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Editorial by Mick Ridley and James Read

The Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is an awesome historical moment to be living through. Never before has a monarch of our country celebrated such an anniversary. And I would be bold enough to suggest that



never before has a monarch enjoyed such widespread affection and support as does The Queen even now, 70 years after she acceded to the throne.

As we all make plans for the four-day weekend, we wish everyone a relaxed and happy time and a moment to stop and be grateful for the country we live in. Feelings may differ about the role of monarchy in modern Britain; and debates like that are at the heart of our great nation. We can differ openly in our views and political opinions. Yet The Queen is central to many parts of our national life — and she is celebrated for it.

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis CStJ is the Queen's representative in our county – alongside Lords Lieutenant in each county of the UK. She spends much of her time visiting and recognising the full diversity of volunteering, service, enterprise and community life in Bedfordshire, on behalf of The Queen. Her office is based just outside Meppershall at Priory House.

In the Church of England, in our own village church, The Queen formally appoints the Archbishops, Bishops and Deans. The regulations of the church – called Canons – are governed by Royal Licence. She is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Importantly, service men and women swear the Oath of Allegiance not to the government, but to The Queen and her successors. We thank them for their service. A similar oath is pledged by new British citizens, MPs and many others in public office.

Yes, Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, is a person at the heart of our national life.

So join the festivities – especially for The Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5th June! Whether you're planning a quick drink with the neighbours, or a larger street party... enjoy the four-day weekend, and send us your pictures for the July issue, please!

Beyond the Jubilee, June brings several important milestones to remember. The Meppershall Neighbourhood plan is out for consultation – a crucial document, setting a vision for our village, with the wishes of the community to be carefully considered in future planning. Please see the article later in this issue.

This month you can also submit opinions to CBC regarding a 'New Town' planning application targeting rural land near Higham Gobion (article on page 8). God help us.

There will also be Annual General Meetings of both Meppershall Village Hall and The Meppershall Messenger. Again, find the dates and details in articles later in this issue. These are important village organisations that rely on volunteers to continue. Their public AGMs are a chance to find out more and show support. Or if you want a volunteering opportunity that comes with a uniform, Meppershall Parish Council are looking for a Special Constable...







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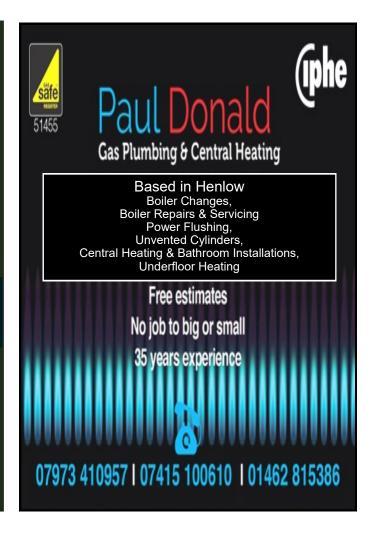
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Platinum Jubilee by Elsie Lawrence

It seems incredible that it's 70 years ago since our Queen was crowned. I was 14 years old and remember watching the coronation on a black & white television. It was a wonderful sight as the beautiful princess became Queen of England!

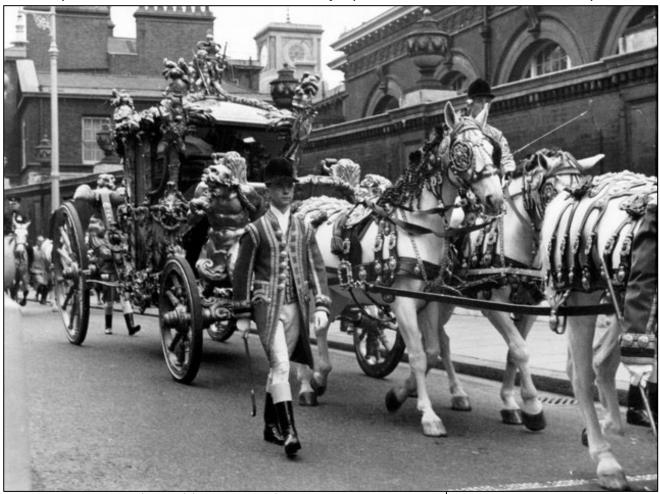
People turned out in their thousands just to get a glimpse of the Queen as she rode in the Golden Coach through London. People slept in the streets all night so they didn't miss the pageant.

Street parties were held and we had a jolly time. I have followed the Royal Family after I won a book at school. It was all about the royal sisters and I have followed the Royals ever since..

Well done Queen Elizabeth; steadfast and loyal to her services, she kept her promise to the nation. May she enjoy her Jubilee and stay well.

Thank you for setting a good example to us all and keeping your promise.

Everyone celebrate her Jubilee and have a jolly time, we need it after the last 2 years.



The Gold State Coach on Coronation Day, 2nd June 1953.

Credit: Eileen Warren, via Wikimedia Commons. Creative Commons Attribution Share-alike license 2.0.

Thank you Elsie for these wonderful memories. Interestingly this year we celebrate 70 years since the Queen took the Throne; her formal coronation took place in the following year.

Meppershall Messenger AGM - All Welcome

Your village magazine needs your support and involvement. You could send us a letter, write an article, share an idea for something we should cover, or help with printing, collating and delivering each month. There are lots of fun activities that an amazing band of volunteers help with each month, and you could be part of it!

We hold an Annual General Meeting each year (lockdown permitting!) which is open to anyone – to come and listen to what's going on and add comments, feedback or ideas. It's a chance to find out more and to meet the team.

One thing's for sure... with YOUR input and support, The Meppershall Messenger could be EVEN BETTER!



So please join us later this month – you'll find a warm welcome and a friendly team.

Annual General Meeting Of The Meppershall Messenger Saturday 25th June 2022. 10.00-12.00. The Walnut Room, Meppershall Village Hall

This year we are especially interested to hear from anyone who may be able to lend a hand on the editorial side of things — writing articles, editing articles submitted by readers, identifying opportunities for new content, managing editorial correspondence, creating page layouts, editing the final version of the magazine. This would suit someone with good Microsoft Office skills, including Word and OneDrive.

Meppershall Village Hall Update

We're pleased to see that the work to Centenary Field has now started and the initial works should be completed in about six weeks. It will be great to have the flooding



issues resolved and the field finally available for everyone to use. Please keep off the re-seeded grassed areas so that they have the best opportunity to grow and be reopened as soon as possible.

We're all disappointed that the Walnut Tree Café has reluctantly decided to close. Kim and her team created a wonderful amenity for Meppershall, but unfortunately it's not had the customer support that it needs. The Trustees will be very happy to meet with any individual or groups interested in exploring different opportunities to provide a similar amenity within the village.

We are pleased that so many different activity groups continue to prosper in the Village Hall as well as the number of event and celebration hirings taking place over most weekends.

