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## Editorial by Mick Ridley

It is with some sadness that this will be my last time, after over 4 years, that I will be co-editor of the Messenger with James.



For those who have been regular readers, you will remember that back in 2018 it was looking like the Messenger was going to have to close. James and I discussed whether we could step in to help as we knew that regrettably, once an institution like the Messenger closes, it will generally be lost for good. We met the committee (both of us a little nervous) and thankfully we seemed to pass muster! James and I made a commitment of 2 years and somehow that became 3 and then 4.

Why is the Messenger so important in a time where social media and other communication channels are so prevalent and instant? For me, it is first and foremost about community accessibility. The Messenger is the only means to speak to all residents within the village (and often beyond) due to the fantastic printing, collation and distribution teams; every single dwelling receives a copy. This means that it gives those that aren't users of Facebook or Twitter or Instagram an opportunity to hear important news about the goings on in the village; whether that be from the Parish Council, the Church, support groups such as GNOMES or any number of volunteer run organisations within the village and surrounds.

It also acts as a filter. Social media is an instant fix – blink and you might miss the latest missive or notice. The Messenger actually becomes a document of historical record. If ever you fancy a browse head to <https://meppershall-pc.gov.uk/the-meppershall-messenger/past-editions/> to see every edition from the last 18 years.

What does my departure mean? It means that there is fantastic opportunity for someone to join James in the co-editing duo that (we think) has been very successful so far (!) – to step in and take my place. The Messenger needs to evolve to serve our amazing village. It needs diversity of thought and approaches which can only be created by keeping the team fresh. I would love to see someone new to the village give it a go – this ensures that alongside the continuity of the team that have worked so tirelessly over the years to keep the Messenger coming through your letterbox, we can keep it relevant. Dare I say it, as a greying middle-aged white man, that we would love to see a little more diversity in gender and colour....

And the commitment? A few hours a month wrestling with a Word document! And this comes with the reward of knowing that you have helped to create something that people want and need and your name will be a there in that historical record for those living here in the future.

And so after over 4 years, I bid the Messenger farewell whilst still cheering it on from the side-lines. It goes without saying that the Messenger is a huge team effort and I must particularly thank James Read, John Thompson, Andrew Pain and Colette House for all their time and hard work along with all those that help to print, collate and distribute every month. The very best of luck for the future!

**Mick**

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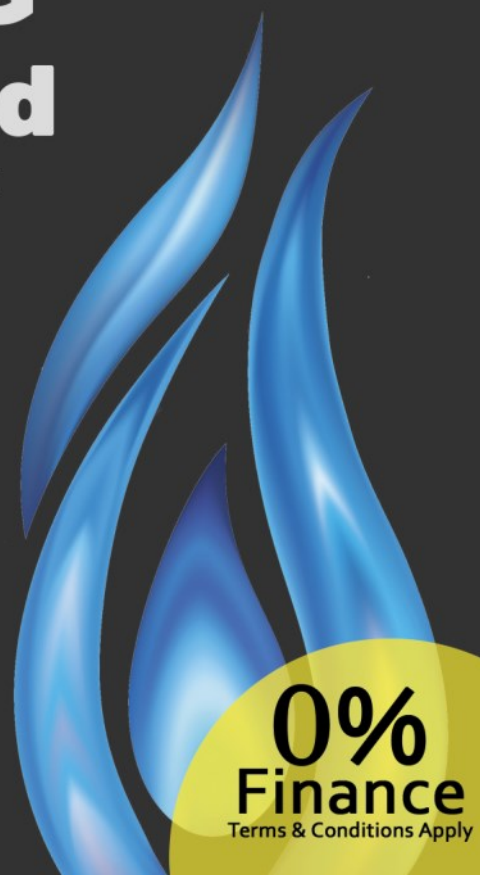
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## Thank You Mick From All At The Meppershall Messenger

I will greatly miss the teamwork with Mick to compile and publish the village magazine each month and I want to say a big Thank You for the time he has committed over several years. He has been such a reliable and careful partner in the editing process. Between us we do spend a substantial amount of time ensuring that everyone's contributions are included and chasing up for content where needed. Then the fun really begins, as we try to squeeze the content down or spread it out and fill some gaps, to create a magazine that can be printed in its traditional format (multiples of four pages – essential for the printing process to create a 'booklet' format). Everything culminates with the assiduous eye of Colette, with whom we work through the whole thing to ensure proofing and typo corrections are actioned.

So, we do need a new co-editor at this time. It would suit someone with good Microsoft Word skills, who has a little bit of vision for what a magazine like this should be sharing with the community and what we should be saying about life here. It will also require a bit of energy to chase content and encourage people to contribute to the magazine. Could this be you? Please do get in touch via email if possible – [mepp.messenger@gmail.com](mailto:mepp.messenger@gmail.com) – or catch me personally sometime. This is a great chance to make your mark on village life and to join a nice team of volunteers.

**James Read**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Letters to the Editors

**Dear Editors**

*Greenwashing in Meppershall*

I was disappointed to see the report in the May edition of the Messenger, where Davidsons Homes are seen to be engaging in some public, corporate greenwashing, by inviting local school children to help incorporate 'eco-friendly' features into the gardens of their show homes.

If Davidsons Homes were genuinely concerned about environmental issues and the future for our children, they would be equipping the houses in this estate with technology such as solar panels and heat pumps, which to my knowledge, and confirmed when I spoke to representatives at the pre-construction publicity event in the Village Hall, is not taking place.

Not doing so locks in high carbon emissions for decades to come. I would go so far as saying that if environmental concerns were genuinely on the Davidsons Homes agenda, they wouldn't even have considered building an entirely inappropriately sized estate in a village where residents will be virtually entirely reliant on the use of private cars, with associated additional contributions to emissions.

This is exactly the sort of corporate greenwashing and environmental tokenism that needs to be called out for what it is; an egregious attempt to appear 'green', with little of genuine substance behind the publicity. It particularly sickens me that, in this case, an attempt is being made to appear 'green' in front of the very children who risk being left with an appalling legacy through our ambivalence to environmental issues.

