always, maintaining a diversified range of investments is key, with appropriate portfolio construction enabling successful navigation through any periods of uncertainty. ¹Royal London, 2021, ²money.co.uk, 2021, ³Aegon, 2021

Consider all the variables

From many people's perspectives, the Autumn Budget may have left a feeling that nothing much had changed in the world of personal financial planning, as there were no major changes announced to Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Inheritance Tax or pensions. However, the key consideration is how outside factors such as higher inflation could affect your finances and what steps you should take before the end of the tax year to make the most of any allowances and exemptions.

Inheritance Tax (IHT)

Official figures from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for April to September 2021 show that IHT receipts totalled £3.1bn, £0.7bn higher than the same period in 2020. With the nil rate band and residence nil rate band now frozen until April 2026 at £325,000 and £175,000 respectively, the importance of effective estate planning shouldn't be overlooked.

Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs)

The annual ISA limit has now been frozen at £20,000 for five years. If the allowance had increased with inflation each year since 2017, it would stand at £21,440 today, sheltering an additional £1,440 from the taxman. JISAs celebrated their tenth birthday in November – the allowance remains at £9,000.

Dividend Tax

The government revealed in September that it would increase Dividend Tax by 1.25 percentage points from 6 April 2022 to help fund health and social care. This means investors will have to pay more on any Consider all the variables income from shares held outside ISAs and above the £2,000 Dividend Allowance.

Pensions

The Lifetime Allowance remains at £1,073,100 and the Annual Allowance remains at £40,000. As these allowances haven't increased with inflation, it effectively means those saving to the maximum extent possible with tax concessions can save less in real terms each year. Variables at play It's important to be aware of all the variables at play; inflation, interest rates, taxation and frozen allowances all affect your finances.

Getting a mortgage in retirement

These days, it's not uncommon for people to become homeowners later in life. But can you get a mortgage even if you're retired? If so, what's the maximum age?

First things first: we're not going to pretend that getting a mortgage past the age of 55 is easy. For a start, it is more difficult to prove retirement income than it is a salary. And secondly, mortgage providers want to be sure you'll be able to pay off the loan during your lifetime.

It can be done

Difficult, yes. Impossible? No. Some lenders are willing to provide mortgage finance to older people and even retirees, provided they can prove their income. This may be a private or workplace pension, or a mixture of the two, as well as any savings you may have. These details, as well as an outline of your expenditure, will help prove you will have enough to live on and to pay your mortgage for the duration of the term.

Depending on the lender, and your age, you may have to accept a shorter mortgage term or a higher interest rate. This is because most lenders have a maximum age by

which they will want the mortgage to be paid off, which can be as high as 85 and as low as 70.

Talk to us for help with your individual circumstances.

GET IN TOUCH

DGS IFA Ltd are Independent and Chartered Financial Advisers. We also hold the Gold Standard for Pension Transfers. I am a Chartered Financial Planner with over 29 years financial services experience, so you are in safe hands. For a free review of your financial situation and to discuss your plans and goals, please contact me, Paul Savuto, AFPS, Chartered Financial Planner. DGS Independent Financial Advisers Ltd. 07834 499 595 or email ps@dgsifa.com, I'll be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you have. FCA 225814.

NEED SOMETHING DONE? LOOK IN THE MESSENGER FIRST!

WHATEVER YOU NEED A SPECIALIST OR TRADESPERSON FOR, THERE'S PROBABLY ONE ADVERTISING IN HERE, LOCAL TO YOU.

OUR ADVERTISERS INCLUDE:



PLUMBERS AND HEATING SERVICES, ELECTRICIANS, PLASTERERS, DECORATORS, BRICKLAYERS, CAR/GARAGE SERVICES, GARDEN SERVICES, HANDYMEN, CHIMNEY SWEEP, WINDOW CLEANER, CARPET CLEANER, WINDOW/DOUBLE GLAZING SPECIALIST, FLOORING, VETS, DOG GROOMER, KENNELS/CATTERY, OPTICIAN, PHYSIO/MASSAGE, BEAUTY SALON, BUILDING/HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES, ACCOUNTANT, FINANCIAL SPECIALIST (...and even counselling/hypnotherapy services if it's all too much...!)