As many are aware the changing rooms which were an integral part of the design requirements for the community facilities have not been used as sports changing rooms since the hall opened, a situation which looks unlikely to change significantly in the short to medium term. Whilst they are regularly used for HATS productions and visiting artists for the successful events promoted by Helen Gudgin, they remain unused for much of the time.

The Trustees are therefore in the process of improving the acoustics and natural daylight in those rooms to allow them to be used for other purposes as well as changing rooms. We would stress that this will not prevent them from also being used as changing rooms (including showers) as originally planned.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like any additional information about the running of Meppershall Village Hall, the trustees can be contacted on trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk. We'd also welcome any constructive contributions and help to assist in the running of the hall.

The AGM is scheduled for 12th June 2022 at 6.00pm.

Editors note... Remember the Village Hall is a non-profit organisation run by voluntary Trustees, whose commitment is great appreciated. But it needs public support, so why not go along to the AGM which is a public meeting for anyone interested in this crucial village facility? Your village needs YOU!

Meppershall Village Hall - Notice of Annual General Meeting

Charity Number 300052. To be held on Sunday 12 June 2022, 6pm

New Village Hall, Meppershall, SG17 5AB

AGENDA

- 1. Receive & Approve the minutes and summary of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 5 December 2021
- 2. Receive and approve the Trustees & Treasurers reports with accounts for the years to 31st March 2022
- 3. Update on activities and works in hand at the Village Hall
- 4. Election of trustees
- 5. Any other business: (a) Notified before the meeting; (b) Arising at the meeting

NOTES:

- Item 1: The report of the previous meeting is available by request or on the website https://www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk
- Item 2: The accounts will be available prior to the meeting on request by post or email trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk or via the website https://www.meppershallvillagehall.co.uk
- Item 3: Updates have been available in The Messenger, on the website or discussion with the Trustees on a regular basis.

Item 4: Details of the current trustees are:

Trustee	Specific responsibilities
David Birch	(Property construction & treasurer)
Graham Jones	(Property construction & legal matters)
Graham Walker	Premises Maintenance, Bars & Licensee
Gordon Cordes	Entertainment & Bars
John Thompson	Secretary and Meppershall Parish Council Nominee
Megan Callanan	IT, design and website

Nominations for the role of trustee and if available details of specific skill sets that can help in the running of the Village Hall are welcome, preferably ahead of the start of the AGM. Nominations can be sent by email to:

<u>trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk</u> or to one of the addresses below.

Item 5: Items for other business should preferably be sent by post or email to trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk at least two working days before the AGM so that appropriate research or obtaining information to respond fully can be collated before the meeting.

Postal details:

David Birch, The Brook, 18b Shefford Road, Meppershall, Beds. SG17 5LJ

Graham Jones, 10 Taylors Close, Meppershall, Beds. SG17 5NH Email contact: trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

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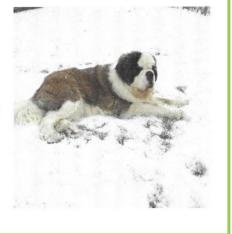
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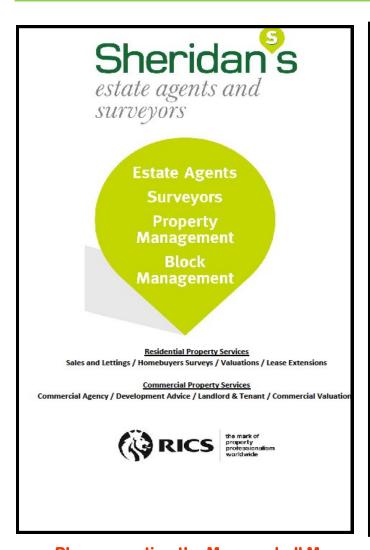
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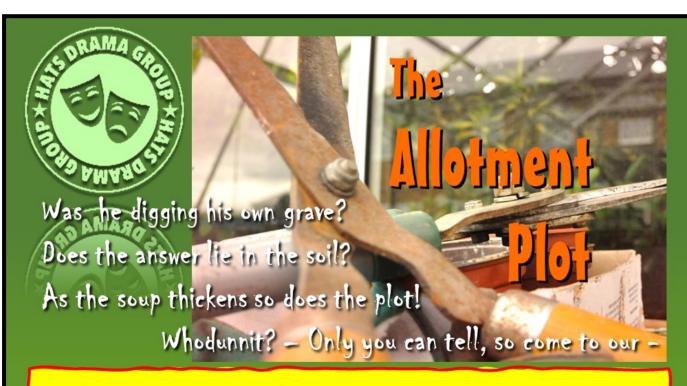
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Parish Council Objects To Proposed "New Town" Of Almost 4,000 Houses

"Greenwoods" Development Planning Application CB/22/01804/OUT, Land North of Higham Road and East of the A6 Bedford Road, Barton Le Clay, Bedfordshire

Many of you may be aware of the return of the proposed "Greenwoods" Planning Application which was been submitted early this month for up to 3,750 new homes, Care/Nursing homes, School, Solar Park etc. to the West of Shillington and other neighbouring villages.

We wish to inform residents of the proposals and to advise that the consultation period for objections/comments to the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) ends on 30th June 2022. This proposed development can be viewed on CBC's website using the reference number above (22/01804 - search under 'Planning') or by using this link:

http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov ?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=629002

Objection submissions should clearly state "I object to the development" otherwise it will be treated as a comment. All members of a household aged 18+ can individually submit comments/objections.

Please email you submission to Planning.Online@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

The Parish Council's concerns with the development are as follows:

- The proposal would significantly harm the undeveloped and open character of the countryside. The development site covers circa **290 ha** of unspoilt, picturesque, rural countryside which is home to extensive wildlife. There are numerous historic buildings in and around the site.
- This large scale development has not been selected or included in the adopted Local Plan and therefore the Parish Council consider that to grant such an application in open countryside, and outside of the settlement envelopes of Shillington, Gravenhurst and Barton, undermines the principal of having an adopted Local Plan in place.
- The southern region of the site is Greenbelt. The purpose of the Greenbelt is to prevent towns from sprawling into the countryside.
- The land proposed for development is the Best and Most Versatile Land,
 which is offered protection within NPPF2021. Conserving and Enhancing the
 Natural Environment, which refers to best and most versatile agricultural land
 which comprises Grades 1- 3. With today's UK grain shortages it is
 paramount that the land continues to supply food products to the nation.

Should you require assistance, please contact the 'No to Greenwoods New Town' Action Group on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/302082811296618

For more information please also see Gravenhurst Parish Council website: https://gravenhurst-pc.gov.uk/planning/

Meppershall Parish Council – Approved Summary of Minutes

An Ordinary Meeting of Meppershall Parish Council (MPC) took place on Monday 11th April 2022.