**Dr Philip Porter**

**Dear Editors**

In your February edition I wrote to you about a compiled and edited anthology of poetry written during the 2020-2021 lockdowns, being sold to raise money for two charities.

The first charity is *Young Minds*, which supports young people's mental health – a GP told me that issues in this area have drastically escalated during and since the Covid pandemic because of school and university students experiencing such massive disruption to their education, as well of course as experiencing worry and fear about health risks and deaths during the pandemic, and now also worries about the cost of living crisis and the impacts both for young people and their parents.

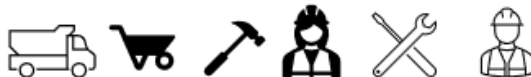
The second charity is *helpmusicians.org/coronavirus hardship fund* – *helpmusicians* was previously known as the Musicians' Benevolent Fund, and again many musicians like all performing artists suffered desperate difficulties during the pandemic.

There have been 150 copies sold of the anthology raising over £780 for the two charities. I am aiming to sell 200 copies and it would be amazing if people in the village would help me reach that target. There is a copy in the church for you to view and if you would like to order please contact [susana.b@btinternet.com](mailto:susana.b@btinternet.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Meppershall Parish Council – Approved Summary of Minutes

An Statutory Meeting of Meppershall Parish Council (MPC) took place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### Elections of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the year 2022-2023

- *Resolved to elect Cllr Thompson as Chairman for the year 2022-2023.*
- *Resolved to elect Cllr Parsons as Vice-Chairman for the year 2022-2023*

### Chairman's announcements

- The Chairman reported on the Annual Parish Meeting that had taken place on 25th April 2022. The meeting was poorly attended by residents although the number of attendees was greater than last years' meeting. No significant questions were raised at the meeting. Nearly all village organisations provided reports for the meeting which will form part of the minutes available on the Parish Councils website. Organisations who did not provide reports have been reminded of the importance to do so in the future.
- The Chairman advised that an MPC Personnel Committee meeting was held on 5th May. Due to the content of the meeting it was deemed a private and confidential meeting and the public and press were excluded. The Committee discussed staff performance reviews and made decisions on staff salaries and pension contributions. The Chairman wished to congratulate Mrs Thorne on becoming a permanent member of staff subsequent to completing a probation period. It was also noted that parishioners have noticed a difference in the villages' appearance since Mrs Thorne started working for MPC and this is great to hear.
- Yesterday the Chairman attended, on behalf of MPC, the CBC Civic Service in honour of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. All CBC area dignitaries were present together with 35 parish council representatives.
- Finally it is great to see that the COVID 19 data provided by CBC show that the downward trend in infections continues.

### Public Session

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

- Ukrainian Refugees in CBC area – There are currently 122 sponsored families with 190 guests living in the CBC area. 28 children have been given school places. A task force has been set up at Luton Airport to provide support and the CBC team are ensuring that sponsors are checked appropriately.

- Children's Services – A new director of CBC Children's Services has been appointed (Sarah Jane Smegmore). This department is a statutory service provided by CBC and covers amongst other things children looked after, safeguarding and liaison with the Police. The service has been visited by Ofsted recently and was awarded 'Good' in various areas.
- Community Asset Grant Scheme – This is currently open until 25th July 2022.
- Greensands – The Greensands Country festival will take place in May / June with lots of activities planned.
- COVID – Whilst data shows a reduction in infection rates it is important to note that there were 4 deaths in the CBC area this month therefore residents are still urged to take care.
- Community Action Day – This was held in Shefford with a variety of CBC departments, the Police and other local services on hand to meet with residents. Ward Councillors have been provided with details of issues raised that included anti-social behaviour, speeding and highways issues. All will be investigated.
- Business Grants – CBC have been successful in allocating business grants and have been working with organisations to deliver training courses and research of use to our local business community e.g.: scheme for global trade and high tech research. There is investment in supporting companies to increase productivity, especially the leisure industry, and how to attract people into working for them.

#### **Questions / comments from the public:**

- Can Meppershall Academy apply for the Community Asset Grant? *Cllr Liddiard to find out and advise accordingly.*
- Speeding was raised at the Community Action day however CBC do not believe we have an issue with speeding in the village? *ML – Most Meppershall roads have in the last 12 months had traffic / speed monitoring assessments conducted on them and the results of the assessments indicate that the only stretch of road that is eligible for speed reduction measures is the entrance to the village at Shefford Road. The Clerk and MPC Councillors have been provided with the assessment data for review and articles have been published locally on the matter. The CBC highways portfolio holder visited and walked the village with Cllr Liddiard, the Clerk and Cllr Morgan to review resident reported highways issues and meetings with highways officers were held after this. As a result a scheme is being brought forward to install a new vehicle activated sign with appropriate signage etc. at the village entrance on Shefford Road that will be partly funded by the OPCC grant received by the Council. MPC has also submitted two RMF applications to CBC for additional highways improvements*

*at the Shefford Road village entrance (40mph buffer zone and village gateway) that will be considered by June 2022. There will also be two speed tables installed near the entrance of the new development at 32 Shefford Road. Whilst resident and Speedwatch concerns about speeding are understandable these concerns are not evident in the assessment data and Highways Officers are guided by assessment data, road traffic accident data and government guidelines about what can and cannot be installed on roads. The Government has recently given local authorities the ability to use fixed and mobile cameras on areas like school crossings however whilst the cost to install these is paid for by the local authority the income from ticket fines does not go to the local authority.*