So – look in the Messenger first. It may even be the only place you need to look!

Birthdays

We send best wishes this month to Pat L who will be 95. Many happy returns from everyone at The Meppershall Messenger.

In Memoriam

Frank Edward "Ted" Ted Putwain, 23 November 2022 - aged 85. Our deep condolences to Brenda and family.

A Tribute to Ted Putwain

Many will know Ted and Brenda from their daily morning walk to get the newspaper – often taking a stroll on the lanes more widely around the village. Ted sadly passed on 23rd November. Here we remember a much loved Meppershall friend and neighbour.

On those walks, Ted loved talking to children and parents on their way to school, often learning new things from them. Ted and Brenda have watched many of them grow to fine young people. Many people may not realise that for many years Ted played Father Christmas for the nursery school. Much planning went into this to keep his real identity secret! Unfortunately, hearing loss made him have to give this up.

Ted was born to Frank and Emily in Croydon. He had an older sister, Pamela, and they moved to Letchworth as a family because of the war. The family rented a house in 'Green Lane' which later the parents bought. Ted and his sister grew up there, going to the local school and children's clubs.

Ted was a member of the swimming club and was a church bell ringer, but he did not last long in the choir or the scouts, as he could not learn his knots.

On leaving school he had an apprenticeship with the local iron foundry (Furnstan and Lawler Ltd) and at North Herts Technical College.

National service with the 1st East Anglian Regiment put a stop to his training. From 3rd September 1959 to 31st August 1961 Ted was based in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. He also spent time in Germany. In 1967 Ted returned to his studies with the Institute of Work Study Practitioners.

Around this time he started to work at Vauxhall, later moving on to IBC vehicles.

Brenda was a friend of Pamela who had broken up with her boyfriend. Ted used to come and visit when Brenda was at Pamela's house. Brenda always liked Ted - they used to talk and became friends. One night when Brenda was working at a pub, Ted arrived for a drink. He talked Brenda into going away for a weekend with him. Ted used to sail '505' dinghies. He was competing in open meetings around the country. So Brenda was to meet him at the bottom of their road at 6:30am (with the boat on the trailer he could not come up to the house at that time in the morning!) Brenda surprised her parents on arriving home to tell them that she was going to Hastings for the weekend with a man that they did not know!

Brenda knew that if all else failed, she had an aunt and uncle who lived in Hastings. But Ted and Brenda had a lovely weekend, they never stopped talking and getting to know each other, with other wives and girlfriends looking after Brenda while Ted was sailing.

Ted asked Brenda to marry him after his firm's Christmas dinner, on the way home. Brenda realised she would not like life without him. A date was set for the wedding, 24th April 1971. Following the wedding, they set up home in a bungalow in Shefford

with much of the work building cupboards, shelves and wardrobes being completed by Ted in his spare time.

Family life began with the birth of son Martin in 1973 and later Ian in 1975. Ted delivered him at home and all the hospital staff congratulated him on doing a good job (even though they lost out on being paid for a hospital birth!)

As time went on and the boys grew up, Ted took them to a swimming club. He was asked to train as a swimming teacher, which he did every Monday evening, until one night he could not hear a small child asking to leave the pool to go to the loo. Ted was having trouble with his hearing and had started wearing hearing aids. He decided it was time to retire from this activity.

Both Ted and Brenda became involved with Cubs and Scouts as they had two boys in the pack, when both leaders left they were encouraged to take the training and become the leaders. Ted started as a Cub leader, later becoming the Group Scout Leader, and finally running the Scout shop with Gill when Norman became too ill to continue in this role.