Chairman's announcements

- Details of a planning application for 100 High Street has been received but arrived too late for inclusion in the agenda. The Clerk will be asking for an extension to the comments deadline so that Council can review at the next meeting.
- Cllr Merryweather has been elected Chairman of the NSALG Allotment Committee.

Public Session - CBC Ward Councillors Liddiard and Brown provided an update on Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) activities:

- Highways A new highways contract will start at the end of March 2023 for a 7-year period. The tender will be issued shortly for a sum of circa £170 million.
 It is anticipated that the new partner will be identified in the autumn of 2022.
- EV Charging Points BP Pulse will be providing EV charging points in the CBC area. The CBC area is currently above national average with 3% of the population owning an electric vehicle.
- Solar Power Initiative CBC will be working with iChoosr on a solar power initiative that will be open to all CBC residents from May 2022. The warranty backed scheme with verified installers will allow residents from June 2022 to purchase and have installed solar panels and battery storage systems (also option of EV charging units).
- Members Highways Surgery Ward Councillors will be attending a Members Highways Surgery on 21st April. Brookside and Brookmead footpaths are already on the list of items.
- Steppingley Crematorium The target date for opening is 2024.
- Community Action Day This will be held on 22nd April between 10am and 4pm in Shefford next to Morrisons..
- Schools for the Future The Shefford and Stotfold cluster changeover to 2 tier is being delayed. CBC's Sue Archer will be meeting with Headteachers shortly to discuss plans.
- Clophill Roundabout The new design of the Clophill roundabout on the A507 will be consulted upon shortly.
- Highways Infrastructure A new roundabout on the A507 near Arlesey is planned that is part of the regeneration of Arlesey town centre and a new Country Park.
- S106 contributions Councillor Liddiard has discussed the recent issue with s106 contributions with CBC's Andrew Davie who has sent his apologies to the Parish via the Clerk for the error.
- CBC Highways Officer Lisa Wright has confirmed that the VAS installation on Shefford Road will cost in the region of £10k. The Clerk was asked to respond to the Highways Officer
- advising that MPC wish to ensure that the £20k received from the OPCC is used.

Questions / comments from the public:

- Will Ward Councillors call in the 100 High Street application to DMC? Yes.
- When will water on the allotments be turned on? Clerk Currently there is an issue with the meter key not turning on that Anglian Water are dealing with. Once this is fixed, water will be turned on.
- A resident had requested that the Clerk add to the agenda further highways improvements. The request was not accepted as MPC has already submitted RMF applications to CBC in addition to the VAS installation project for Shefford Road. However, the suggested improvement will be added to a list for future reference.

Procedures, Consultations and Legal

- **a. Co-Option** The Clerk had previously circulated the application of Mr M Shephard (not present at the meeting) to all councillors and confirmed having spoken to him at length regarding the role with Cllr Merryweather. *Resolved to co-opt Mr Michael Shephard to the role of councillor at Meppershall Parish Council.* The Clerk will contact Mr Shephard to complete relevant paperwork.
- b. IT and Communications Cllr Standbridge advised that she and the Clerk had attended the CBC Digital Accessibility online session and that a declaration would need signing at some point when providing documents to CBC for inclusion on their website. The Facebook video post updating residents on Centenary Field has received 937 partial views of which 600+ were complete view. No negative comments have been received. The Gnomes have requested an update to their webpage which the Clerk and Cllr Standbridge will action when details are received.
- c. Stocken House Green Space Davidsons are pending confirmation from previous landowners regarding changes to entrance fence on retained land to prevent unauthorised access with vehicles. CBC Planning have advised Davidson's that they have not had a formal request from the Parish regarding the detail of the request to adopt the green space for the CBC to review. The Clerk has responded to CBC and their solicitors providing information they may require to complete a revised Unilateral Undertaking etc. Update from CBC pending.
- **d. Electrical Connection from Old Road Meadow** Draft Heads of Terms are completed and our solicitor is currently drawing up the contract with input from Blakeney Estates.
- e. Wry close Allotment Track The Clerk reported that at the time of setting the meeting agenda the Sugar Loaf PH were yet to provide a copy of the signed contract for use of the track despite numerous call and emails. Today the Clerk received via Messenger a copy of the signed page of the Agreement. Councillors acknowledged that the current agreement expires on 14th June 2022 and agreed that The Sugar Loaf PH Landlord must find an alternative method of securing the marquee that does not involve anchoring the marquee on the allotment track. The Clerk was asked to write to and meet with the Landlord of the Sugar Loaf PH to confirm that the Parish Council is not proposing to extend the Licence Agreement and actions required.

Finance

a. Purchase Orders

- Resolved to approve attendance at CPRE workshop on establishing wildflower areas in June 2022.
- Resolved to approve cost of BATPC Finance and New Councillor training.
- Resolved that the Clerk organise on site Play Inspection training with the Play Inspection Company.
- **b. Grant Requests** Resolved to approve a £1000 grant request to Meppershall Wanderbus. Carried. (Transport Act 1985, s.106A)

c. Document approval

- Cllr Thompson has completed the Internal Auditor Governance Questionnaire as required by the Internal Auditor and this was circulated with meeting papers. Resolved to approve the completed Governance Questionnaire, that it should be signed by Cllr Parsons and submit it to the Internal Auditor.
- Council resolved that Bank Statements and Reconciliation reports 156 Current Account and 029 Savings Account be approved and signed.
- **d.** 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 for consideration

- CB/22/01070/FULL The Mow, Hoo Road, SG17 5LP Demolition of existing dwelling. Construction of detached house, garage and all ancillary works. Resolved that the Council objects to planning application 22/01070 and that the Clerk circulate the objection letter to councillors once completed.
- CB/22/01067/FULL 10 Brookside, SG17 5SB First floor side extension. Resolved that the Council has no comment on planning application 22/01067.
- CB/TRE/22/00146 84 Shefford Road, SG17 5LL Works to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order: Possible root severance to T1 Oak for installation of Lime soil improvement channel. Resolved that the Council reserve the right to object to application TRE/22/00146 pending information provided on the CBC website. Carried.

Neighbourhood Plan

The plan is under review by the Clerk and Mrs Chapman.

Highways and Transport

a. OPCC and RMF grant funding update from Clerk - The Clerk received an update from CBC Highways Officer Lisa Wright on 23rd March stating that they have received initial quotes back and these will need to be combined with a detailed design to ensure the proposed location will pass a Road Safety Audit due to the location/size of the sign. A road closure with associated Traffic Management will be required to install the sign. CBC are currently looking to install a solar powered sign so this has reduced the cost as the sign will not require an electrical connection. The estimate is £10,000. CBC will also need to go through procurement due to the value of the sign.