- *Is not the real issue with highways in the village, congestion and bottlenecks caused by parked vehicles e.g.: at the school and on the High Street, and all this whilst you allow more development in the village? Clerk – The issue of congestion and visibility on the High Street opposite the village stores is well documented and one often raised at parish council meetings however there seems to be no solution to the problem that would make residents happy and not create more problems. If parking spaces were removed, where would residents with no access to off street parking park (problem would be moved up the road) and would an issue of speeding be created as the parked cars would no longer provide physical stop points? The 20mph speed limit and parking scheme at the School was a scheme introduced a number of years ago by CBC. Unfortunately it is not the scheme that does not work but road users who ignore speed limits and a lack of enforcement.*
- *Why was the scheme at the School was not properly consulted upon? Chairman – The appropriate consultation was conducted by CBC with notices displayed and statutory consultees informed.*
- *There has been lots of effort in the village recently with litter picking however there is no bin outside the village stores anymore. Can this be reinstated? Clerk will contact CBC and request re-instatement.*
- *What is MPC's view on the planning application submitted for 100 High Street, as they seem to have allowed development everywhere else in the village? Clerk – MPC has been opposed to all significant developments in the village (except the Walnut Tree development that has provided the new Village Hall and other village amenities). It is important to remember that MPC is only a statutory consultee on planning applications and is not the decision maker – this is the role of CBC or if at appeal the Planning Inspectorate. MPC can only object to planning applications based upon 'material objections' and much time and effort goes into our review and responses to planning applications. We also work with organisations such as CPRE to assist in raising objections. Unfortunately there is an apathy amongst some residents in responding and possibly objecting to planning applications in the village and even participating in the Village and Neighbourhood Plan. This is more evident after the Planning Inspector granted permission for the 145 dwellings at Stocken House after which*

*the Meppershall Action Group closed – it would be great to see this revived but it is not something that can be run and organised by MPC. Other villages have had much more community involvement in objections e.g.: responses to the Greenwoods application crashed CBC's planning portal. The decision on Stocken House was also hugely disappointing for MPC and CBC (who spent in excess of £50k trying to uphold their refusal to the development). However, this said we have been successful in preventing development at 40 Shefford Road and 100 High Street at appeal with the Planning Inspector. With regards to 100 High Street this application is the most recent in a number of applications for this site and whilst MPC has not yet reviewed the application during this meeting, in the past they have always objected to planning on this site for a whole host of reasons.*

## Delegation Arrangements

Environment & Leisure working group	Cllr Morgan - Spokesman	Clerk
	Cllr Merryweather	Environment & Community Officer
	Cllr Addy	Mrs R Cooper-Keeble
Planning & Housing working group	Cllr Thompson - Spokesman	Clerk
	Cllr Chapman	
	Cllr Crossley	
Highways & Transport working group	Cllr Morgan	Clerk - Spokesman
	Cllr Shephard	
Finance working group	Cllr Thompson - Spokesman	Clerk
	Cllr Parsons	
	Cllr Wright	
Community Safety & Risk Management working group (includes Neighbourhood Watch and Policing)	Cllr Chapman - Risk Spokesman	Clerk - Community Safety Spokesman
	Cllr Wirght	
	Cllr Shephard	
Procedures & Legal working group	Cllr Thompson	Clerk - Spokesman
	Cllr Parsons	
IT working group	Cllr Standbridge - Spokesman	Clerk
Defibrillator Inspector	Cllr Parsons	

## Procedures, Consultations and Legal

- a. **Procedures** - Resolved to re-adopt Dispensation Guidance and Form v2.0, Engagement with Developers v1.1, Personnel Committee Terms of Reference v1.1 and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference v2.1. Resolved to adopt Financial Regulations v3.3 and Standing Orders v4.2
- b. **IT and Communications** - Cllr Standbridge advised that visits to the website are up. Accessibility checks have been run on the website and all is OK. The Clerk and Cllr Standbridge will be assisting councillors to set up gov.uk emails and the MPC mobile now that the Clerk has received the MultiPay card.



- c. **Beds Police Community Priority Setting Meeting** - *It was agreed that Cllr Thompson would attend the Beds Police Community Priority Setting Meeting and that village priorities were ASB, drug dealing and speeding.*
- d. **CBC Cheering Volunteering Event 2022** - *It was agreed Mr Pain and Cllr Thompson would be nominated to attend this Cheering Volunteering event and that any further nominations should be forwarded to the Clerk.*
- e. **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 Davidsons and CBC pending.*
- f. **Electrical Connection from Old Road Meadow** - *The Draft Heads of Terms are complete. The Draft Deed of Easement is completed and with Blakeney Estates. A Wayleave Agreement is still required with UKPN and our Solicitor has reviewed this for us and found no issues. Resolved that MPC approve the UKPN Wayleave together with other documents with Blakeney Estates for signing.*

## Finance

- a. **Purchase Orders** - *Resolved to approve cost to purchase of; spray paint and holder as required, sprinkler / hosepipe for use on Centenary Field, circa 16 tonnes of plainings for the allotment track, PPE Masks for employees, wooden stakes for the allotments and new councillor induction training for Cllr Shephard*
- b. **Budget v Actual** - *The Clerk provided a report on the previous financial year budget v actual which were noted. No changes were made to the 2022-2023 budget.*
- c. **Asset Register** - *The Clerk presented the current Asset Register to councillors for review and its' contents were noted. Resolved the Council conduct a physical audit of all assets, record with pictures and log the location with mapping software.*
- d. **Reserves** - *Resolved to approve Reserves for 2022/2023 as proposed by the Clerk. (see next page)*
- e. **Banking Mandate** - *Resolved that the Clerk update the banking mandate to include new councillors and provide Cllr Wright with permission to authorise online payments.*

EARMARKED RESERVES MOVEMENTS		2021/2022	2022/2023
		cf	Recommend ed Start Position
312	Recreation Ground	£ 11,700	£ 14,000
313	Hoo Road/ Highways improvement	£ 8,500	£ 8,500
318	Local Election Costs	£ 1,650	£ 1,650
320	Contingency	£ 5,000	£ 6,000
322	Traffic Calming Programme	£ 3,250	£ 3,250
324	Environmental Maintenance capital expenditure	£ 10,000	£ 10,000
330	Neighbourhood Plan Grant	£ 4,342	£ 2,517
332	Allotment Deposits	£ 1,400	£ 1,400
333	Locum Clerk	£ 6,000	£ 6,000
334	OPCC Grant Funding	£ 20,000	£ 20,000
NEW	Centenary Field		£ 65,000
	<b>Total reserved funds</b>	<b>£ 71,842</b>	<b>£ 138,317</b>

