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Editorial by James Read

Remembrance Sunday is marked every year at St Mary's church with the Act of Remembrance. The whole village is welcome to attend – paying respects and remembering what past generations (and current generations)



gave – and continue to give - in the service of our country. Come and gather at 10.45 in the churchyard, Sunday 13th November.

In recent years, we have been able to explore and reflect on the personal, local stories that connect the village directly to those desperate years, 14-18, 39-45. The names that we read out and remember have become people: young men and their friends. And their families (the Dilleys, Lawrences, Pettifars, Rainbows, Cakebreads and others) can firmly trace their connection to those we remember by name. Many families and households in Meppershall today have direct connections to our current Armed Forces, and their service is something for which we are truly grateful.

When it comes to the life of our local community and a sense of pride in our 'place', Meppershall continues to benefit from amazing contributions from so many different people. On the cover, we welcome THE MEPPERSHALL TEA ROOM which has taken over the village hall café facility to serve hot and cold drinks, as well as food, between 9 and 12 (breakfast) and 12 and 2 (lunch). We wish them every success in this central part of village life.

In this issue, you'll also find info for the Meppershall Christmas Fair (Saturday 3rd Dec), plus the highly atmospheric reading of Dickens' great story, 'A Christmas Carol' in the church as the winter nights come in (Sunday 27th Nov). We can also confirm that Santa's float will be touring the village on Sunday and Monday 11th-12th December.

You'll also find great info from Meppershall Social Club (MSC) later in this issue – thanks to the MSC committee and team for working hard to make the most of our Village Hall facility and to offer activities that aim to appeal to the whole village.

And I make no apologies for the bumper edition of Parish Council minutes included in this issue! Thank you MPC for the clear info and openness. Please read the minutes and stay abreast of how the village is being run on your behalf – and get involved.

Doing your bit isn't just about the big stuff. A simple conversation with someone you meet on the street can make a positive difference to someone who may be living alone or who may be feeling the worst of the current economic climate.

And keeping our streets and footpaths spick and span is another big part of our quality of life. Most people in the village are very careful with their dog poo. But some are, shamefully, not. Info from our Parish Council in this issue reminds us that there is *nowhere* where it is okay to just let your dog poo without picking it up. Crackle Hill is, at times, a bit of a disgrace. Can we all make a special effort? I'm in!

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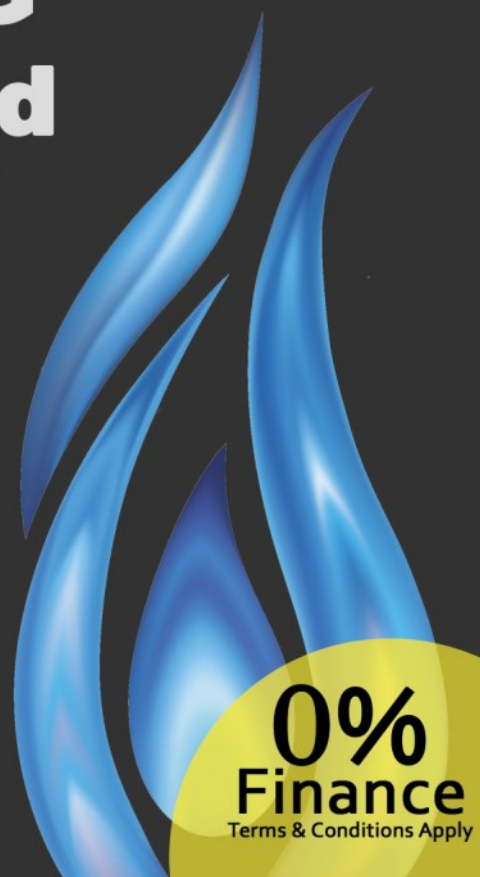
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors

It is good to see that Meppershall is keeping up with national trends. Rapid and repeated succession in those holding high office and running key national institutions is all the rage these days, it seems. The village can't claim to have had four Chancellors of the Exchequer in as many months, but we can be TRULY DELIGHTED that the café facilities at the Village Hall will continue to be operated, now under the name of The Meppershall Tearoom. Thank you to those who tried before, and thank you to those who are now making their best efforts to keep up this important social (and culinary) service at the heart of the village.

With The Meppershall Tearoom, as with Number 10 Downing Street, I know we all hope that they can achieve long term stability and a return to confidence – confidence in something more important than any aspect of politics, national crisis or financial markets. My friends, I am referring to nothing less than our ultimate national foundation: The Great British Cup Of Tea.

Yours, thirsty and in need of a decent piece of cake. (Name supplied)

November Verse

We love sharing people's writings and musings in The Meppershall Messenger. We would welcome more of your poems, reflections and thoughts to share each month.

In November 2020, amid lockdown and as the night arrived, I was walking the last part of a loop back from Shillington beside the River Hit, past the Cow Bridge and up the hill from Wassledine to the church at Meppershall. There was something serene, awesome and beautiful about that dark landscape – the silence, shadows and shapes of our countryside. Many composers have written a piece called a 'Nocturn' and that kind of music – inspired by the night – certainly captures the nocturnal *landscape* in our quiet part of the world. And I hope this sonnet that I wrote that night does too.

Night Hike

At five falls fresh November dusk; the land
 In river footsteps softly takes my hand
 And blinds the world so yet it unblinds me —
 The equity of dim serenity.
 So unresisted night in perfect calm
 Comes silent, full and cool; and it has found
 My every breath. Nor can the sky, the air
 Deny the darkness fallen everywhere:
 The big beasts mortified upon the field,
 The path that splits the hill whose dome is sealed
 Around horizon's sphere here near the edge,
 Beyond the gruesome trees and silent hedge,
 Without the sun, without distracting view;
 The nocturn – lonely, intimate and true.

James Read

Meppershall Parish Council – Approved Minutes

Meppershall Parish Council – Approved Summary of Minutes

Due to the summer break and then the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II this is a summary of the Ordinary Meeting of Meppershall Parish Council (MPC) that took place on Monday 25th July 2022 with additional updates added.

Chairman's announcements

- The Chairman advised that subsequent to issuing the agenda a notification has been received of CBC's intention to refer planning application CB/22/00799/FULL - The Pigling, SG17 5LL (Erection of two detached dwellings with associated garages and carport) to DMC, subsequent to Planning Officer recommendation for approval. MPC have been asked if they wish to speak at the DMC meeting on Wednesday 3rd August. Councillors agreed to add this to the meeting agenda as item 813.a.viii.
- It was great to see that the number of crimes reported in Meppershall had fallen to one for the latest reporting period.

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

- Schools For the Future – The CBC Executive Committee agenda for 11th October 2022 includes the Schools for the Future proposal for the Shefford cluster and this will include the approval of a new primary school off Hitchin Road in Shefford.
- Local Plan - The outcome of The Local Plan review currently underway by CBC will be on the Executive Committee agenda for 6th December 2022. This review focuses on everything that has changed in government policy versus the adopted plan. There will be no change in allocations for Meppershall and other villages until the mid-term review expected to take place in 2024. As CBC is meeting its five year housing supply (currently 5.6 years forward supply) there is no need for windfall sites.
- 2021 Census – 2021 Census data released and shows a population of 294,200 for Central Bedfordshire. Central Bedfordshire is therefore among the fastest growing areas in England. Our population has increased by 15.7% since the last census against an average increase in England of 6.6%.
- Ukrainian Refugees – At the end of June 2022 there were 299 Ukrainian refugees, including 105 children, living with 123 sponsors in Central Bedfordshire.
- Highways improvements – Still trying to get Brookmead and Brookside footpaths onto next year's CBC Highways plans for resurfacing.
- CB/22/01261/OUT - 100 High Street, SG17 5LZ – Planning application has been refused and CBC have been advised that the applicant intends to submit a planning appeal which is likely to be a 4 day hearing. The Planning Inspectorate are currently taking between 9 to 12 months to hear appeals and CBC will be defending their decision. **Update – A planning appeal was submitted and subsequently withdrawn for the 2021 planning application**

submitted and refused. A decision is yet to be issued on the 2022 planning application mentioned here.