Environment and Leisure

- **a.** Centenary Field The Clerk and Cllr Morgan reported that:
- Sherriffs to begin cordoning off and spraying off grass areas imminently when weather permits.
- Cllrs Standbridge and Morgan prepared a video explaining works that will be carried out on Centenary Field and this has been published on Facebook.
- New gym equipment installation. S106 request submitted to CBC and accepted. PO placed with Fresh Air Fitness and pending installation confirmation date.
- b. Litter Pick Confirmation of plan for litter pick The litter pick was held on Saturday 26th March with the Clerk and Mrs Thorne as organisers. We had in excess of 20 volunteers who turned up for the event and circa 30 bags of rubbish were assembled for collection by CBC. Items found included the usual litter but also some commercial waste, a knife and evidence of drug taking. The Clerk noted that ideas from the volunteers on how to keep our village litter free are actively being pursued. The Clerk will create an article on the litter pick for submission to CBC, The Messenger and for use on our own website.
- c. On behalf of the village Councillors wished to thank those who spared time to come and help and also Budgens (for providing biscuits to our volunteers), The Walnut Tree Café (for the lovely chocolate cake) and the Social Club (for opening the bar early for refreshments).

John Thompson - Chairman - Meppershall Parish Council

Special Thanks To Viv Thorne

Many will have noticed that the village signs have had a clean up recently. For this, we owe special thanks to Viv Thorne whose hard work has polished them up very nicely along with other tidying tasks! She has also taking care of Jubilee signage around the village. Some of our signs have a historic value, notably the village sign at the entrance to Crackle Hill Road which includes a 1951 Festival of Britain logo. Thank you Viv — what a stunning effort and contribution to village life.





Become a Special Constable and Work In Your Village

Joining the special constabulary is an opportunity to contribute something to the community and a chance to make friends and learn new skills, like leadership and negotiating, which are directly transferrable to the workplace and beyond.

Today, Special Constables are very much on the front line of policing - making arrests, fighting crime and protecting the public and working directly with their community to enrich it and keep it safe.

Special Constables start their journey with a 15-week training course during evenings and weekends where they learn the basics of policing and work towards accreditation and gaining their warrant card. Special Constables will gain an understanding of law, how to deal with different situations and personal safety training.

Once the course is complete Special Constables will be awarded their warrant card by a senior member of Bedfordshire Police in front of family and friends. After that Special Constables sign up to shifts and work alongside regular officers to start working with the community and gain essential practical policing skills.

Once Special constables have worked alongside regular officers and gained a better understanding of policing they will be allocated to a community team to help work with people in some of the worst moments of their lives and ultimately make Bedfordshire a safer place.

The Parish Councils of Gravenhurst, Meppershall and Shillington have been given the opportunity to have a shared village Special Constable with all training and ongoing costs funded by Bedfordshire Police. Special Constables are volunteers but they have the exact same powers as their regular colleagues and in this situation would be able to focus much of their time on village policing. They are required to be on duty for a minimum of 16 hours each month.

People join the Special Constabulary for many different reasons:

- to give something back to the community
- to learn new skills and gain valuable experience
- to challenge themselves

We hope that our Special Constable will be able to provide an on-going visible policing presence within our villages. We hope that the successful applicant will:

- Get to know and keep in touch with our local community;
- Identify local community priorities and resolve those issues through a process of problem solving;
- Attend local community meetings;
- Keeping local communities informed about policing priorities, reducing fear of crime and increasing trust and confidence.

To apply for the Special Constabulary, you must be 18 years old and a British Citizen, an EC/EEA National or Commonwealth Citizen or a Foreign National with no restrictions to live & work in the UK. So, could this be YOU?

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

If you think this could be for you, then check out www.beds.police.uk and if you have any questions or want to know more about this exciting opportunity...

Email: <u>r.recruitment@beds.police.uk.</u> Find out more about the application and recruitment process at https://bit.ly/BedsSpecials. Learn how to apply to become a special constable at https://bit.ly/BedSpecApply.

You can also follow the Bedfordshire Police Special Constabulary Twitter account to find out what kinds of things Specials are up to. You will find them at: @bedsspecials

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Meppershall Neighbourhood Plan



A Neighbourhood Plan will provide the community of Meppershall with an opportunity to influence and determine future development in the Parish. This consultation is a call to action to everyone who lives, works or has an interest in Meppershall, to read the Draft Plan and provide feedback. After consultation and amendment based on feedback; the Plan will be externally reviewed prior to Referendum.

If adopted planners and developers must consider our Neighbourhood Plan when examining new development proposals.

We Want To Hear From You!

Re-consultation on Policy H1 of the draft Meppershall Neighbourhood Plan has arisen as the draft Meppershall Neighbourhood Plan has been altered as a result of the National First Homes Policy Guidance.

The consultation period is open: From Monday 16th May 2022 To midnight Wednesday 29th June2022.

You can view the amended Policy H1 of the Draft Meppershall Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents at the following places during the consultation period:

https://meppershall-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/regulation-14-consultation/

Printed copies of Policy H1 of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan are available upon request from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

Email: lovemeppershall@meppershall.org or call 07930 813808

We hope the majority of consultees will respond electronically via the link above, however everyone's comments are valuable, therefore if you are not able to review and comment online, submit written comments in any format (email or letter), but you must include your name, organisation (if applicable) and postcode for these to be accepted. Postal address:

Meppershall Neighbourhood Plan c/o 30 Cherry Trees, Lower Stondon, Beds, SG16 6DT

Meppershall Great Spring Clean Update





Our Great Spring Clean has one simple aim: to bring residents together to clear up the litter that blights our village environment. With this in mind a group of brave volunteers met on a sunny Saturday 26th March to collect and safely dispose of litter from our streets and green spaces. It's amazing what you can find in a couple of hours other than just general rubbish that has been thrown on the floor — notably we found 5 water cooler bottles, socks, shoes, and both drugs and a large knife that have been handed over to the Police.

On behalf of the village we would like to thank those who spared time to come and help (some of whom are in the photo below) and also Budgens (for the biscuits), Walnut Tree Café (for the lovely chocolate cake) and the Social Club (for opening the bar early).

Ideas from residents on how to keep our village litter free are actively being pursued so watch this space. We would also like to thank residents who have been actively reporting issues of fly-tipped waste to both us and Central Bedfordshire Council. Please do carry on doing this so that we can stop this from happening.

Alessandra and Viv – Meppershall Parish Council









Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Updates

I'm delighted to be able to share the report from our latest HMICFRS inspection which has been recently published and rated Bedfordshire Police at 'Outstanding' at managing offenders – making us the first force in the country to receive that grading. The PEEL inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) rates forces on Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy. Our Integrated Management Team (IOM) is a multi-agency team led by Bedfordshire Police and Bedfordshire Probation, coordinated by YouTurn Futures, and involving other partners including the Community Safety Partnerships of Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, and Luton: Drug and Alcohol support services of Path 2 Recovery and ReSoLUTION, Reactiv8 and KeyStage Housing.

The IOM team works with offenders at high risk of re-offending to support changes in offender behaviour and remove issues which influence offending.