- f. **Internal Auditor report** - The Chairman expressed thanks to the Clerk for having received an Internal Auditor Report without issues. *Resolved to receive the Internal Auditor Report on 2021-2022 and note that no issues were identified.*
- g. **Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022** - *Resolved to approve the Governance Statement 2021/2022 as circulated for submission to the External Auditor and that it be signed by the Clerk and Chairman of the meeting.*
- h. **Accounting Statements 2021/2022** - *Resolved to approve the Accounting Statements 2021/2022 as presented to council by the Responsible Financial Officer (& Clerk) for submission to the External Auditor and that it be signed by the Chairman of the meeting.*
- i. **Exercise of Public Rights to Inspect MPC Accounts** - *Councillors noted the dates set by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer regarding the exercise of public rights to inspect MPC accounts as 1st June 2022 to 14th July inclusive.*
- j. **Document approval**
- *Resolved that journals 70 to 76 be approved.*
  - *Resolved to approve direct debit and standing orders including direct debit for NEST.*
- k. **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.*

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## Planning and Housing

### a. Planning applications for consideration

- CB/22/01261/OUT - 100 High Street, SG17 5LZ - Outline Application: Development of 23 dwellings and associated works following the demolition of 100 High Street with all matters reserved except access. *Resolved that the Council objects to planning application 22/01261.*
- CB/22/01195/FULL - 84A Fildyke Road, SG17 5LU - Erection of boundary fence. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 22/01195.*
- CB/22/01516/FULL - 113 High Street, SG17 5LZ - Single storey front, side and rear extensions, part two storey side & rear extension, loft extension and conversion. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 22/01516.*
- CB/22/01505/FULL - 34 Brookmead, SG17 5SA - Single storey front extension and garage conversion. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 22/01505.*
- CB/22/01623/FULL - 43 Walnut Tree Way, SG17 5AB - Two storey side and single storey rear extension, to replace car port structure. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 22/01623.*

## Neighbourhood Plan

The plan is under review by the Clerk and Mrs Chapman. Re-consultation of MNP Draft Plan policy H1 will start on 16th May 2022. The end of 2021-2022 grant submission has been completed and funds not spent will need to be returned. A new grant application for 2022-2023 has been submitted and is pending approval.

## Highways and Transport

- a. **OPCC and RMF grant funding update from Clerk** - The Clerk has received an email from CBC Highways to say that they are reviewing RMF applications and expect to make announcements in June. No update on OPCC grant funding scheme from CBC Highways.
- b. **To consider proposed action to deal with vehicles driving along the Hoo Road bridleway.** - The Clerk has been discussing the issue of vehicles using the Hoo road bridleway with our CBC Right of Way Officer as this poses a road safety issue near the entrance to Old Road Meadow nature reserve and play area. Safety of pedestrians will become more of an issue when the footpath linking the 68 new homes built at 32 Shefford Road and Hoo Road is opened. The CBC Rights of Way Officer is suggesting that the bridleway needs attention in certain areas and that the installation of a gate would prevent vehicles from using the bridleway. The Clerk proposes that MPC consider a contribution (to CBC) for

the installation of a gate instead of bollards that have been damaged beyond repair. *Resolved that the Council contributes to the cost of a gate installation if requested from CBC..*

- c. **To consider current bus stop locations in the village and provide feedback to CBC** - Bus stop pole, flag and timetable cases have been installed at the entrance and opposite the Polehanger Farm entrance. CBC's Senior Public Transport Officer considers them to be in a perfectly safe location. Reasons for installation were:

- Historically this location had been registered as a bus stop. CBC have been gradually upgrading stops from unmarked to marked
- Raise awareness of public transport in all areas.
- Help promote local companies such as Whitbread Wanderbus.
- The area is popular with walkers and this location is a good starting point for those that wish to walk the countryside.
- Polehanger Farm is a luxury glamping location and it may appeal to those that stay at this location.

Polehanger Farms have objected to this location but Grant Palmer and the Wanderbus do not actually stop at this location. Also the Clerk has received correspondence from residents asking why a bus stop has been placed near Polehanger but not near the Care Home. *Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should respond to CBC and request an online meeting with officers and Ward Councillors to discuss the matter.*

- d. **To review Road Signs report and agree on any actions required** - Mrs Thorne has removed old fading signs and has provided an update on other village signs including village entry signs. Many signs have old rusting posts with missing caps. Some signs are damaged and need repair / replacement. The Festival of Britain sign in the centre of the village is also showing signs of needing repair. *Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should report issues of street signage to CBC where possible. Council resolved to approve repair to The Festival of Britain sign and other signs that are the responsibility of MPC.*

## Environment and Leisure

- a. **Centenary Field** - The Clerk and Cllr Morgan reported that:
- Facebook post issued on 1<sup>st</sup> May regarding pending works to Centenary Field.
  - Sherriffs have sprayed off grass areas where landscaping is to take place. They will then commence on landscaping and track around the pitches. Areas will be fenced off and Sherriffs have been asked to erect lots of signage.
  - New gym equipment installation. Pending installation confirmation date.

**John Thompson - Chairman - Meppershall Parish Council**



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## Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner



The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will be hosting the PCC's Annual Business Conference 2022 for all businesses, big and small, across the whole of Bedfordshire.

**Event:** Annual Business Conference 2022

**Date:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Time:** 09:30 – 16:30

**Location:** The Grove Theatre, Grove Park, Court Drive, Dunstable, LU5 4GP

As business owners, this event will be an opportunity for you...