On retiring from his day job at IBC vehicles, Ted maintained the school swimming pool for two years. He was also a driver for the 'Wanderbus' every week until age forced his retirement from this activity. Ted was always busy, cutting the church grass, doing the books for the village magazine, and at Christmas time he would help build props and sets for the village pantomime.

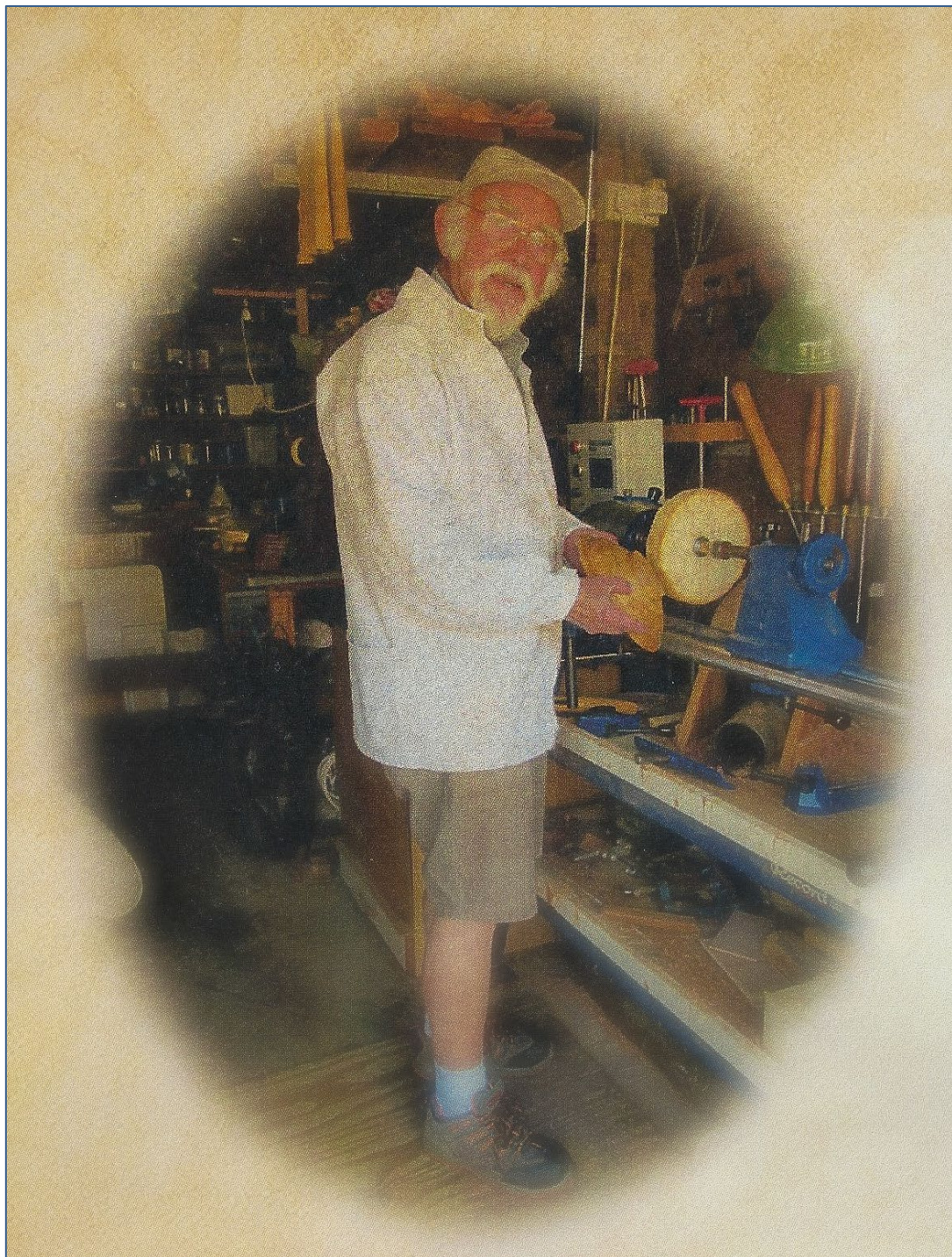
Ted and Brenda were married for fifty years, with life's ups and downs; throughout, Ted was a good kind family man, and Ted and Brenda were always good friends first. Family was so important to him and he and Brenda enjoyed their five grandchildren - Ben, Esme, Ella, Sophie and Charlie.