Reducing re-offending forms an integral part of my Police and Crime Plan. I have committed to funding £155,000 into 'adult offender management' as part of my Grant Fund for 2022/23 of which You Turn Futures are part of - so I look forward to continuing to invest in this area.

Inspectors found that 72 per cent of those under Bedfordshire Police's Integrated Offender Management scheme had stopped or reduced offending in 2020/21 including a 91 per cent reduction in the burglary cohort. The approach is estimated to have saved society more than £2.3m across all crime in 2020/21.

The 'Outstanding' grading is testament to Bedfordshire Police and their commitment to proactive prevention rather than just responding to crimes. By working with people caught in the cycle of crime and guide them to help and support it not only saves society money, but ultimately reduces the number of victims.

Alongside the 'Outstanding' grade for **Managing offenders**, Bedfordshire Police received 'Good' ratings in four areas:

- Engaging with and treating the public with respect
- Preventing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Building supporting and protecting the workforce
- Strategic planning, organisational management, and value for money

The force was graded 'adequate' for **Protecting vulnerable people** and 'requires improvement' in both **Responding to the public** and **Investigating crime**.

While the methodology has changed in terms of overall gradings, clearly becoming the first force in the country to achieve 'Outstanding' for managing offenders shows how

we are now leading the way in a number of areas. Today's report reflects the positive work and innovation being carried out across the force every day – such as our use of digital forensic vans.

The fact the areas for improvement that the inspectorate has identified came as no surprise to the force executive says to me that the leadership of the force knows where more attention and investment needs to be made.

Feedback from residents given to me about the time taken to answer some 999 and 101 calls made it very clear more needs to be done. Call handling and the oversight of investigations were already highlighted to me as areas for concern by the Chief Constable, but investment was needed to deliver sustainable improvements. And that is where some of the increase in this year's council tax precept is going, straight into the areas that need to be improved.

Into better technology and more call handlers in the force control room, twenty more detectives into our Emerald team dedicated to the investigation of domestic abuse and serious sexual offences, and almost doubling the size of our rural crime team. Without a fair police funding formula for Bedfordshire there will always be areas that don't have the investment they need and a constant juggle of where to move resources to. I continue to lobby for the review of the funding formula to ensure that Bedfordshire receives what it needs based on the reality within our county boundaries, not on its historic status as a shire county.

I am incredibly proud of all the officers and staff of Bedfordshire Police – they are a credit to our county. Their commitment to serving the public, their diligence, professionalism, and bravery to put themselves in harm's way between law-abiding residents and the criminals who blight our towns and villages never ceases to amaze me.

I will continue to hold the Chief to account for the delivery of the improvements that need to be made.

I want local people to be able to see and feel that the force is responding to the need to grow and develop across all parts of policing to tackle the increasing demand and changes in crime and criminality in Bedfordshire.

Please do take the time to read the full report – and thank you once again for your continued support. Together, we continue to put people at the heart of policing.

Festus Akinbusoye

Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire

Admin & More – Access To Work Assistance For People With Disabilities

Admin and More introduces a brand new service that gives assistance to people applying to the Access to Work Scheme.



Today, Admin and More announced the launch of their Access to Work Assistance Scheme an assistance service to truly give people a disability a cost effective and convenient way to apply for the scheme and relieve the stress that the Access to Work process can bring when going through the process.

"We'd do anything to help our customers" said Elizabeth Wright, Director of Admin and More, "so as soon as we found out that many of our customers were in serious need of assistance to help them apply for Access to Work as well as the ongoing claims process that wouldn't break the bank, but would guarantee professional results, we knew we had to do something.

Admin and More's new Access to Work Assistance Scheme is designed to overcome the problem of the stress and the very long process of applying to Access to Work. We help people with a disability by taking the hard work from them for the application process and claims process. We know from experience and the clients we work with that the process for applying for Access to Work can be stressful and can in some instances put people off from applying.

"The response from our customers has been better than we could have imagined" said Elizabeth Wright "not only are our customers enjoying professional results, they're finding that they can free up their own time and spend more time on running their businesses whilst we apply for their support.

Business owners with a disability could be eligible for funding through the Access to Work scheme, which helps cover the cost of any practical support a person with an impairment may need to start or stay in work, as well as funding to help pay for any adaptations to the working environment or installation of any special equipment

Take a look at our packages https://adminandmore.co.uk/access-to-work

Access to Work is a scheme that allows anyone with a disability to access resources to enable them to work. However, to apply to the scheme, you need to fill in a lot of paperwork, which can prove overwhelming for many people.

Admin and More have launched a series of packages to assist you in applying for the scheme. From the initial application process to submitting the claims, we can assist you and make your life easier and access the help you need.

Admin and More have worked with clients on the Access to Work scheme for four years, so we are experienced in submitting claims and also putting together any information for the application process that you need.

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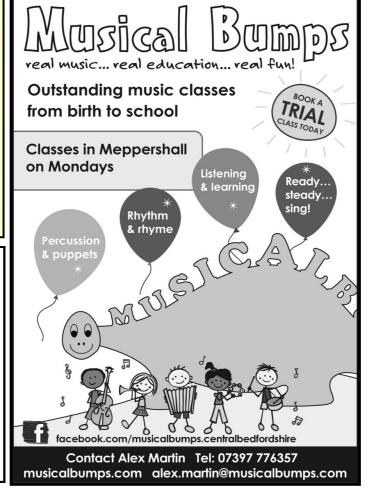
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6th - 12th June 2022

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Most care happens within families, and many that take on caring responsibilities, do not see themselves as carers. It takes an average of 2 years to acknowledge their role as a carer.

For more information, check out www.carersinbeds.org.uk and www.carersweek.org



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Meppershall Pre-School

We have had a lovely start to the Spring/Summer term here at Meppershall Pre-school since the Easter break, which has flown by and as usual the children have been very busy!

We have had a few new starters this term who we are really enjoying getting to know and who have all settled in very well to the setting. One of the most popular activities amongst the little ones being our large outdoor sandpit and Pirate ship!

As the weather has been warming up the children have mostly enjoyed being outside with plenty for them to do including planting fruits and vegetables in our vegetable patch. Another activity they love to keep them cool is water and Ice play where they use different 'tools' to break open ice and find different objects inside. They also enjoy playing with little boats and submarines with the water.

We had a very exciting visit this week from a Paramedic who brought her Ambulance along to show the children. They were able to go inside and learn about her job and the equipment. She also let them put the sirens and flashing lights on which they absolutely loved.

We have plenty to look forward to as we move towards the end of the academic year including Father's Day celebrations where our Dads are invited in to have breakfast with the children and our annual sports day. The older children who are leaving us for school in September will take part in a Leaver's show for parents at the end of term which is always very special.

We are filling our places for the Autumn term very quickly therefore if you would like to register your interest for your 2-4 year old please use the contact details below. https://www.meppershallps.co.uk/

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The Meppershall Players



June 2022

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to our wonderful audiences who attended our Jubilee Variety Show. Your laughter and applause were very much appreciated, as were all your kind comments and lovely feedback. Our next flag waving patriotic extravaganza will be in 2025 on Saturday 10th May, when we perform our musical play celebrating & commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE & VJ day (make a note on your forward planner).