- To engage with a part of the community that have specific safety and prevention needs
- To become mentors for young people in the community
- To understand who, in the community can support you and how
- To get together to discuss business safety / business crime in Bedfordshire
- To encourage businesses to join the Business Watch Scheme

This event will consist of a multitude of guest speakers who have been chosen specifically to help inform and support the business community.

*(Tea, coffee and lunch will also be provided)*

If you would like to attend the Annual Business Conference 2022 on Tuesday 6th September 2022, please click here to reserve you space here:

<https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/annual-business-conference-2022/>

Please also pass this invitation onto anyone you know in the business community working in Bedfordshire.

We look forward to welcoming you to this event.

**Bedfordshire Police Headquarters, Woburn Road, Kempston, Bedford MK43 9AX**

Web: [www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk)



## Meppershall Craft Club

Our Craft Club are very much enjoying being able to get back to our regular weekly meetings in the Meppershall Village Hall to share a coffee & our crafts.

Our members cover a very wide range of crafts – Some of us work on our own crafts, or, as we often do, share our skills with others. As I write this many of us are looking forward to this week's workshop making a fabric bowl decorated with beads.

We continue to make regular donations to charities most recently these have included The Brain Tumour Charity and Autism Bedfordshire.



Other charity work has included many of our members knitting mini hats for The innocent Big Knit in partnership with Age Uk. The money raised from these hats helps Age Uk to be there for older people who have no one else to turn to.

Part of getting to a 'new normal' means we are now again beginning to arrange visits and activities outside our regular meetings. Our June outing was an afternoon tea to celebrate The Queens Platinum Jubilee.



Finally, we would like to thank **The Meppershall Village Hall** for making our Craft Club meetings possible.

If you would like to join us just pop along to the village hall on a weds morning 10am to 12 noon - we are a very friendly bunch!

Kim Tyler, Lorraine Jarvis & Diane Hughes the Organisers.

**Contacts: Kim 0795 255 7203, Lorraine 07811 865 259, Or Diane 07473 828488.**



## Trugs and Trowels

Trugs and Trowels enjoyed a lovely twilight tour on the 2nd of June to the Woburn estate lead by Martin Towsey, Estate Manager. We all came back saying how we had learned so much more with this private tour.

### Upcoming Events

**June 18<sup>th</sup>** - open gardens leaving from 28 Greenway at 2pm, £3 per head. The trip to Chicksands Priory and walled garden is now fully booked.

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** our speaker at 7.30 pm is Corrine Price talking about her time as head gardener at Wrest park .

**August 1<sup>st</sup>** at 7.30 pm our talk is on wellbeing in the garden.

**September 5<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30 pm our talk is on the head gardener's network.

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7.30 pm our talk is Bedfordshire Garden Trust.

Maryika 🌸 Contact 01462 851729

\*\*\*\*\*

## Birthdays

Very special birthday greetings to...

Alan P 92yrs  
Margaret G 87yrs



Have a wonderful day and a great year ahead, from everyone at The Meppershall Messenger.

## Meppershall Pre-School

We have had a great few weeks at the Pre-School enjoying the hotter weather and plenty of activities to keep us busy!

The children have been very excited to see the work starting on the recreation area behind the Pre-school on the drainage to the field. They are able to watch the diggers moving the soil backwards and forwards from the playground. They have also had a couple of little trips out to get closer to the action to see how they work and what they are doing.

When we returned from half term we enjoyed celebrating the Queens Jubilee learning about the Queen's Reign and The Union Jack. We created pictures using red, white and blue themes and made a traditional British treat of scones with cream and jam which the children loved!



The children have a lovely area at Pre-school where they are able to utilise many different crafts to engage in 'messy play'. These activities are free for them to play with at their will and the most popular crafts are Playdough and painting which encourages them to use both their imagination and their fine motor skills.

In the past week we have spent a lot of time preparing for the Father's Day celebrations. The children have made Father's Day Cards and they took home their small sunflower plants which they had planted earlier in the year with a small poem attached. We also had a small fundraiser where the families came in for tea and a bacon roll and participated in crafts and a 'stay and play' at the weekend.

We are looking forward to helping our older children prepare for moving to school in September towards the end of term with activities to help them have a smooth transition.

We still have limited spaces for our Autumn term so if you are interested in booking a visit for a potential place please contact the Pre-school using the details below:

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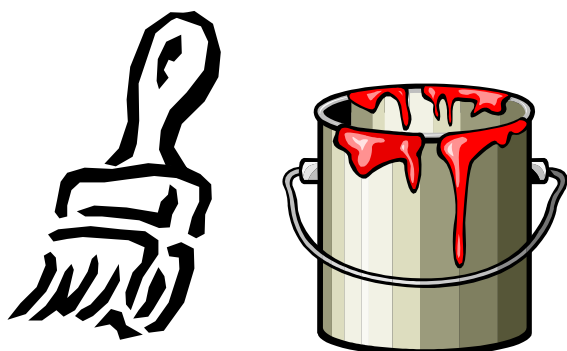
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## The Meppershall Players



The Players would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Players' Tombola Stall at the STMA Annual Summer Fete on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. The weather whilst setting up was a constant drizzle but we didn't let it dampen our spirits. Quite a few stalls failed to show due to the weather, which miraculously stopped drizzling about fifteen minutes after the Fete opened, rewarding all the people with stalls and all those attending with a dry if somewhat grey afternoon. We had a great time and look forward to next year.

We've set the date for our next Ultimate Decades Disco for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December, Matinees 3pm, Evenings 7.30pm. Tickets for this show and the Ultimate Decades Disco can be purchased online from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers) from Monday 4th July 2022

If you're over 18yrs old and missed the read through and auditions but would still like to be involved in this year's Panto contact Karen on the number below or come to our meetings on Monday evenings at the STMA 10, Hitchin Road, Shefford.

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 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**

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

Church Road, off Campton Road, Meppershall

[www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk](http://www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk) † [facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall](https://facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall)



**Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman**

01462 339962 – [ronigoodman@gmail.com](mailto:ronigoodman@gmail.com) – usual day off Monday

**Churchwardens:**

Chris Valentine 01462 815971 Peter Clark

**PCC Secretary:**

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

### *A message from St Mary's...*

We have had some gorgeous weather in the last few days as I write - and it seems like summer might be truly "coming in".