Ted was 85 years old but had always had a busy full life. The last two years were very hard, with almost complete hearing loss. He had planned to have implants, but cancer put a stop to that. Brenda will miss him very much.

With sincere thanks to Brenda for this beautiful tribute, the love and thoughts of everyone at The Meppershall Messenger are with you, Martin, Ian and family.

Ted is certainly a sad loss not just for the family but for friends and neighbours across the village. Ted is pictured here at his lathe, on which he remained highly proficient throughout his life. He generously contributed his woodwork and metalwork skills to support many village activities over the years. He will be greatly missed.

The family dedicated donations in his memory to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI – rnli.org) and Sue Ryder (SueRyder.org).



Frank Edward Putwain

"Ted"

1936 – 2021

Apologies to Wordsworth

I wondered lonely as a cloud,
2 meters from the madding crowd,
When all at once my name was called,
To enter Waitrose hallowed hall.

This was the pensioners' special hour,
I'd gone to buy a bag of flour,
But I forgot, when through the door,
What I had gone to Waitrose for.

The Waitrose staff were extremely kind,
I told them it had slipped my mind,
They asked what else I had forgot,
They clearly thought I'd lost the plot.

I phoned my wife again to ask,
She reminded me of this special task,
"I need some flour to bake a cake,
With all that cream you made me take".

Ah yes, indeed I recall I had to lie,
I dared not ask what flower to buy,
But then I saw them next to the tills,
A bunch of golden daffodils.

Old age is golden I heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.
As sleep overtakes me, I say to myself,
Is there anything else I can lay on the shelf?

When I was young, my slippers were red,
I could kick my heels over my head.
When I was older my slippers were blue,
But I could still dance the whole night through.

Now I'm old my slippers are black,
I walk to the store and puff my way back.
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,
And pick up the paper and read the "Obits",
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not dead,
So I fix me some breakfast and go back to bed.

**Thank you to Rita Webb for
sharing this poem with us.**

**The original author is
unknown but we would be
very pleased to attribute
them if anyone knows...**

**Email us at
mepp.messenger@gmail.com**

could you foster?



**we urgently need
foster carers
in your area**

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



We can help you to provide a young person with a stable, secure home.

Call us on 0800 389 0143

Visit us at www.nexusfostering.co.uk



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Mid Beds Cancer Group

Now during Covid restrictions, log in 'Online' from anywhere!

Informal cancer group for patients, families, friends, carers who wish to meet others for support & information. Due to Covid-19, we continue to provide support via telephone and our **online 'group meet'** and individually for those who wish to connect during this difficult time.

Our next online meetings will be on Saturday 5th February 2022 @ 11am.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 334 851 8015