The Players will be attending the STMA Annual Summer fete on Sunday 5^{th} June (on the STMA Digswell recreation grounds). We're planning to have the ever-popular Tombola stall. Fete opens at 1pm .

The Players' AGM will be held on Monday 6th June at 7.45pm at the STMA Digswell Hall, open to members and non-members and a great way to meet the Players if you're interested in finding out more about us.

Monday 13th June is our Panto read-through at 7.30pm, and the following Monday 20th June will be the Auditions for the pantomime.

We've set the date for our next Ultimate Decades Disco for Saturday 8^{th} October 7.30pm-11.30pm at STMA Digswell hall. We'll be giving it a party feel encouraging you to bring your own supper and shake your booty to all the amazing sounds of the 60's 70's & 80's. All tickets will be £5, again another fun for all the family event (the same price for the young and young at heart).

Our Pantomime this year is the ever popular 'Aladdin' performing on Saturday 3rd & 10th December, Matinees 3pm, Evenings 7.30pm. Tickets for this show and the Ultimate Decades Disco will be on sale from Monday 4th July 2022.

Find the Meppershall Players on Facebook (Meppershall Players Community) Insta-gram, 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 of all ages who have an interest in amateur theatricalities, whether it be on stage or off indulging 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

Birthdays

Very special birthday greetings to...

Joyce D who will be 88

Peter D who will be 80

Have a wonderful day and a great year ahead,

from everyone at The Meppershall Messenger.

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Chris Valentine 01462 815971 Peter Clark

PCC Secretary:

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A message from St Mary's...

If we British are known for anything around the world it is our obsession with the weather. In a recent survey 94% of British people admitted to talking about the weather in the previous 6 hours!

The last few weeks have really reinforced that obsession. We have had glorious days of sun and heat, followed by gloomy days of drizzle, periods of magnificent lightning storms illuminating the night sky. Perhaps, like many, you have planned BBQs with friends or family based on a few days of pleasant sunny weather, only to find that the day has arrived with overcast skies and the threat of rain hanging over proceedings. Maybe you are keen gardeners who have planned to sow seeds, cut grass, only to find that the weather interrupts your well laid plans!

In truth we perhaps should not be surprised. These weeks of late spring offer up the promise of summer, only to remind us that we have not yet reached the destination of long, hot, sun filled days. But we wait with hope and expectation that those days are just around the corner. Life in the British spring is certainly a journey of ups and downs, of hopes raised and lowered as the season continues.

As I reflected on these events, I came across my copy of a bible which had been presented by the Gideon Society. Each year the Gideon's place thousands of bibles in hotel rooms, schools and universities, military bases, hospitals and prisons. Each bible contains a copy of the New Testament as well as the book of Psalms. This time I was particularly struck by the first few pages of the Gideon bible - the introduction section. In it we are reminded that life can be rather like the British spring weather - full of ups and downs, highs and lows.

The first section directs the reader to bible passages which will speak to how you are feeling at any point in the changing fortunes of life. And so if you are feeling truly thankful for something in your life, it directs you to Psalm 100 "Enter His gates with thanksgiving in your heart." There are also suggested passages for when we are anxious and troubled; when we are ill or in pain. - Literally the full range of human experiences which, like the British weather, can affect us daily in different ways. But,

of course as we look to the glorious days of summer just ahead of us, the bible also looks forward with the hope and assurance which many find in a God who knows and loves them.

Whatever the British summer actually holds for you, may it be a time to engage with friends and families in the beauty of the world around us. May those of you taking part in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations find joy and excitement - whether in the sun, rain or drizzle of our British seasons!

Church News and Events in June

Sundays	11.00am	Morning Worship every Sunday
		Holy Communion on the 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Sundays (12^{th} and 26^{th} June)
Every Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion in church
Tuesday to Saturday	10.00-3.00	Private prayer and quiet time – the church open for you 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. Do you need prayers? We have a small group of intercessors who pray confidentially for those who ask for it. Please talk to Roni (Tel. 339962 / 07533 376880) or Chris Valentine (telephone 07701 039324).

Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers

The Strollers' walk this month is on June 12th. We will leave the church gate at 2pm for a walk by the Cow Bridge and the River Hit into Shillington to All Saints church where they should be serving cream teas! Then we will return via the outskirts east of Shillington and up via Chibley Farm to the viewpoint on Shillington Road at the edge of Meppershall, returning to the church in Meppershall by 5pm ish. Overall this is a route of around 5 miles with the church teas half way through at All Saints Shillington. More info from Miriam or James on 857836 or find the Strollers at https://www.facebook.com/MeppershallStrollers.

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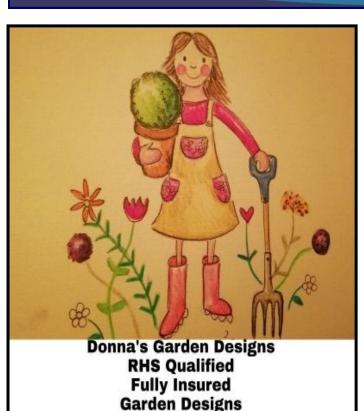
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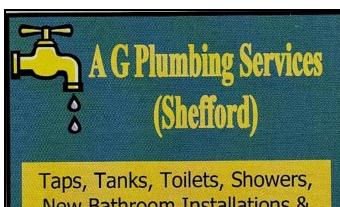
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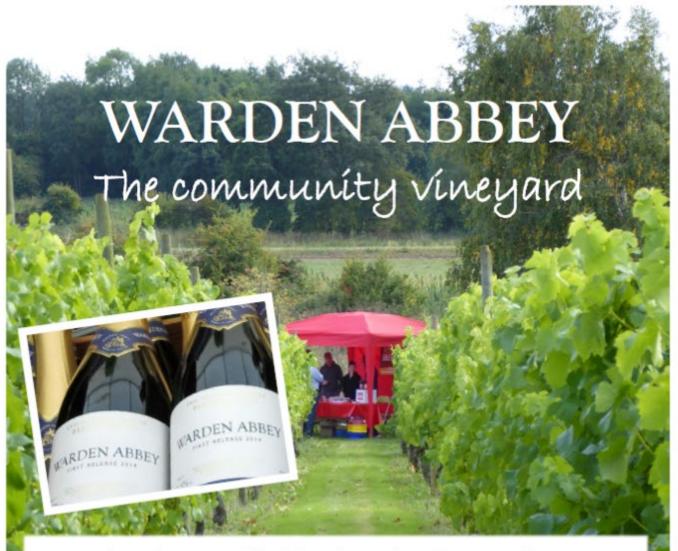
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Did you know Bedfordshire's medieval vineyard is now an exciting community project?