I don't know about you but I tend to look wistfully back to the "long lazy hazy days of Summer" (I am not sure if mine were ever really that crazy!). And as I recall it was often the very simple pleasures that healed, restored and refreshed my soul... sitting at the edge of a stream dangling my feet into chilly water, lying on the lawn in the dappled shade of the trees chatting with a friend, reading a book in a deck chair in the shade, having water fights with the children, grabbing a multipack of ice-creams of some variety to share, taking a picnic to the park... and if lucky enough to be at the seaside, gathering shells, building sand castles, and chasing through the icy (English) waves. So many of those things, or similar, are still available to me at minimal cost, if only I would take the time to enjoy them...

I've been on a course recently that taught us of the need to "recharge our batteries"- not just at weekends, not just in the holidays, but everyday, throughout the day...

Probably like so many, I feel wearied by the events of the last two years and the events of now! Our news and our conversation has been filled with covid and rumours of covid, wars and rumours of wars, the threat of scarcity, rising prices and recession. It can be so hard to know what to do except to worry! Those things are not just going away - but I feel the need to heal, refresh and restore my soul... to recharge my batteries, and to build my strength and resilience again as I look and plan ahead. Maybe you do too?

A prayer from night prayer in the Book of Common prayer says, "Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we **who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world**, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

As we look to the summer and the holidays for fun, relaxation, rest and recreation to recharge our batteries, let's not forget to make time for turning again to God, night and day, a part of that.

In terms of the Church's year now, the fabrics in the church are turned to green as we begin our journey through what is called Ordinary Time or the 'Numbered Weeks'. During these weeks, after the excitement of Easter and Ascension and Pentecost, we read again through the life of Jesus, his preaching and teaching and miracles, this year primarily as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. Since we read only in small sections on a Sunday, if you have extra free time, this might also be the time to read through the whole of the Gospel to get a better sense of Luke and his particular message.

Maybe it is time also to spend more time with God. It doesn't have to be long prayer times (although I am not discouraging that!)... but simply enjoying the beautiful scenery around us, giving thanks to him for the sunrises and sunsets we see paint our skies, for the birdsong that greets each new day, for the food in our shops and on our tables - for the simple joys of each day... Doing all of that **with God** may bring us closer to Him and bring us the spiritual refreshment, the joy and peace that our busy and sometimes anxious lives can steal from us.

Let us take time today and everyday to recharge our batteries knowing that if we turn to God - he can change us - and then just maybe, together we can change the world!

"Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine..." Eph 3:20

### Church News and Events in July

Sundays	11.00am	Morning Worship every Sunday  Holy Communion on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays (12 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> 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 July 10<sup>th</sup>. It's a 5-mile one-way hike to The Greyhound at Haynes, starting from Meppershall Village Hall at 2pm. Our route starts out via Crackle Hill to Campton. Some of you may know the walk that we have done occasionally via Campton Plantation and the eastern perimeter of Chicksands. This time it's a different route, heading west from Campton and into Sandy Smith Nature Reserve before going over The Hill (once the site of the Elephant Cage) and on through Chicksands Wood to Haynes. To arrange to park a car at the end of the walk beforehand, or to arrange a lift back with someone else, contact Miriam or James on 857836. Find the Strollers at <https://www.facebook.com/MeppershallStrollers>.





# WARDEN ABBEY

## *The community vineyard*



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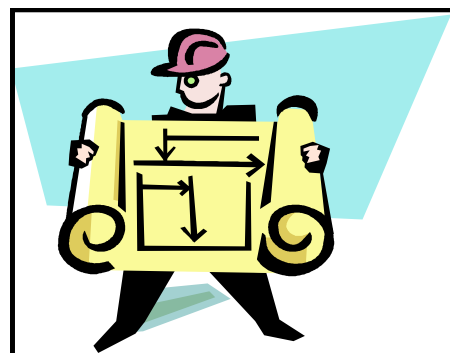
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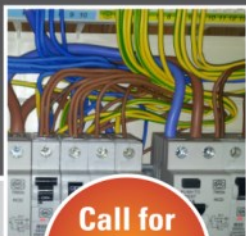
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## Chelsea Flower Show

Last month I was lucky enough to visit the Chelsea Flower Show and it didn't disappoint. This was my debut to the show after watching it for many years on the television.

It was first called the RHS Great Spring Show in 1862 and held in a garden in Kensington and moved to Chelsea in 1913.

Visiting with a lovely friend who invited me, we made our way across London which was quite entertaining as we are such country mice! As we got closer we were guided with other excited visitors towards the show passing impressive floral displays with a Jubilee theme.

Upon entering we saw Keith Weed, Head of the RHS. Such an apt name! We were spoilt for choice of which direction to go in and decided to look at the show gardens first.

It was such a lovely atmosphere, bustling yet calm with everyone enjoying their day out in such beautiful surroundings. I think people appreciate these treats even more after the last few years.

My favourite garden was the RNLI one designed by Chris Beardshaw. I loved all the clever links he had made to the sea and the history of the RNLI, highlighting the bravery of the volunteers of this charity. All encapsulated in the soft perennial planting in shades of blues and purples and whites all very indicative of the coast.



Walking into the Grand Pavilion the scent is gorgeous. Dubbed the jewel in the Chelsea Flower Show's crown. Flowers adorn all four corners. All perfect examples of their type, nurtured for months to have their moment of flowering glory.

Delphiniums the size of men! 70 Lily of the Valley in pots in a silhouette of her Majesty to mark the Platinum Jubilee. Roses displayed in a massive metal crown. Mount Fuji made out of chrysanthemums! The displays were eye popping!

Nurseries from all over the world meet here to exhibit, all so passionate about their plants they dedicate their careers and often lives to growing.