- MPC Rural Match Funding (RMF) applications – An email has been sent to the CBC Highways Deputy Director requesting an update with all officers copied into the email. The CBC portfolio holder, Cllr Ian Dalgarno is aware of the issue as are Cllr Richard Wenham and Marcel Coiffait.
- Chapel Road – Has been resurfaced. The road condition is looking better now after a couple of days use but there are some areas that are not great and these have been reported to the Highways team.
- Cool Spaces – During the recent hot weather CBC had advertised a number of ‘cool spaces’ that residents can have access to e.g.: libraries and leisure centres. Residents do not need to be members to make use of the cool spaces.
- Solar Together – 6000 applications have been received and quotes issued to residents by four companies chosen to do the work.

Questions / comments from the public:

- Over two years ago a S278 Agreement was agreed on the 15 Shillington Road Development aimed at installing traffic calming measures which included the replacement of the Shillington Road VAS. To-date no progress has been seen in this respect? Can our Ward Councillors please enquire why nothing has been undertaken or carried out?

Cllr Brown and the Clerk were advised on 11th July that the developer has a completed S278 agreement along with technical approval. CBC spoke with the developer and they applied to close the road off in front of the development to surface the carriageway. He is going to get back to CBC with an exact date but it's in roughly 8 weeks' time (Sept). The Clerk has received confirmation that the VAS and village gateway sign will be replaced and road markings created as per drawings previously supplied. The contractor is to return the current village sign in situ to Meppershall Parish Council as it belongs to us and not CBC. Update – Status Homes confirmed road closure for 2 weeks from 3rd October 2022 to complete works including installation of new VAS.

Procedures, Consultations and Legal

- Procedures** – Resolved to approve new Code of Conduct v2.0.
- Delegation arrangements** - Resolved that the Clerk be given delegated powers to approve payments up to £1000 and all salaries with Cllr Thompson and Parsons approval. All other items requiring a decision by MPC prior to the next meeting to be made by the Clerk after consulting with councillors.
- IT and Communications** - Website updates made to Gnomes webpage and site updated to latest version of the platform. From June through to July, we had 812 users on site. The Homepage, Messenger and Meetings pages were most popular.
- Community Safety** - To consider invitation to sign up to Community Safety Charter.

The Community Safety Charter encourages everyone from individuals to organisations to take an active stance against crimes in public spaces, such as

harassment, hate crime, and antisocial behaviour. The Charter tagline is #BETHECHANGE, focusing on the role of active bystanders in leading the change within their communities. The Charter supports greater understanding about how we recognise and deal with community safety issues and support victims by knowing where to get help, how and who to report to, enabling a more positive, proactive approach by the whole community when witnessing or experiencing confrontation, hostility, or harassment. By signing up we would be agreeing to pledge to four actions:

- PROMOTE - promote a culture that does not tolerate harmful language, antisocial behaviour and hostility toward others,
- ENABLE - enable others to identify and take an active stance to prevent harassment, antisocial behaviour and intimidation within their community,
- REPORT - actively encourage and support others to report harassment, antisocial behaviour and intimidation and share intelligence about these crimes with the relevant authorities, and
- SUPPORT - support those affected by harassment, antisocial behaviour and intimidation and refer victims to the appropriate support agency.

Resolved that MPC sign up to the Community Safety Charter. Carried.

- e. **Stocken House Green Space** – The Clerk has been contacted by Paul Waterfield of Davidsons but a meeting is yet to be scheduled. *Clerk to chase for meeting date with Davidsons and CBC for an update.*
- f. **Wry Close Allotment Track** – To review advice given by NSALG together with feedback on other actions requested at last meeting prior to making decision on Sugar Loaf PH use of allotment track for anchoring gazebo (stretch tent).

The Clerk confirmed:

- Contacting a number of expert stretch tent installers who agree that the stretch tent can be secured differently with half a days work required to move it.
- Section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925 requires that local authorities must seek the Secretary of State's consent if they propose to sell, appropriate, use or dispose of the land for any purpose other than as allotments, land which was originally purchased or appropriated for use as allotments. The allotment track is part of our statutory allotment land and therefore we would need Secretary of State approval for letting part of the track to the Sugarloaf (this is not an easement for utilities which does not require approval). This would require consultation etc. and as a long-term agreement would affect access etc. it is not likely to be approved.
- Standing Orders section 7 state as follows: 7.1. A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 3 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a working group. As the requirements of Standing Orders have not been met the resolution made in April 2022 stands. No motion has been received.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk had exhausted all routes and that there was no alternative than to request removal of the anchorings. Not to do so would only cause greater issues in the future. *Resolved that the Clerk and Cllr Thompson meet with the Sugarloaf representatives and explain why the gazebo (stretch tent) anchorings must be moved off the allotment track by 30th September. The meeting is to be followed up with a letter from MPC confirming action to be taken. Resolved that if the Sugarloaf PH does not remove anchorings on the Allotment Track by 30th September 2022 the Clerk is to instigate legal action.* **Update: Anchorings have now been removed from the allotment track.**

Finance

a. Purchase Orders

- *Resolved to purchase tennis posts, nets and line marking kit (and accessories) with s106 funding.*
- *Resolved that if s106 Cycle network funding is available to use funds to purchase and installation of Minipod.* **Update: Minipod not within CBC guidelines for cycle parking.**

- b. CBC Community Asset Grant Application** - The Clerk and Cllr Thompson have prepared a grant application requesting £25k of funding to support the provision of play, sports and leisure facilities at Old Road Meadow to be used in addition to s106 funding and PC reserves. The application is supported by our Ward Councillors. *Resolved to approve the submission of a Community Asset Grant application to CBC for play, sports and leisure facilities at Old Road Meadow.* **Update: Grant successful!**

- c. 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/22/02314/FULL - 73 Shefford Road, SG17 5LL - Single storey side and rear extensions. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 22/02314.*
- CB/22/02025/FULL - Standalone House, Campton Road, SG17 5PB - Two storey side extension. *Resolved that the Council objects to planning application 22/02025.*
- CB/22/02424/ADV - ACO Technologies Plc, Hitchin Road, SG17 5TE - Advertisement: Fixed non-illuminated company logo sign to front of new building. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 22/02424.*
- CB/22/02505/FULL - 22 Brookmead, SG17 5SA - Single storey rear & side extensions. Cllr Thompson did not participate in this agenda item. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 22/02505.*
- CB/22/01861/LB - The Hollies, 2 Shillington Road, SG17 5ND - Listed Building: Restoration, repairs and minor modifications to preserve the property's

heritage appearance, including: Roof repairs and replacement of chimney pots and refurbishment of windows and front entrance. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 22/01862 however that a comment be submitted requesting the Conservation Officer to visit the site to confirm works are being carried out as per the any granted planning permission.*

- CB/TCA/22/00344 - The Hollies, 2 Shillington Road, SG17 5ND - Works to trees within a Conservation Area: Prune fruit trees (labelled fruit trees), pruning required to bring them back to good health. Reshape Hedgerow (labelled hedgerow). *Resolved that the Council has no objection to works to trees application TCA/22/00344.*
- CB/TCA/22/00347 - Church Of Saint Mary The Virgin -Works to trees within a Conservation Area: T1 Remove basal shoots and epicormic growth to main branch union and remove deadwood. T2 Remove Basal Shoots and epicormic growth to main branch union and remove deadwood. Also raise crown to 2.5m. T3 Remove Basal Shoots and epicormic growth to main branch union and remove deadwood. Also raise crown to 2.5m. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to works to trees application TCA/22/00347.*
- To confirm attendance at DMC meeting on 3rd August regarding CB/22/00799/FULL - The Pigling, SG17 5LL - Erection of two detached dwellings with associated garages and carport subsequent to Planning Officer recommendation for approval. *Resolved that Cllr Thompson represent MPC at the DMC meeting regarding planning application 22/00799 and re-iterate MPC's objection.* **Update – The DMC agreed to refuse this planning application.**