Password: cancertalk

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

Email: daksha.trivedi@btconnect.com

Tel: 01462 813943; M: 07961 377526

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland

MEPPERSHALL - WANDERBUS

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



NEW TIMETABLE & NEW ROUTES - VALID FROM 3RD OCTOBER 2021

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

As from 3rd October 2021		"Stops at all Bus Stops on Request"	
W2 BEDFORD	- 1st & 3rd Wednesday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Shefford Rd, all stops		08.59	RR
High St. / Rectory Rd - all stops		09.00	RR
Interchange Retail Park		09.40	12.20
St Pauls Square / Corn Exchange		09.55	12.00
W3 BIGGLESWADE	- Every Monday	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd / High Street, All Stops		09.27	RR
Shefford Road, All Stops		09.29	RR
Biggleswade – A1 Retail Park		10.00	12.05
Town Centre - pick up o/s Asda Superstore		10.05	12.00
W5 BALDOCK (Town Centre / Tesco)	- Every Friday	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd / High St. – all stops		10.00	RR
Shefford Rd. – all stops		10.03	RR
Baldock – Tesco		10.25	12.15
W6A CAMBRIDGE	- 4TH Wednesday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd. / High Street, All stops		08.48	RR
Shefford Road, All stops		08.50	RR
Cambridge, Downing St. – o/s/ John Lewis		10.10	14.15
W8A ST ALBANS	- 2nd Wednesday of Month		
Shefford Rd. – all stops		08.48	RR
High St. / Rectory Rd – all stops		08.50	RR
St Peters St. o/s Santander Bank / pick up opp Bank		10.25	14.00
W10 ST NEOTS	- 2nd Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd. / High Street, All stops		09.18	RR
Shefford Rd, All stops		09.20	RR
St Neots - Market Place		10.15	12.20
W11 MILTON KEYNES	- 3rd Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd. / High St., All stops		09.08	RR
Shefford Rd, all stops		09.10	RR
MK - Midsummer Blvd / M&S (Stop J3)		10.10	
/ John Lewis (Stop E3)			13.15
W12 HITCHIN	- Every Tuesday	OUT	RETURN
Shefford Rd, All stops		09.18	RR
High Street, Rectory Rd All stops		09.19	RR
Bancroft Stop D		10.05	
Bancroft Stop G (Outside Paperchase)			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

EXCURSIONS – 4TH Thursday of Month – call For Details – 0300-123-2023

E: Thewanderbus@gmail.com

Buses available for PRIVATE HIRE – Call for Quote.



FTF Worldwide Event Management and Fully Fused Fireworks



**Over 35 years experience
of organising memorable occasions
FTF will deliver you an event to remember
big or small**



01462 817640



FTFWorldwideEvents



@FTFWorldEvents



Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements

JIM THE SWEEP

FOR ALL YOUR
CHIMNEY SWEEPING NEEDS

ALL TYPES OF FIREPLACE AND
CHIMNEY SWEPT

OPEN FIRES, LOG BURNERS,
STOVES AND INGLENOOKS

EVENING AND WEEKEND
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

INSURANCE CERTIFICATE
PROVIDED

WEDDINGS ATTENDED



JIM TURNER

INSTITUTE OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS
REGISTERED SWEEP

MILL LANE, CAMPTON, BEDFORDSHIRE

TELEPHONE: 07891 306566

Heather Walkley

Clinical Hypnotherapist

*BSc Hon's Psychology
DCH, DHP, MNCH acc
GHR reg*

Do YOU suffer from Fears, Phobias. Anxiety, Lack of confidence.

Do YOU want to free yourself from unwanted habits.

Then take the first step in gaining control of YOUR life.

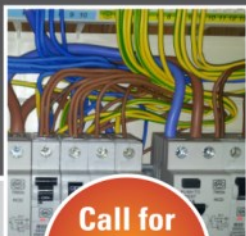
Appointments available via Zoom

Call: 07907 211940

Email: info@heatherwalkley.co.uk
www.heatherwalkley.co.uk

B.E.S

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS



Call for
a free
quotation

Part P approved
Electrician

Domestic and Light Commercial

- All types of electrical work undertaken from replacing light fittings to rewires/extensions
- Local family run company with over 25 years experience

No job is too small!

Tony Bass

Tel: 01462 235205

Mobile: 07778 318027

Email: bes.luton@sky.com

Based in Meppershall



Linda Allsop

PHYSIOTHERAPY



Chartered
Physiotherapist
with over 30 years
experience in both
the Private Sector
and the NHS.

Home visits
available.
Based in
Graverhurst

01462 711978 | 07989 257026
www.linda-allsop-physio.co.uk
lindaallsop@btinternet.com

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to advertisements

JOHN R FORD - FRANCHISE STANDARDS AT INDEPENDENT PRICES.

DID YOU KNOW...