I was in my element. Everywhere I looked flowers and all my gardening heroes! I will definitely be booking my ticket for next year. It was spectacular. Lots of inspiration was for my future designs!

Donna Cameron  
Donna's Garden Designs  
07833 670934

### Jobs for July

Dead head plants to prolong flowering	Plant Nerines
Water regularly to prevent drying out, particularly pots and don't do in midday sun	Cut back flowered Delphiniums and hardy Geraniums for a second flush of flowers
Keep ponds topped up and clear of algae	Divide Bearded Iris
Pick courgettes	Stake tall perennials
Harvest peaches and apricots	Mulch borders to keep moisture in

**By Donna Cameron**  
**Donna's Garden Designs**  
**07833670934**

## HATS Drama Group

Following HATS' latest show we very kindly received this review by a member of our audience. Thanks to Richard Ellis for taking the time to write it.

"HATS Drama Group:

The Allotment Plot (by local author, Emma Northcott) has just had a highly successful run at Meppershall Village Hall which was well attended. The performances, on a well made set, were good, playing out an interesting story that the audience, in teams with herb names, had to unravel and find the murderer, method and motive.

Alongside this was a quiz with questions about real life murder related events to answer. The evening was well constructed and there was an air of fun in the auditorium.

An excellent ploughman's lunch was served in the interval with delicious French sticks donated, very generously, by Roger's Bakery. This provided nourishment to activate the brains and come to the right conclusions.

This was a format that worked well with the first part being a play upon the stage, a break for thought, puzzling, food and drink followed by a further show of clues on stage. A few minutes followed to make the final decisions before the final reveal. A good, fun evening enjoyed by all.

Pleasingly, the show had 4 new members in its cast. More members are needed and will be welcomed with open arms. HATS is a very friendly group who run social activities alongside rehearsals so why not go along and give it a try.

Their next production is 'Ladies Day' :29, 30 Sept and 1 Oct."

HATS would like to thank the trustees of MVH and everyone in the village who helped and supported them.



Picture of the cast and crew of 'The Allotment Plot' with the author, Emma Northcott, front row, second from right. "

**Linda Winfield HATS Chairman**



## **Financial Matters by Paul Savuto**

### **In your 40s? Your pension age might be changing**

More than four in five people in their 40s are unaware that the age at which they can access their pension might be about to change, according to research from the Pensions Management Institute (PMI).

#### **Numbers game**

The normal minimum pension age (NMPA) is set to move from 55 to 57 in 2028, which will mean millions have to wait an extra two years to access their retirement funds. However, public service pension scheme members and some private sector scheme members will be exempt. After learning about the change, almost four in ten respondents said they expected to be impacted, while a further one in four were unsure whether the change would apply to them or not.

#### **Pensions advice**

Despite the importance of proper pension planning, only 14% of respondents have discussed their retirement plans with a financial adviser, the same research found. The PMI thinks that a wider discussion about pensions is needed, given that only 4% of respondents knew the current NMPA. PMI President Lesley Alexander called the research “particularly worrying.” She commented, “The failure to communicate the change to NMPA effectively is complicated by the fact that it does not apply to everyone. This means it is vital that the general public understands clearly what their retirement choices are.

### **Life changes – so should your mortgage**

The cost of living has shot up in recent months, with inflation expected to reach a peak of 7% this spring and many families facing a significant hike on their annual energy bills from April.

With finances squeezed, every penny counts – so it’s important to consider all the options for streamlining your outgoings. If you’re reaching the end of your current mortgage term, taking the time to explore whether more favourable rates are available could really pay.

#### **Paying over the odds?**

If your mortgage deal has expired and you are on your lender’s Standard Variable Rate (SVR), it is likely you’ll already have been hit by recent increases to the Bank of England base rate. SVRs are typically higher than those offered by available deals and fluctuate as interest rates rise and fall. Switching to a fixed rate mortgage deal instead could both save you money and make budgeting easier, as you’ll know exactly what is going out each month.

## Time for a review?

While you can switch your mortgage at any time, you may face early repayment charges (ERCs). Even if your current mortgage deal hasn't quite expired, however, you could start the remortgaging process up to six months beforehand. Many lenders will permit you to lock into a new deal up to three months in advance, so starting early will give you the time you need to assess your available options. That's where we can help – we can scour the market for the most suitable mortgage finance for your circumstances.

## Investors tap into holiday let demand

Pandemic-related travel restrictions have unleashed huge demand for UK-based rentals among British holidaymakers – with buy-to-let investors scrambling to take advantage.

According to figures, holiday let mortgage availability has trebled since 2020, giving would-be investors ample opportunity to tap into this demand. There are now 231 buy-to-let mortgages eligible for holiday lets on the market, versus just 74 back in August 2020. As the number of deals increases, competition between lenders is also on the rise, with average rates reducing from 4.14% in September 2021 to 3.92% in January 2022.

Things to think about If you're thinking about investing in a holiday let, there are some factors to consider before taking the plunge. Firstly, the government is currently working to close a tax loophole that has seen people claiming tax relief on empty 'holiday lets'. Holiday let owners will soon be required to prove that their property is being let for at least 70 days each year in order to claim small business tax relief. Secondly, it's important to think about the cost of purchasing a holiday let above and beyond the property itself. For example, you may have to spend a significant amount upfront to get the property ready for holiday let clientele. You'll also have to consider how much the property is likely to generate in rental income – is it in a good enough location to attract a steady stream of holidaymakers?

Get advice - We'll be able to help you weigh up the various factors and recommend mortgage finance that's suitable for your needs.

## 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](mailto:ps@dgsifa.com), I'll be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you have. FCA 225814.

## ADVERTORIAL

### Davidsons Homes boosts local area as part of new homes development

As building work progresses well at Davidsons Homes' Woodlands Rest development off Shefford Road, the housebuilder is set to invest over £1.86million to enhance Meppershall and the local area.

The money will be spent on improving facilities, such as the schools and play equipment, and making the village an even better place to live for local people.