- b. To consider email correspondence received concerning proposed development of 7 Shefford Road.** The Clerk received an email on 23rd June from a Planning Consultancy firm providing a link to a consultation website which gives outline details of a proposed new development on land at and to the rear of 7 Shefford Road. The email requested that the Clerk share the link to any other interested parties and said that they welcomed the opportunity of answering any questions the Parish Council may have via email, telephone or an in-person meeting. The Clerk replied with a copy of MPC's Engagement with Developers Policy. Ward Councillors had confirmed earlier in the meeting that the Local Plan review would not allocate any further housing to Meppershall and that CBC was able to demonstrate a robust 5 Year (Plus) Forward Land Supply and was meeting its targets for delivery of built homes with currently a 5.6 year supply. Also, classified as a small village, Meppershall would only be subject to small scale (1-2 homes) infill development. *Resolved that the Council does not currently engage with the Planning Consultancy Firm regarding a proposed development at 7 Shefford Road.* **Update: Planning application now submitted to CBC- see separate leaflet delivered with the Messenger.**

- c. To consider action to be taken in the light of CBC not consulting MPC on the new name for the development of 5 homes at 1 Shefford Road.** CBC's Building Control Admin Manager reported that we "are absolutely correct and the Parish Council were not consulted in this case, this was an oversight on my part for which I wholeheartedly apologise. We are in the process of working with a software developer to upgrade the system we use and this will include the street naming and numbering function, as a result of this issue, we will

ensure that the new system is developed to make certain the Town and Parish Council Consultation stage is not able to be missed in future. The Developer has, I am afraid confirmed that some of the properties are in the process of being sold already. In addition the addresses are now held with utility companies, Land Registry, Ordnance Survey and Royal Mail etc so it is too late unfortunately to change the street name. Once again I am sorry for issues my error has caused and seek to assure you of my best intentions at all times."

Resolved that the Clerk write to CBC regarding our extreme displeasure about this issue and the situation we now find ourselves in and ask them to review their current procedures to ensure this does not happen again. Update: No response received yet/

Meppershall Neighbourhood Plan (MNP)

Re-consultation of MNP Draft Plan policy H1 has now closed with few responses received. Our consultant is working on the updates to the draft NP but has been taken ill and so has a backlog. **Update: Updated Draft Plan is now with Steering Group.**

Highways and Transport

- a. **OPCC and RMF grant funding update from Clerk** - The Clerk has not received an update on either the OPCC (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner) or RMF (Rural Matched Funding) grant funding from CBC. *Action: Cllr Thompson to write to CBC Senior Leadership team and the PCC regarding the last of communication and movement on the part of CBC. Clerk to email and post letter. Update: Further communication received and sent to CBC who initially denied not having kept MPC updated but have not accepted that they did not. Road closures confirmed for December 2022 to install VAS, 40mph buffer, village gateway and other road signage.*
- b. **Update on proposed action to deal with vehicles driving along the Hoo Road bridleway** - The Clerk has been trying to contact land owners who abut the Hoo Road Bridleway to see if they would agree to the installation of a gate to restrict vehicular access but has not had responses to emails of telephone calls and messages left. *Action: Clerk to write to them with recorded / registered mail.*

Environment and Leisure

- a. **Centenary Field** - Update on drainage and landscaping works and any actions required.
 Site visit of Centenary Field with AA Sherriffs conducted 25th July. In summary neither MPC nor Sherriffs could have predicted one of the driest summers since 1976 nor the effect on works carried out especially on the main field that has large fissures in it not only along the new drainage lines but in other areas of the main field. Despite weather conditions the pitch area is doing well compared to other local facilities.
 Actions for Sherriffs are as follows:

- Bunds to be removed. Post and rail fence installed at entrance to Centenary Field near Parish Council Stores. Overflow parking area to be left as grass only. Excess soil to be added to rear of Centenary Field.
Update: Completed
- Weed spraying of all Centenary Field when conditions permit. **Update: Completed**
- Sherriffs to supply labour and MPC to provide material for main field drainage top up to be carried out when ground conditions permit.
Update: Completed
- Grass re-seeding to be carried out. **Update: Completed**
- Main field would benefit from verti-draining at same time as pitch area.
- Track to be re-covered. **Update: Completed**

Actions for MPC:

- Heras fencing to be re-positioned on Saturday 30th July so that all areas of Centenary Field except the main field are open to the public. **Update: Completed**
- Danger / No entry signs to be added to fencing. **Update: Completed**
- Request for volunteers to help with repositioning fencing to posted to Facebook. Refreshments at café to be offered to volunteers. **Update: Completed**
- Signage and posts on social media to request that dog walkers clear up dog mess. **Update: Its coming**

General Update: The Heras fencing remains in situ to protect the new grass seed from damage and to allow top ups to settle naturally.

b. Centenary Field - Update on gym installation and any actions required.

Installation of gym equipment completed on 15th July however ground conditions have made installation of grass mats impossible. **Update: Grass matting installed however metal labels pending installation.**

c. To consider hire of MUGA and/or some of the green space next to it for use as a dedicated play area for home schooling initiative during term time.

It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Thompson would meet the organisation to better understand their requirements however any restricted use of areas for a considerable amount of time by residents was to be avoided. **Update: The fenced pitch area and MUGA have been hired to a school operating from the village hall on a trial basis for limited hours 2 days per week.**

d. Update on Wildflower workshop - Mrs Thorne reported on a Wildflower workshop organised by CPRE and attended on behalf of MPC. They learnt amongst other things about how soils and shade can impact on a site and misconceptions on how wildflower meadows should look. In summary meadow making is a trial and error labour of love and therefore it is important to manage public expectations and to ensure the public acknowledge that this is a long term project. Mrs Thorne is currently investigating which wildflowers to focus on other than yellow rattle and will provide a plan for the September meeting. *Action: Clerk to organise an Environment and Leisure Working Group meeting before 12th September.*

Close of the meeting - The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:50pm.

John Thompson - Chairman - Meppershall Parish Council

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Meppershall Social Club

A warm hello to all...

Wow, November already! How time flies! MSC hopes this finds you all well.

Sadly the snooker table now has a new home! Unfortunately due to lack of use MSC had to let it go to pastures new; however, a new pool table is in its place giving the games room two tables for you. There are also dart boards for your enjoyment; however, due to recent damage, MSC is having to implement a minimum age of 18+ to use the boards – and you must provide your own darts. There is also a darts league flexiboard, but this is for the use of the league darts team only - please bear that in mind.

What's on in November...

Friday 11th - Karaoke with Stu & Scott, a fun night for all, FREE ENTRY.

Saturday 12th - Bon Jovi & Brian Adams tribute band. A charity fundraiser in the village hall with extremely talented musicians. Bar open 7-11.30pm, tickets £15, contact Helen on 07989 914941.

Sunday 13th - Quiz Night. Teams of 6 max, £1 per person, 50% to winners, 50% to local charity. A great fun night to get together with friends and test your knowledge.

Friday 25th - Vinyl Night With Andy n Belinda's Vinyl Resurrection Roadshow. A fab night of dancing to the tunes you choose, FREE ENTRY.

Don't forget BINGO every Friday, eyes down 7pm, 18+ only, cash prizes.

MSC also have Sky & BT Sports for all you sports fans, shown on the 10ft giant screen.

MSC remind all customers who wish to smoke, please use the wall mounted ashtrays or metal floor ashtrays to dispose of your butts, it's unsightly & unnecessary to use the floor. Please note that vaping is not allowed within the building.

MSC extend a warm welcome to all new residents who have arrived or are arriving in the village, do pop in and see what's on offer. A warm welcome awaits. MSC are disabled, child and dog friendly, current opening times are as follows:

Mon-Thurs 6-11pm

Fri 5-11.30pm

Sat 2-11.30pm

Sun 1.30-10.30pm



Find us on Facebook: Meppershall Social Club. We also advertise on Meppershall Noticeboard on FB.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

MSC

Digital Health And Care Services – Have Your Say

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership is developing a strategy for digital health and care services.