This beautiful field near Old Warden was first planted by monks at Warden Abbey. Centuries later, the "Lyttel Vineyard" was re-planted and now produces award-winning wines.

Today, it's an army of volunteers who tend the vines all year round as well as run tours and events, school visits, social & therapeutic horticulture, wildlife and heritage projects.

OPFN FOR TOURS MAY TO SEPTEMBER

See website for tour dates, events, vouchers, gifts and stockists 07981 113714 info@wardenvineyard.org.uk

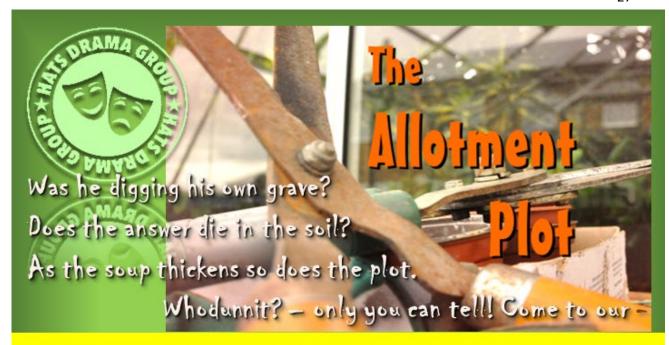


wardenvineyard.org.uk





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Murder Mystery Evening

a play by Emma Northcott

with Ploughman's Supper & Quiz

at Meppershall Village Hall SG17 5AB Thu 9, Fri 10, Sat 11th June Bar opens 7pm. Curtain up at 7.30pm

Seating at tables of 6 -

Tickets: indiv - £14, table (6) - £80

Bookon-line at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hats-drama

or phone 0333 666 3366

[booking fees apply]

Follow us on Facebook: @ HATSDramaMeppershall



Delightful Delphiniums

The weather has been so dry and I have been doing extra watering to ensure plants don't die.

This is a busy time of year in the garden with everything growing and needing staking and summer bedding to go out. Lots of gardens are doing open days.

These are lovely to visit for buying plants, getting ideas and enjoying a cup of tea in some beautiful gardens.

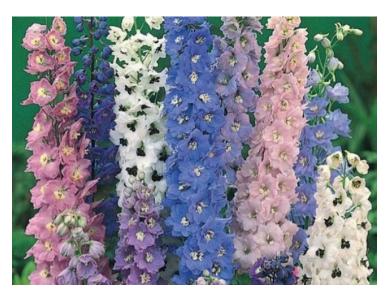
Letchworth have their open gardens on June the 19th, Father's Day. They have a huge varieties of gardens with all very different styles and you can spend the day ambling from one garden to the next.

In June cottage Garden plants really start coming into their own. One of the classics being the Delphinium. It's name originating from the Ancient Greeks who thought the buds looked like dolphins noses. In Tudor times it was commonly known as Larkspur.

Delphiniums flower on tall spikes up to 2m high in blues, pinks, purples and whites. Many varieties have white of black centre's, known as bees.

They originate in the Northern hemisphere and are part of the ranunculaeceae family.

Hybrids were produced in the 19th century in France and the Pacific Giant is very popular today for the back of borders.



They are highly toxic and used to be used to produce blue dyes and inks.

If cut down after flowering in June and July they will have a second flush at the end of summer. Slugs do love them, especially when young so ensure you have something down to protect the young shoots. Either wool slug pellets or beer slug pub traps!

They like damp soil and mulch with manure to ensure strong plants. They may need staking due to their towering height.

Enjoy the garden and watching everything come into bloom.



Jobs in the Garden in June

Put hanging baskets and summer bedding out now risk of frost has passed	Liquid feed pots every 2 to 4 weeks and keep well watered
Hoe borders to keep weeds down	Fill gaps in borders with annuals
Stake tall perennials	Plant out Canna and dahlias
Prune spring flowering shrubs	Train sweet peas up obelisks by tying in
Harvest lettuce and radish	Keep an eye out for slugs and aphids
Pinch out side shoots of tomatoes	

By Donna Cameron Donna's Garden Designs 07833670934

Financial Matters by Paul Savuto

Valuing Financial Advice

In recent times the importance of expert financial advice has become greater than ever, as people seek reassurance that their pensions, investments and protection plans are being professionally looked after during uncertain times.

How to value financial advice

Good financial outcomes are obviously important, but these can only be measured over the long term and are just one way of assessing the value that advice can provide. The real value in taking advice is about the whole journey of financial planning so that you are provided with a consistent, valued and trusted experience; with regular reviews and adapting to changes when needed. Financial and emotional outcomes play their part in unison.

What are the benefits of working with an adviser?

Some of the benefits may not be immediately obvious, such as:

- ✓ Understanding your circumstances by listening, and helping you to identify and work toward your goals no two clients will have the same requirements
- ✓ Making complex matters easy to understand a seemingly straightforward financial goal could involve numerous decisions as well as consideration of a range of different products and providers
- ✓ Ongoing support and guidance regular reviews and contact can set your mind at rest and prevent you from making knee jerk decisions at the wrong time
- ✓ Saving you time doing your own research can be very timeconsuming and would you know where to start
- ✓ Giving you peace of mind by knowing that your finances are in expert hands and that any change in your circumstances can be discussed with someone who knows you personally
- ✓ Getting financial outcomes that matter to you by working with you over the long term

Getting financial outcomes that matter to you – by working with you over the long term

Vast number of pensioners holding ISA savings in cash

An alarming set of data has come to light. Over three million pensioners are holding all of their ISA savings in cash.

The analysis highlighted that during the most recent year for which figures were available (2018–19), there were 5.8 million over-65s holding ISAs, valued at just over £305bn in total, the average amount held was £52,500. However, 3.4 million of these were holding an average of £25,383 exclusively in cash ISAs, with a total amount of £87bn sat in these vehicles. With very few of these 3.4m pensioners likely to be earning interest of more than 1% and many considerably less, former Pensions Minister Steve Webb commented,

"Whilst holding small amounts of cash in an easy access account can be convenient, these figures show that huge amounts of money are sitting rotting in cash ISAs. Inflation is like a tax on savers. With inflation soaring, the spending power of cash

savings is being savagely reduced. Many instant access cash ISAs pay little or no interest and runaway inflation will take a huge chunk out of the value of these savings."

He continued, "Older savers need to consider urgently whether keeping their money in these cash accounts is the best way to protect their hard-earned savings, especially when the real value of their State Pension is also being squeezed."

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.

Time For A Change?

Are you thinking that maybe your home is looking a little tired, or needs a bit of a lift, but don't really know where to start? And don't want to throw money at it without being sure that the result will justify the spend? So do a lot of people right now. And after the last couple of years, we could *all* do with a bit of a lift.