As well as well-designed two, three, four and five-bedroom homes, Woodlands Rest also features areas of green open space for the whole family to enjoy.

James Burnham, Managing Director for Davidsons Homes South Midlands, said: "We pride ourselves on not just building new houses, but creating places that people will enjoy living in for generations to come.

"That means investing in the community and infrastructure, which will enhance the area, not just for our buyers, but for everyone living nearby.

"At Meppershall, over £1.86million is earmarked for huge improvements to the village and surrounding area, most notably to local primary and secondary schools. We're delighted that our buyers will live in such a wonderful place, which will only become better with this investment in the local community."

As part of the S106 agreement, current plans show that Davidsons Homes will be boosting local education by providing £149,000 towards early years, £497,000 to lower education, £500,000 towards middle education and £614,000 to upper education. A further £85,000 will be provided for play equipment, making the area a fantastic choice for families with young children.

Davidsons Homes is building a selection of two to five-bedroom homes at Woodlands Rest in Meppershall. A range of amenities are nearby, such as a village pub, restaurant, local shops and a local school, while countryside walks and rural scenery are just a stone's throw away.

To find out more about Davidsons Homes and the homes being built in Meppershall, visit [davidsonshomes.co.uk](http://davidsonshomes.co.uk).





# MEPPERSHALL - WANDERBUS

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



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

As from 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022		“Stops at all Bus Stops on Request”	
<b>W2 BEDFORD</b>	<b>- 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Month</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Shefford Rd, all stops		08.59	RR
High St. / Rectory Rd - all stops		09.00	RR
<b>Interchange Retail Park</b>		<b>09.40</b>	<b>12.20</b>
<b>St Pauls Square / Corn Exchange</b>		<b>09.55</b>	<b>12.00</b>
<b>W3 BIGGLESWADE</b>	<b>- Every Monday</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd / High Street, All Stops		09.27	RR
Shefford Road, All Stops		09.29	RR
<b>Biggleswade – A1 Retail Park</b>		<b>10.00</b>	<b>12.05</b>
<b>Town Centre - pick up o/s Asda Superstore</b>		<b>10.05</b>	<b>12.00</b>
<b>W5 BIGGLESWADE - A1 Retail Park/Town Centre - Every Friday</b>		<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd / High St. – all stops		10.00	RR
Shefford Rd. – all stops		10.03	RR
<b>Biggleswade A1 Retail Park / Town Centre</b>		<b>10.25/10.30</b>	
<b>Town Centre – o/s Asda / A1 Retail Park</b>			<b>12.10 / 12.15</b>
<b>W6A CAMBRIDGE</b>	<b>- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Month</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Shefford Rd – all stops		08.48	RR
High St - all stops / Rectory Rd		08.50	RR
<b>Cambridge, Downing St. – o/s John Lewis</b>		<b>10.10</b>	<b>14.15</b>
<b>W8A ST ALBANS</b>	<b>- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Month</b>		
Shefford Rd. – all stops		08.48	RR
High St. / Rectory Rd – all stops		08.50	RR
<b>St Peters St. o/s Santander Bank / pick up opp Bank</b>		<b>10.25</b>	<b>14.00</b>
<b>W10 ST NEOTS</b>	<b>- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Month</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd. / High Street, All stops		09.18	RR
Shefford Rd, All stops		09.20	RR
<b>St Neots - Market Place</b>		<b>10.15</b>	<b>12.20</b>
<b>W11 MILTON KEYNES</b>	<b>- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd. / High St., All stops		09.08	RR
Shefford Rd, all stops		09.10	RR
<b>MK - Midsummer Blvd / M&amp;S (Stop J3)</b>		<b>10.10</b>	
<b>/ John Lewis (Stop E3)</b>			<b>13.15</b>
<b>W12 HITCHIN</b>	<b>- Every Tuesday</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Shefford Rd, All stops		09.18	RR
High Street, Rectory Rd - All stops		09.19	RR
<b>Bancroft Stop D</b>		<b>10.05</b>	
<b>Bancroft Stop G (Outside Paperchase)</b>			<b>12.10</b>
<b>W14 WELWYN GARDEN CITY</b>	<b>- 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of Month</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
Rectory Rd. / High Street, All stops		09.14	RR
Shefford Road, All stops		09.16	RR
<b>WGC Central Bus Station</b>		<b>10.00</b>	<b>12.15</b>

**EXCURSIONS – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Month – call For Details – 0300-123-2023**



## 2022 Excursion Programme

DATE	DESTINATION	Entrance Fee as per current website	Bus Fare
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>CASTLE ASHBY GARDEN, Northants.</b> 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
<b>Sunday* 14<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>PITSTONE GREEN MUSEUM/HERTIAGE PARK, nr Tring.</b> 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
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>ASCOTT HOUSE &amp; GARDENS, nr Leighton Buzzard.</b> An old English black & white timber manor house dating back in parts to C17 <sup>th</sup> . 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
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>BICESTER VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTRE, Oxon.</b> 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.
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MARKET - TBA</b>		

**\*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](mailto: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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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)

<b>Central Beds Council</b>	<b>0300 300 8301</b>
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CBC councillors:

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

### Parish Council Clerk

Alessandre Marabese	<a href="mailto:clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk">clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk</a>
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### Member of Parliament:

Nadine Dorries	<a href="mailto:Nadine.Dorries.MP@parliament.uk">Nadine.Dorries.MP@parliament.uk</a>
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### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk)

Bookings [bookings@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication at the end of that month. Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

### DISCLAIMER

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

### THE TEAM

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Assistant Editor      **Vacancy**

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Collating Dates 2022			
August-September Double Issue	August 1 <sup>st</sup>	December-January Double Issue	November 28 <sup>th</sup>
October 2022 Issue	September 26 <sup>th</sup>	February 2023 Issue	January 30 <sup>th</sup>
November Issue	October 31 <sup>st</sup>	March 2023 Issue	February 27 <sup>th</sup>
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.***