The use of technology and digital access to services was increased due to the Covid Pandemic and many of the ways people receive treatment or advice have changed and may have been supported by digital or remote services.

We would like to understand how residents feel about digital health and care services, what they think works well and what barriers there may be to residents being able to access services in this way.

We want as many people as possible to share their views and help shape services across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes, so please complete the survey at <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/BLMKDigital> (QR code below for your convenience).

The survey runs until **Thursday 12 Jan 2023**.

We are also holding in-person focus groups, to register your interest in joining a focus group, please call 01525 624261 or email blmkicb.communications@nhs.net. The focus groups will be held in community venues and we are offering £50 payment in recognition of time and expenses.

Local Authority	Focus group 1	Focus group 2
Bedford Borough	15 th November, 5:30pm to 8:30pm	16 th November, 09:30am to 12:30pm
Central Bedfordshire	22 nd November, 5:30pm to 8:30pm	23 rd November, 09:30am to 12:30pm
Luton	29 th November, 5:30pm to 8:30pm	30 th November, 09:30am to 12:30pm
Milton Keynes	6 th December, 5:30pm to 8:30pm	7 th December, 09:30am to 12:30pm

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership

NHS Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board

Help us make digital health and care services work better for you.

Give us your views in our resident survey and help develop the local strategy to shape services.



An Update From The Meppershall Pre-School

A huge welcome back to the Autumn Term after the lovely long hot summer holidays! We hope everyone had a wonderful break and are looking forward to the cosy nights leading up to Halloween, Fireworks Night and (dare we say it!) Christmas!

We have had a lovely start to the new term with the children participating in activities to educate them on Harvest festival.

They have recently enjoyed exploring lots of different textures by collecting different items such as leaves to create pictures and learn about the environmental changes in the seasons.

The children have also been working on their fine motor skills using different utensils to move different objects such as 'pom poms' and our collection of little animals.

We end our update with some sad news that our wonderful Leader Tamsin will be leaving us in a few weeks to take on a new role. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her hard work and dedication she has given to the Pre-school over the years and wish her all the best. We are currently advertising her post on www.mynewterm.com and would encourage any suitable candidates to come forward for this exciting role in our fantastic setting.

Warmest Wishes, Meppershall Pre-school

Nitrous oxide: No Laughing Matter?



On 19th October Parish Council employees found discarded canisters of Nitrous Oxide near Centenary Field. Residents have also reported finding small silver canisters in other areas of the village.

The Law

Ever since the Psychoactive Substances Act came into effect on 26 May 2016 it has been illegal to supply or import nitrous oxide for human consumption.

Use as a recreational drug

Recreational users typically inhale via a balloon inflated with the gas or directly from a canister containing the gas. There are health risks associated with the recreational use of nitrous oxide. Inhaling nitrous oxide directly from a canister is very dangerous because the gas is under such high pressure. It can cause a spasm of the throat muscle and stop a person breathing.

Nitrous oxide can also cause:

- severe headache
- dizziness
- stop people thinking straight
- short-lived but intense feelings of paranoia
- breathing problems
- dangerously-increased heart rate and burns

The long-term use of nitrous oxide can lead to vitamin B12 deficiency and in severe cases to neurological changes.

The concerns

Nursing staff treating young people who have become unwell after using the gas say that too many are still unaware of the health risks. There are also concerns about anti-social behaviour associated with the drug's use. Some are worried about the disturbance caused by those using the drug in public. Littering of empty canisters on the street is also a problem.



In 2019 The Home Office estimated that half a million 16 to 24 year olds in England and Wales used nitrous oxide in the previous 12 months – with the prevalence increasing for young men.

Are you or your children using laughing gas?

Are you aware of the risks?

A short term high perhaps but the long term damage is no laughing matter!



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*HBF report Oct 2021 (Wait a minute). Computer generated image representative only. Details and prices correct at the time of going to press.

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Our Green Spaces Are Not A Bank, Don't Leave Your Deposit There!

A nasty bit of business is fast becoming a big problem in Meppershall, where frustrations about renegade **dog leavings** are on the rise.

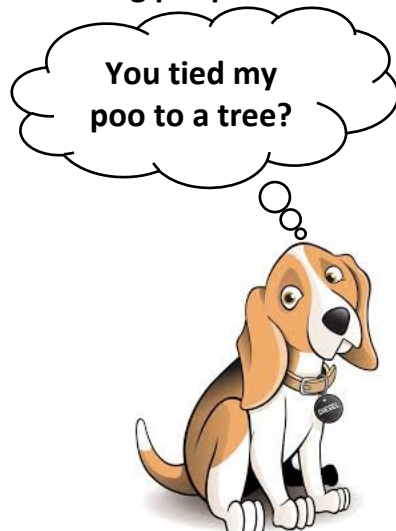
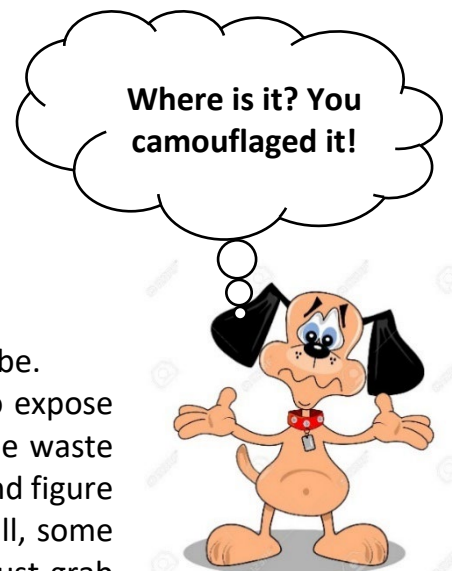


On the footpaths, countryside walking routes, in the Old Road Meadow Nature Reserve, on Centenary Field and nearly always in plain sight, it seems, **dog dirt** is being left in increasing amounts, lying in wait for an unlucky someone's shoe. Even the multi-use sport pitch has had to be locked as our village dog lovers were using it as a fenced toilet for their pooches, leaving their **brown sauce** to fly in the face of our unsuspecting grass cutters. Yes it did happen!

Residents are getting tired of the **dog piles** mounting up and it's probably one of the most irritating things we experience in our village. So much so that the Council is now highlighting the **unwrapped slippery presents** left behind with spray paint – Go Viv our new graffiti artist! Seriously though do you really want your council tax to

be spent by someone spraying or picking up **doogy doo** rather than planting and tending to wildflowers and trees? While stepping in what a dog has left behind has long been an inherent peril of life in many villages and towns, long-time residents and pooologists, looking for a theory, point out that newcomers are bringing more dogs into the village and they are suggesting, sometimes subtly and sometimes not, that the recently arrived dog owners are not as vigilant about cleaning up after their **dog droppings** as they should be.

Some blame the weather, and dog walkers not wanting to expose fingers to the cold or the rain – poor blighters! Others see waste begetting waste; people see it everywhere on their walks and figure they might as well leave their **dog's waste**, too. Worse still, some dog lovers pretend to pick up their **dogs mess** but really just grab some grass and wrap it up in the poop bag or even worse still actually bag the **offending poop** and toss it into the hedges, trees or fields!



Is it a laziness issue? Probably, but one has to wonder how lazy would these dog walkers be if **dog doodie truffles** were dumped in their back garden where their children play, or flung in a little black bags onto their blackberry bush that they were hoping to make jam with? Ummm.... Perhaps we'd see the electrification of grass when hit with **dog deposits** or perhaps signs that threaten violators will have their noses pressed into the **brown stuff**.

Article written by Meppershall Parish Council on behalf of exasperated staff, councillors, residents and landowners.

Let's expel the myths!

1. I don't have to pick it up

Yes, you do - unless you have a registered disability. Failing to pick up your dog's mess is an offence. The council can serve a Fixed Penalty Notice requiring the offender to pay a £100 fine or can prosecute in the Magistrates' Court with a maximum fine of £1,000.



2. Once the waste has been bagged it can be discarded

No it can't. It is astonishing that people take the trouble to bag dog waste and then throw it in a hedge, a tree or on the ground. This is a littering offence and liable to the same penalties as 1 above.