Our new advertiser, Hothouse Interiors of Ampthill, might be able to help. Here are some tips from owner Louise Rocco:-

At Hot House Interiors, we believe in bringing the joy of self-expression into the home. We do this by embracing individuality and we encourage our clients to think differently when choosing fabrics, furnishings and wallpapers.

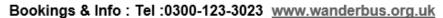
Curated to positively impact our mood, our ranges of wallpapers and fabrics encompass calming neutral textures, some feel-good pattern and some colour for the bold and the brave.

Small changes can create huge impact. It can even be as simple as some vibrant new cushions and a piece of coordinating wall art to add a new dimension to a particular room in your home. These two items together, if chosen in the right colour combination, can transform a neutral space to something that feels like a new revitalised environment. The key when embarking on these change-ups is scale. Getting the right sized art work or cushion and accessories are key to creating the right level of impact. Big is not necessarily always better...

For those people who struggle to visualise, or find it overwhelming, we offer a full interior design service where we can take you on a design journey to help create a space that's really personal to you, and what's more - we can bring it to life!

So, maybe you don't need a complete interior revamp (although Louise wouldn't rule it out!). Maybe a couple of little tweaks would brighten your home up, and let some sunshine in. Louise and her team at Hothouse Interiors will be delighted to talk to you about how you can start...

MEPPERSHALL - WANDERBUS





<u>Revised Routes/Times</u> - VALID FROM 6th June 2022 W5 - New Destination

As from 6 th June 2022	"Stops at al	ll Bus Stops on R	equest"
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 Sup	perstore	10.05	12.00
W5 BIGGLESWADE - A1 Retail Park/	Town Centre - Every Friday	OUT	RETURN
Rectory Rd / High St all stops		10.00	RR
Shefford Rd. – all stops		10.03	RR
Biggleswade A1 Retail Park / Town C	entre	10.25/10.30	7.1.1
Town Centre - o/s Asda / A1 Retail Pa			12.10 / 12.15
W6A CAMBRIDGE -	4 [™] Wednesday of Month	OUT	DETUDN
Shefford Rd – all stops	4 wednesday of Worth	08.48	RETURN
High St - all stops / Rectory Rd		08.50	RR RR
	owie	10.10	14.15
Cambridge, Downing St. – o/s John L	ewis	10.10	14.15
	2 nd 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 / pi	ck up opp Bank	10.25	14.00
W10 ST NEOTS	- 2 nd 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	- 3 rd 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	3)	10.10	
/ John Lewis (Stop E	•		13.15
W12 HITCHIN	- Every Tuesday	OUT	RETURN
Shefford Rd, All stops	Every ruesuay	09.18	RR
High Street, Rectory Rd - All stops		09.19	RR
Bancroft Stop D		10.05	
Bancroft Stop G (Outside Paperchase	e)	10.00	12.10
W14 WELWYN GARDEN CITY	- 1st Thursday of Month	OUT	RETURN
	- I mursuay or Month	09.14	RR
Rectory Rd. / High Street, All stops Shefford Road, All stops		09.14	RR
WGC Central Bus Station		10.00	
WGC Central bus Station		10.00	12.15

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



DATE	DESTINATION	Entrance Fee as per current website	Bus Fare
Thursday 23 rd June	gardens with tea. Country house garden with wildlife walk and formal garden surprises. These include a topiary garden, rose garden (over 150 species) a woodland garden and tea lawn with cottage garden in the style of Gertrude Jekyll.	£12.50 including tea.	£7.50 p.p. Pick up 13.00/13.30 Depart 17.00
Thursday 28 th July	CASTLE ASHBY GARDEN, Northants. Ancestral home of the Marquess of Northampton. Extensive gardens including the romantic Italian garden, the unique Orangery, Arboretum & Menagerie. Excellent café.	£10.00 entry.	£12.00 p.p. Pick up 10.00/10.30 Depart 15.00
Sunday* 14 th August	PITSTONE GREEN MUSEUM/HERTIAGE PARK, nr Tring. A fascinating blend of attractions from the past capturing the spirit of a bygone age. Regular attractions include: Pottery Demonstrations, Tractor rides to Windmill, Lace Makers, Craft Stalls Model Railways, Avro Lancaster Cockpit, Crossley Gas Engine. Hot snacks and drinks, filled rolls, sandwiches& cakes.	£9.00 p.p.	£12.00 p.p. Pick up 11.30/12.00 Depart 16.15
Thursday 29 th Sept	ASCOTT HOUSE & GARDENS, nr Leighton Buzzard. An old English black & white timber manor house dating back in parts to C17 th . Acquired by the Rothschild family in 1873. Housing an exceptional collection of paintings, fine furniture and superb porcelain. Extensive gardens.	£13.00 p.p. House & Gardens or £8.00 Gardens only. Free to National Trust	£12.00 p.p. Pick up 11.30/12.00 Depart 15.30
Thursday 28 th October	BICESTER VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTRE, Oxon. Home to more than 160 luxury fashion & lifestyle boutiques of many of the leading brands offering savings of up to 60% off the recommended retail price. Dine at Soho House & Co's farmhouse restaurant and café, or the splendour of Café Wolseley.	Free Entry	£20.00 p.p. Pick Up 10.00/10.30 Depart 15.15.
Thursday 24 th Nov	CHRISTMAS MARKET - TBA		

*Please note that the May trip takes place on a Saturday, August on a Sunday To Book: Call 0300-123-3023 or email: thewanderbus@gmail.com. We require a deposit of £5.00 p.p. for any excursion. Post a cheque to Wanderbus, 5 The Pastures, Upper Stondon, Beds SG16 6QB or bank transfer to: CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code :40-52-40 Acc: 00013118, Wanderbus Ltd. (Use your name as reference).

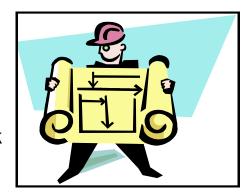
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Useful Contact Details In Meppershall

DEFIBRILLATORS – outside School and Post Office/Village Stores DOCTORS, DENTISTS, PHARMACIES

NHS Direct 111

Dr Baxter & Partners

Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive, Shefford SG17 5FS

Appointments 01462 810034 General queries, prescriptions etc. 01462 818620

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 <u>anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</u>

Mark Liddiard <u>mark.liddiard@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</u>

Parish Council Clerk

Alessandre Marabese <u>clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk</u>

Member of Parliament:

Nadine Dorries <u>Nadine.Dorries.MP@parliament.uk</u>

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

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 Brightwell	07817 392325
Shefford Guides, Angie Griffiths	07957 462519

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

Kathy Georgiou 01462 629313

Meppershall Village Hall

Trustees <u>trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk</u>

Bookings <u>bookings@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk</u> 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.

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Collating Dates 2022				
July 2022 Issue	June 27 th	November Issue	October 31 st	
August-September Double Issue	August 1st	December-January Double Issue	November 28 th	
October 2022 Issue	September 26 th	February 2023 Issue	January 30 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.