...the cost of a service at John R Ford is actually in-line with the prices you pay at a local independent garage? So it stands to reason that choosing a franchised dealer will mean that you'll get a great deal more when it comes to service and quality.

- ✓ Servicing: All Makes & Models
- ✓ MOT
- ✓ Tyres: budget to premium, most sizes in stock
- ✓ Free Collection & Delivery
- ✓ Courtesy Cars Available*
- ✓ Guaranteed Parts & Labour
- ✓ Manufacturers' Warranty Protected
- ✓ Manufacturer-Trained Technicians
- ✓ Appointments available 6 days a week: drop-ins welcome!
- ✓ Book online or by phone

So, why wouldn't you?

John R Ford & Sons Ltd

11 Ampthill Road, Shefford SG17 5BE 01462 628 628 www.johnrford.co.uk

* Subject to availability.

Useful Contact Details in Meppershall

DEFIBRILLATORS – outside School and Post Office/Village Stores

DOCTORS, DENTISTS, PHARMACIES

NHS Direct	111
Dr Baxter & Ptrs	
Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive, Shefford SG17 5FS	
Appointments	01462 810034
General queries, prescriptions etc.	01462 818620

Drs. Garragher, Neal and Akhtar	
109 Station Rd Lower Stondon SG16 6JJ	01462 850305
Shefford Dental Practice, 34 High St Shefford	01462 814020
Shams Moopen Dental, 99 Hitchin Rd Shefford	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

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 3163105
	(Or 105 from a landline)

Central Beds Council 0300 300 8301

CBC councillors:

Tony Brown	anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Mark Liddiard	mark.liddiard@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Parish Council Clerk

Alessandre Marabese	clerk@meppershall.org
---------------------	--

Member of Parliament:

Nadine Dorries	Nadine.Dorries.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 Mon & Sun

Whitbread Wanderbus service

Stephanie Kirby thewanderbus@gmail.com

Food and Supplies

Budgens Stores, Post Office, High Street 01462 811252

Rogers Bakery, High Street 01462 813398

The Sugar Loaf, 25 High St 01462 654334

Mobile Fish & Chips (Happy Plaice), Tuesdays 3.30 -7.00, Sugar Loaf

Schools

Meppershall Academy, High Street 01462 813293

Meppershall Pre School Village Hall Tamsin Osborn 07816 357159

meppershallps@gmail.com

Robert Bloomfield, Shefford 01462 628800

Samuel Whitbread, Stotfold 01462 629900

Henlow Academy 01462 813733

Redborne Upper 01525 404462

Organisations

Meppershall Players, Karen Mitchell 01462 816366

Meppershall Good Neighbours (GNOMES) 07760 793921

Meppershall Brownies, Suzanne 07817 392325

Shefford Guides, Angie Griffiths 07957 462519

Shefford Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers

Kathy Georgiou 01462 629313

Meppershall Village Hall

Trustees trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

Bookings bookings@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk 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 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 12th 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

Joint Editors	James Read & Mick Ridley	Email: mepp.messenger@gmail.com	
Assistant Editor	Vacancy		
Advertising	Andrew Pain	26 Fildyke Road andrewgpain@hotmail.com	07875 580069
Distribution	Andrew Pain	26 Fildyke Road andrewgpain@hotmail.com	07875 580069
Production	Enid Pamment	112 High Street	851397
Co-ordination		Email: enid.pamment@gmail.com	
Treasurer	John Thompson	16 Brookmead	812983
		Email: meppershallmessenger@meppershall.org	

Collating Dates 2022			
March 2022 Issue	February 28 th	June 2022 Issue	May 30 th
April 2022 Issue	March 28 th	July 2022 Issue	June 27 th
May 2022 Issue	April 25 th	Aug-Sept Issue	July 25 th
Please contact John Thompson to confirm arrangements (contact information above).			

Please note that dates in the above table show when collating will take place, at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, for the corresponding month, displayed to the left. The issue being collated usually relates to the following month. However, please continue to look out for updates and alterations to usual plans during the coronavirus social distancing measures.