3. More dog waste bins would solve the problem

It is not uncommon to see dog poo very close to the bins. In our experience people are either "picker uppers" or they are not - the presence of a bin makes no difference as they seem to think they are above the law. We've had more bins installed and are asking for even more to be installed. However, if there isn't a dog bin or a litter bin nearby then take the waste home and dispose of it within your household refuse.

4. It's only the same as cow or horse manure

No it isn't. Dog mess is much more dangerous and can, for example, cause toxocariasis which can cause damage to the eye and, in some cases, blindness. Young children will be more at risk as they are more likely to come into contact with the faeces and not realise the dangers. So don't bring dogs into play areas!

5. More fines should be issued

To issue a fine an offence has to be witnessed and the offender identified. If a council officer such as a Dog Warden sees the offence it will be followed up - however, they cannot be everywhere all the time. If members of the public see an offence, can identify the offender and are willing to provide good evidence in the form of a simple witness statement, then the council will issue a fine based on that evidence.

See <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/xfp/form/325>

6. It's better to 'stick and flick' in the countryside

The best way to dispose of dog waste is to put it in the bin. Flicking your dog waste onto verges, fields, woodland and hedges still results in contamination of the land and water table. It also still smells and contains worms and diseases.

7. I can't use public bins to dispose of my dog's waste bags

If in doubt, take your dog's waste home with you. However, if there is not a dog waste bin to hand, please dispose of it in the nearest public bin.





Meppershall Gnomes

Good Neighbours Offering Meppershall Excellent Services
 Your local team of insured and DBS checked volunteers.

The Gnomes and our clients really enjoy our social activities. If you are around please do join us – everyone is welcome. You do not need to be a Gnome!

Upcoming social events:

The next Coffee morning is
 Thurs 10th November at 10.30 am in the cafe at the village hall.

The theme will be Remembrance Sunday.
 Everyone welcome.

We have planned our Christmas sing-along for Monday 19th December in the Social Area of the village hall at 10.30 am. Details to follow in December's edition of The Messenger.

We look forward to seeing you.

Need our help ? Give us a call on 07760 793921.



Children's Colouring Activity

Inside this edition of The Messenger you will find our Gnome waiting to be coloured in.

We look forward to receiving many completed pictures which we hope to display at events we attend and, hopefully, some will be reproduced in the Messenger!

Meppershall Gnomes

Good Neighbours Offering Meppershall Excellent Services
Your local team of insured and DBS checked volunteers.

Children's Activity - Colour in this picture of a Gnome.



First Name * :

Age* :

*Optional

We suggest you ask if you can use felt-tip pens as they reproduce much better.

We hope to display them at events the Gnomes attend
and hopefully some will be reproduced in the Messenger!

The completed sheets can be handed in over the next few weeks to Budgens, Meppershall.

Get colouring in!

Meppershall Parish Council Announcement - Wry Close Allotment Charges

Notice is hereby given of allotment charges effective from 1st October 2023.

Plot Size	Meppershall Residents and pre-October 2018 tenants irrespective of residency	Non Meppershall Residents
Category A < 120m ²	£14.85	£16.50
Category B 121-160m ²	£19.80	£22.00
Category C 161-200m ²	£24.75	£27.50
Category D 201-240m ²	£29.70	£33.00
Category E 241-280m ²	£34.65	£38.50
Category F 281-320m ²	£39.60	£44.00
Plot Deposit	£55.00	£55.00

This is the first time that allotment charges will have increased since October 2019. These new costs represent an increase of 10% for non-residents. Meppershall residents receive a 10% discount on non-resident prices.



Interested in taking on a plot?

Contact the Clerk on:

clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk

We only have a small number of different sized allotments available to rent at present so please contact us soon to avoid disappointment. Water is currently free and we hope to have toilets there in the next 6 months.

Why have an allotment?

- ✓ Home-grown food is cheaper
- ✓ Grow your own for more flavour and freshness
- ✓ Enjoy the outdoor life and fresh air
- ✓ Stay healthy and take gentle exercise
- ✓ Simply relax and enjoy



Everybody is welcome. No special skills are required and remember there are no gardening mistakes, only experiments.



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Meppershall Tearoom

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Tues:	9am to 3pm
Wed:	9am to 3pm
Thu:	9am to 3pm
Fri:	9am to 3pm
Sat:	9am to 2pm

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to an advertisement

Menu



BREAKFAST 9AM - 12NOON

Small Breakfast £7.50
1 sausage, 1 bacon, 1 egg (fried or scrambled) hash brown, tomatoes, mushrooms and beans + white/ brown toast. Includes 1 hot drink

Full English Breakfast £9.50
2 Sausages, 2 bacon, 1 egg (fried or scrambled) hash brown, tomatoes, mushrooms and beans + white/ brown toast. Includes 1 hot drink

Vegetarian Breakfast £9.00
2 Veggie Sausages, 2 slices of halloumi, 1 egg (fried or scrambled) hash brown, tomatoes, mushrooms and beans + white/ brown toast. Includes 1 hot drink

Beans on Toast £3.95
Beans served on 2 slices of toast. White or brown toast available.

Scrambled Eggs on Toast £4.25
Scrambled Eggs served on 2 slices of toast. White or brown toast available.

Fried Egg Roll/ Sandwich £3.50

Bacon & Egg Roll/ Sandwich £4.45

Sausage Roll/ Sandwich £3.95

Bacon Roll/ Sandwich £3.95

Crumpets £2.50
Lightly toasted. Can be served with a choice of butter, and/ or marmite.

PASTRIES

Croissant

Can be eaten cold or warm.
Served with butter and/ or jam

£2

Chocolate Croissant

Can be served cold/ warm.

£2

Toasted Teacake

Lightly toasted. Served with butter and/ or jam.

£2.25

Please keep an eye out for other special treats we may have on our serving counter.

HOT DRINKS	£2.50	COLD DRINKS	£1.25
Tea		Bottled Water	
Flavoured Tea	£2.50	Sparkling Water	£1.25
Americano	£2.50	Cans	£1.25
Cappuccino	£2.50	Squash	£0.50
Latte	£2.75	Apple Juice	£1.50
Mocha	£2.95	Orange Juice	£1.50
Flat White	£2.75	Ice Cream Shake	£3.00
Espresso	£2.00	(Chocolate, Strawberry, Vanilla)	
Hot Chocolate	£2.75		
(Milk/White Chocolate)			

The Meppershall Tearoom

Please mention the Meppershall Messenger when responding to an advertisement

Menu

LUNCH 12 NOON - 2 PM



Paninis

All Panini's include a side of salad garnish

& crisps.

Cheese	£5.25
Ham	£5.50
Cheese & Ham	£5.50
Tuna (& Cheese)	£5.95
Pesto, Mozzarella & Tomato	£5.50

Jacket Potato

All Jacket potatoes include a side of salad and coleslaw.

Butter	£5.00
Cheese	£5.30
Cheese & Beans	£5.50
Tuna (Cheese Optional)	£5.95

Sandwiches

All Sandwiches will include a side of

salad garnish and crisps.

Cheese	£4.75
Ham	£4.75
Cheese & Ham	£4.75
Tuna Mayo	£4.75
Egg Mayo	£4.75

Bagel

£3.75

This light lunch can be served as it comes or toasted to your liking.

Served with butter or cream cheese.

KIDS MEAL BOX

£4.95

A Children's meal box will come with a sandwich, crisps, yogurt, a choice of snack and a drink.

Please let a member of staff know if you have any dietary requirements.

SWEET TREATS (SERVED ALL DAY 9AM- 3PM)

Carrot Cake	£3.00	Gingerbread Man	£1.25
Victoria Sponge	£3.00	Shortbread	£1.50
Brownies	£3.00	Cookie	£1.00
Lemon Drizzle (Gluten Free)	£2.50	Scone	£2.45
		(Butter, Jam or cream subject to availability)	

The Meppershall Tearoom

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Meppershall Tearoom

Meppershall Village Hall



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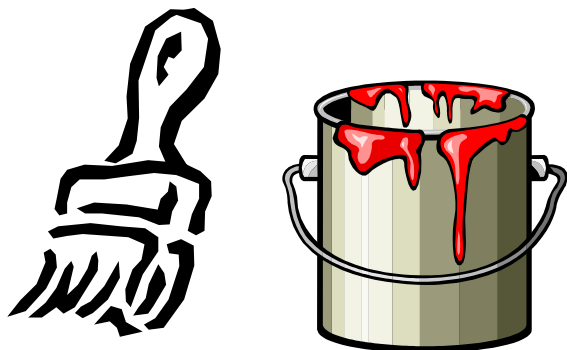
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Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin (Church of England)

Church Road, off Campton Road, Meppershall

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



Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman

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

Churchwardens:

Chris Valentine 01462 815971 Peter Clark

PCC Secretary:

Anne Parsons 01462 813333 Email: annie10639@gmail.com

Message from St Mary's...

I've always thought November to be a rather strange month, not quite autumn anymore and (hopefully) not quite winter yet.

For me, November looks back and looks forward at the same time. It looks back, of course, in so many ways. For those who know their history it looks back to the events of 1605 when Guy Fawkes and his fellow plotters attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. We still remember that historic event in our bonfire parties, held in our public parks, fields and back gardens - let us hope for a crisp, dry evening!

More poignantly November is also the month when we look back and remember those who gave their lives in wars - Remembrance Sunday. This year Remembrance Sunday will be on Sunday 13th November. As usual, this will be observed at St Marys Church. We will meet outside church by the war memorial at 10:50am. The names of all those who appear on our war memorial will be read out, accompanied by the tolling of the church bell for each person remembered. The national two minutes silence will be observed and various village organisations will then lay wreaths at the war memorial. Individuals are also welcome to lay a personal wreath / poppy.

Additionally in November, "All Souls" is a church festival in which we remember and give thanks those who have died. There will be a service in church on 2nd November at 10am where we will be able to give thanks for those who we love but see no longer. If you would like the name of a loved one included in the service, please do contact Revd Roni.

The church will then be open for the rest of the day so that there will be an opportunity to spend time quietly and also light a candle in remembrance.

Of course, November is also a month to look forward, as the year 2022 comes to an end we also look forward in church to the events of Advent and Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. At St Mary's this becomes a few weeks action packed with events, please do look at the separate list for all those events and services leading up

to the big day on 25th December. There will also be further details in the December issue of the Messenger, but for now, as it occurs at the start of Advent (which is the end of November), we are so very fortunate to again have Matt Jones coming to St Mary's to lift our festive spirits with his one man presentation of Dicken's "Christmas Carol." Dressed in victorian garb, Matt recites the story of Scrooge meeting the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. All set inside a candle-lit St Marys and with sound and visual effects the presentation is free to enter, although there will be an opportunity to make a donation. Christmas Carol starts at 6:30pm and has an interval with refreshments and food appropriate to the season

St Mary The Virgin Parish Church, Meppershall

Church News and Events in November

Sundays	11.00am	Morning Worship every Sunday
		Holy Communion: 2 nd and 4 th Sundays
		Remembrance Sunday – 13th November
		Gather at the memorial in the churchyard at 10.45

Every Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion in church
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Tuesday to Saturday	10.00-3.00	Private prayer and quiet time – the church open for you to sit and visit during the day
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Online services:	9.00am	Morning Prayer using 24-7's Lectio 365 App 7-days-a-week
	9.00pm	Night Prayer/Compline from the C. of E. Daily Prayer App, 7-days-a-week

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall/>

Find us on our website: <https://www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk/>

Find us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjDLGAy8GI6afkO8iALYOA>

Please also come to the 'Rock.n the Aisles' evening at All Saints, Campton on 26th Nov!

Do you need prayers? We have a small group of intercessors who pray confidentially for those who ask for it. Please talk to Roni (01462 339962 / 07533 376880) or Chris Valentine (07701 039324).

Church Christmas Dates For Your Calendar

A Christmas Carol, narrated by Matt Jones (27 November, 6pm); Carol Singing at the Village Hall Craft and Gift Fair (3 December); Christmas Tree Festival in Shefford (2,3,4 December); Santa's Float Touring The Village (11-12 December); Carols by Candlelight (18 December); Christingle (24 December); Midnight Service (24 December, 10pm)

Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers

Our Second Sunday Stroll this month falls on Remembrance Sunday, 13th November 2022. For this walk, as in previous years, we have been given kind permission by the Southill Estate to walk through their grounds, around the lake, emerging into Old Warden. So, it is a longer stroll of 7 miles in total – but you can join along the way if you would prefer a shorter distance.

We'll start at 2pm from the War Memorial in Meppershall (by the church gate). You can meet and join us at the Village Hall if you prefer (2.15 ish). We'll head through Polehanger to the Memorial on the High Street in Shefford beside St Michael's Church. Join us there if you like (3pm ish) – saving the first 2.5 miles, with 4.5 miles to go.

Then from Shefford, up Cockshoot Hill, to the gate of Southill Park; that's another place where you can join us along the way (3.40pm ish) parking on the road in Southill village). You'll miss the first 4.5 miles of the walk and leave yourself just 2.5 miles.

The last part of the walk via the beautiful Southill Park emerges into Old Warden and ends at St Leonard's Church Old Warden with its historic Shuttleworth memorial.

We will have some cars at St Leonard's for the return to Meppershall. If you want one of them to be yours, please get in touch. We will make arrangements to drop cars in advance. Please also get in touch if you need a lift back. We're an informal, dog-friendly group and we would love to have you along on this walk. Call us on 857836 (James and Miriam) or at <https://www.facebook.com/MeppershallStrollers>.

Meppershall Christmas Fair – 3rd December 2022

A lot has happened over the last few years - We now have a fantastic 'newish' village hall and it is once again possible to organise a family event in our hall.

Therefore we are very pleased to announce that there will be a Meppershall Christmas Fair on Saturday 3rd December.

We appreciate you may well be already booked up, however If not, we wondered if you might like to join us.

It's a family event with something for everyone!

A variety of stalls with quality crafts and gifts.

Christmas Carols to sing along to.

Children's entertainment to include Santa, children's stalls and craft activities.

Hot and cold refreshments, tea, coffee, cakes and bar.

If you are interested in booking a stall please find the details on the 2 attached sheets - Stall booking form and stall holders information sheet.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kim Tyler, Stalls Co-ordinator, Tel. 0795 255 7203




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The Meppershall Events Team present:

Meppershall Christmas Fair

Saturday 3rd December 12 noon—4 pm

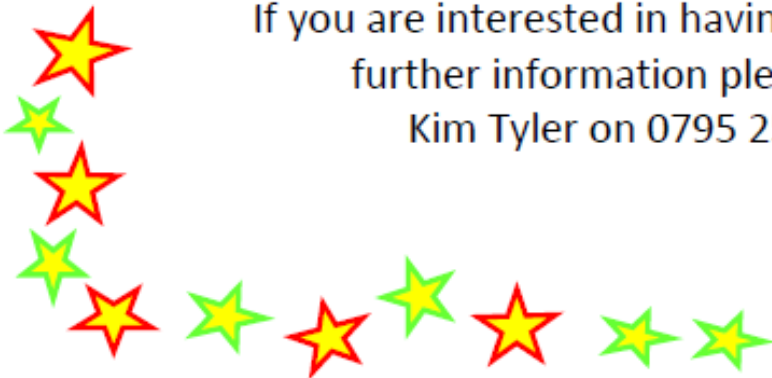
At Meppershall Village Hall,

Walnut Tree Way, SG17 5AB.

It's a family event with something for everyone!

- A variety of stalls with quality crafts and gifts.
 - Christmas Carols to sing along to.
- Children's entertainment to include Santa, children's stalls and craft activities.

If you are interested in having a stall or would like further information please do contact :
Kim Tyler on 0795 255 7203



Meppershall Christmas Fair

Saturday 3rd December 12 noon—4 pm

Meppershall Village Hall

Walnut Tree Way

SG17 5AB

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Schoolreaders Needed to Spread the Joy of Reading in Bedfordshire Schools



Bedford-based children's literacy charity Schoolreaders is looking for more volunteers who can help spread the joy of reading to children in Bedfordshire primary schools – especially in the Meppershall area.

A recent survey¹ of young people by the National Literacy Trust (NLT) revealed that reading enjoyment had reached a 15 year low, rallying slightly in the pandemic before declining again by 2022, especially amongst those from disadvantaged backgrounds and amongst boys.

Furthermore, the Annual Literacy survey found that fewer than 1 in 2 children aged 8 to 18 enjoyed reading with only 28% reading daily.

Schoolreaders is looking for volunteers of all ages – from students to retirees - who can listen to children read in a local primary school, especially at those schools where children require support the most.

Worryingly, 1 in 4 children leave primary school every summer unable to read to the expected standard and the Schoolreaders scheme is now more in demand than ever, particularly to help those children most disadvantaged following the education disruption caused by Covid lockdowns.

Schoolreaders volunteers act as trusted role models in the classroom alongside the class teachers, not only helping children improve their reading but also by being a positive influence.

Schoolreaders volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week during term time and to commit to an academic year. By applying now new volunteers will be matched as quickly as possible to a partner school and be ready to start once they have completed a mandatory DBS check and virtual safeguarding training.

Jane Whitbread, founder of Schoolreaders, adds, "Children who leave primary school unable to read well can't access their secondary schooling fully which will disadvantage them for life. One in seven adults have poor literacy and cannot read instructions on a medicine label or a bus timetable or fill in a job application form. Working together we can change this.

“There is no substitute for face-to-face interaction and support when it comes to reading. Our volunteers provide a crucial supplement to classroom teaching and are welcomed by schools - and the children. 95% of children in our scheme improved their reading performance and over 90% their reading enjoyment after time with a Schoolreaders volunteer which is so valuable³. If more children gain pleasure from reading from an early age and their reading fluency and confidence improves too, communities and Society will reap the benefits.”

To find out more or to apply today to be a Schoolreaders volunteer in primary schools with the greatest need in Bedfordshire, visit [Schoolreaders.org](https://www.schoolreaders.org).

More About Schoolreaders (Charity Number: 1159157)

Schoolreaders supports children. We want every child to read well. Our network of dedicated volunteers provide free weekly one-to-one reading support for children in primary schools nationwide. With 1 in 4 children leaving primary school unable to read well, there has never been a more important time for our work.¹ Leaving primary school with poor reading skills can hugely impact a child’s secondary education and life chances. Literacy opens doors, helps learning and brings new opportunities. We want to help give all children, especially those with the greatest need, the best start in life.

Schoolreaders supports schools. Schoolreaders finds, interviews and matches volunteers to partner schools locally. Our volunteers provide 1-1 reading time that some children require to help improve their literacy and provide additional support to the schools. Our volunteers’ support has been proven to help children’s reading fluency, comprehension, and enjoyment, providing a crucial supplement to classroom teaching. A 2019 University of Bedfordshire Institute for Research in Education study showed that in six months 95% of children supported by Schoolreaders improved their reading age. Over half (58%) gained 3-6 months+ in their reading age and over a third (37%) gained between 1-3 months improvement. In addition, 92% of schools in our scheme noted the positive impact on children’s reading confidence, 85% reported a positive impact on children’s reading enjoyment and 78% on their reading fluency.

Schoolreaders engages communities. We raise community awareness of low educational attainment and potential lifelong outcomes. We engage with local authorities and respected organisations to connect local volunteers with schools in their community.

Schoolreaders benefits the generations. Schoolreaders provides an intergenerational activity for older people to use their knowledge and skills to help children with their reading. It provides an opportunity to become involved in the community and helps to support mental well-being and independence. 98% of our volunteers reported a positive impact on their personal wellbeing through volunteering with us.

Caring For Carers Event – Ivel Valley South Primary Care Network

Ivel Valley South Primary Care Network invites you to our Caring for Carers Event on **Wednesday 30th November 1.30pm-3.00pm at Shefford Health Centre.**

Please arrive for a prompt 1.30pm start.

We understand that being an unpaid Carer can be rewarding but also challenging at times, so we would like to ensure carers are aware of the support they can access in the community.

During the event there will be a talk from Carers in Bedfordshire that will start at 2pm. Information stands include care coordinators, social prescribers, health and wellbeing coaches, Carers in Beds., Sue Ryder.... and more.

Open to patients registered at Shefford and Lower Stondon Surgeries; places are limited, and we recommend booking in advance via Eventbrite or email.

For bookings and enquires please email: blmkicb.carecoordinator.ivs@nhs.net

Eventbrite booking link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/caring-for-carers-tickets-444485065797>

We hope you are able to join us.



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Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club (Campton)

Our November meeting will be discussing "Friend or Foe" in the garden!

Please feel free to join us. It is also Christmas competition time – with judging of table arrangements and dressed napkins. If you wish to enter, the criteria are simple: just use at least one natural product (cones, berries, holly, or anything at hand).

There will also be a raffle and plenty of interest on the free-and-swap table.

A warm welcome awaits you! Campton Village Hall, 7th November, 7.30pm.

Maryika. 01462 851729 

The Garden In November

By Donna Cameron, Donna's Garden Designs, 07833 670934

We have been lucky and had lots of lovely Autumn sunshine. It has been a pleasure working in these glorious mellow hues, preparing the gardens for winter. Trying to tidy up before the inclement weather comes upon us.

Lots of time spent cutting back perennials and weeding at this time of year.

It's not too late to plant spring flowering bulbs, in fact Tulips prefer to be planted a little later. There are so many different types of bulbs in the garden centres.

I love choosing and planting them. Anticipating all the colour that will emerge early next year.

It is also very rewarding to make your own leaf mulch. I have done this at a couple of my customers' gardens and it is so easy, a great conditioner for the soil and free!

1. Sweep up the leaves
2. Then there are two ways of storing these
 - a) Put them in a strong black bin bag. Add some water and pierce the bag with some drainage holes. Give it a shake and store it somewhere until next year, ensuring they don't dry out.
 - b) Make a simple frame from 4 posts and chicken wire around, with a gate to open. Fill it with leaves, water it and then cover the top with an old mat or carpet.
3. Come next year, the leaves will have rotted down into a dark, rich, sweet-smelling mulch, ready to spread on your soil.

So give it a try - instead of putting them in the green bin, recycle them !

Jobs in the Garden in November:

Sweep leaves and make Leaf mould!

Feed birds

Plant Tulip bulbs

Plant winter bedding

Prune Rose's to prevent wind-rock

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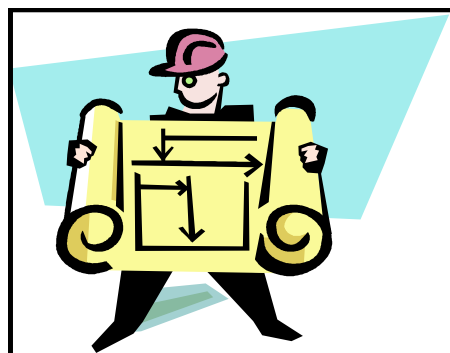
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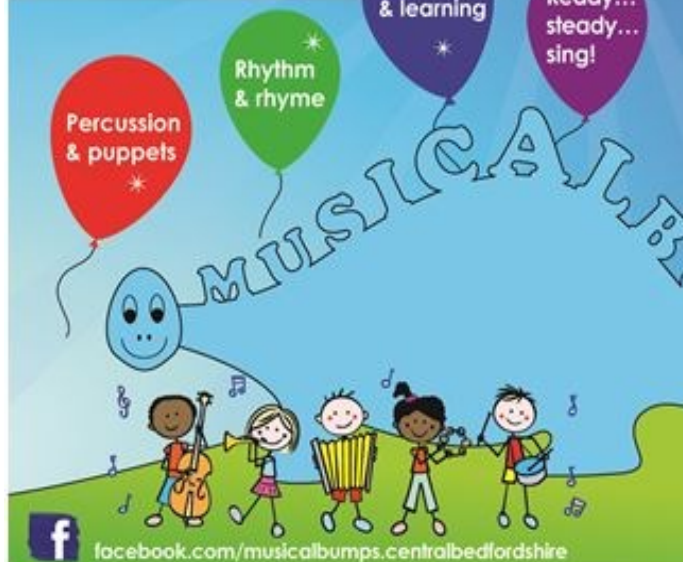
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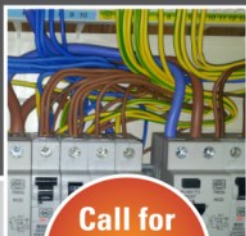


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Birthdays

Congratulations on three special birthdays this month:

Margaret E who will be 92

Anne G 91

Stephen N 86



Wishing you all a great year ahead and hoping you had a wonderful and special day.

Shefford Osteopathic Clinic

Do You Suffer With Knee Pain?

Does your knee pain stop you from going shopping?

Is your discomfort making it difficult to meet with friends?

Does your knee pain prevent you from taking the dog for a walk?

Whilst we mostly treat knee pain in older adults (over 55 years old), it affects all age groups. There are many different causes, such as:

- Strains and sprains of muscles and ligaments
- Inflammation of joints and tendons due to overuse
- Osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis

Patients may feel concerned that their knee pain will curtail their activities on an ongoing basis. Older people sometimes worry that their knee problem is a sign that they are getting old, losing their independence.

Treating Your Knee Pain

Treatment for knee-related pain will be a combination of:

- Hands on treatment (incorporating the knee and/or whole body)
- Advice for getting back to everyday activities
- Stretches and/or exercises to increase strength and stability
- In some cases, referral to GP for medication or further investigations

How quickly you recover depends on the cause of the pain. Many of our patients at Shefford Osteopathic Clinic see great results in just a few sessions. For patients with long term conditions, such as arthritis or post-surgery, regular maintenance treatments are often beneficial.

Please do call us on 01462 811006. As well as treating and alleviating your knee pain as much as possible, our team can also offer lifestyle advice to help your recovery.

Find out how osteopathy can help you to live life!



The Meppershall Players



There is lots of activity at the Players' Monday evening meetings at the moment, running through the panto, practising songs and dances, painting scenery, gathering props, sorting out costumes and lighting, so much to be done and such a short time to do it in.

This is the third time we've performed Aladdin. The first time was back in 1986 with a script by Norman Robbins. The second time was in 2012 with a script written by the Players. It is this script that we're tackling again, full of fun and silliness, as we bring this much loved story to life

China town, my China town, where old (I mean) young Widow Twankey is managing to keep herself and her two sons Aladdin and Wishee Washee gainfully employed in the family's laundry business. But it's not long before Aladdin is in trouble with the police and being chased all round Peking. The Royal Chicken has run away from the palace and is hiding somewhere in the town. Meanwhile, there's a new man in town, Magician Abanazer. And Widow Twankey is smitten with the good looking stranger but can he be trusted? Wishee Washee is up to his elbows in soapy water at the laundry, while the Emperor and Empress are not only looking for their escaped chicken but also a suitable husband for their daughter, Princess Shi Lee? And why is the lamp so important to Abanazer? Is it really magical? And does a Genie really live inside such a small space? Come and find out the answer to these questions and a lot more in this fun for the whole family show. We will be performing Aladdin on Saturday 3rd & 10th December, Matinees 3pm Tickets £10 & £5 Concessions (17yrs & under & 60yrs & over) Evenings 7.30pm Tickets £10 & £5 Concessions.

Tickets can be purchased online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers and are on sale **NOW**. For non-internet sales and enquires call 01462 816336

If you're over 18yrs and would like to be involved in this year's Panto behind the scenes or front of house, please contact Karen on the number below or come to our meetings on Monday evening at the STMA 10, Hitchin Road, Shefford.

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 free and we welcome people 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



**The Players at STMA
PRESENTS**



Aladdin

THE PANTOMIME

By Karen Mitchell

3rd & 10th December 2022

Matinee 3pm & Evening 7.30pm

Tickets £10 (£5 for Concessions - Under 18yrs/Over 60yrs)

AT S.T.M.A., Digswell Hall, 10 Hitchin Road, Shefford, SG17 5JA

Tickets on sale now online from:

[Ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers](https://ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers)

For non-internet sales and enquiries call 01462 816336

(Online ticket sales will cease 24 hours before the event starts)



**meets every Wednesday
7.30pm – 10pm**

OPEN TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, HATS HAS BEEN DELIVERING AWARD WINNING PLAYS AND PANTOMIMES FOR MANY YEARS AND WARMLY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS.

WE ARE A VERY FRIENDLY GROUP, PERFORMING 3 PRODUCTIONS PER YEAR, WITH VARIOUS SOCIAL EVENTS IN BETWEEN.

WHETHER YOU WISH TO TREAD THE BOARDS OR HELP OUT BACKSTAGE, OR FRONT OF HOUSE, JUST GIVE US A CALL OR BETTER STILL, MEET US ON A WEDNESDAY EVENING AT MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE HALL.



HATSDramaMeppershall

07941 987757

Enquiries: lin.winfield5@gmail.com

UPDATE



CLOPHILL LAKES



**A new nature reserve for benefit of
wildlife and local communities**

We have launched our appeal to support our conservation work and the supporting facilities that the site will need to ensure its future sustainability and protection.

Greensand Trust Patron and former Chairman Peter Smith MBE has offered to match any donations made to the Clophill Lakes appeal before the end of December via The Peter Smith Charitable Trust.

To find out further information or donate to our appeal please visit our website: www.greensandtrust.org/appeal/clophill-lakes

- Our target is to open for Public Access in 2023.
- We are awaiting Central Bedfordshire Council's approval to begin establishment works in line with the approved Nature Reserve Masterplan and Management Plan.
- We have more tree planting events coming this autumn.
- Come and visit our stand at the Clophill Pumpkin Festival on 29th October.
- Site checks, surveying and monitoring work is ongoing and will continue before and after public access is enabled to ensure any impacts are minimised and/or mitigated and inform any future activities.
- We'd like to thank everyone for their continued patience, respecting No Access on site and keeping to the Public Rights of Way. If anyone has any concerns about unauthorised activity on site, please Arena Security on (Freephone) 0800 389 1494.



MEPPERSHALL - WANDERBUSBookings & Info : Tel :0300-123-3023 www.wanderbus.org.uk**Certain Routes/Times have changed - VALID FROM 6th June 2022****Please check and see W5 – New Destination**

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

EXCURSIONS – 4th Thursday of Month – call For Details – 0300-123-2023**E: Thewanderbus@gmail.com****Buses available for PRIVATE HIRE – Call for Quote.**

Wanderbus Excursion Programme 2022



DATE	DESTINATION	Entrance Fee as per current website	Bus Fare
Thursday 24th November	CHRISTMAS MARKET BURGHLEY HOUSE, STANFORD Enjoy a magical festival shopping experience in the idyllic surroundings of Burghley House. Wander amongst the traditional chalets, heated marquees and avenue of pagodas bedecked in sparkling Christmas decorations and lights. Over 130 stalls offering everything from luxury gifts, artisan food and drink to Christmas decorations and winter clothing. A festive day out with carol singers, a Victorian carousel and much more.	Entry £6.00 per person	£14.00 p.p. Pick up 11.15/11.45 Arrive 13.00 Depart 16.15

To Book: **Call 0300-123-3023**. Or email : thewanderbus@gmail.com. We require a deposit of £10.00 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). Cancellations must be made 10 days before the event or full charge may be taken.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

COULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING UP SOME TIME TO HELP US MAINTAIN OUR COMMUNITY BUS SERVICES?

OUR OPERATION IS RUN TOTALLY BY VOLUNTEERS AND WE NOW SEEK ADDITIONAL DRIVERS.

We provide fixed morning weekday routes to the residents of the towns and villages around Shefford & Stotfold with destinations including Bedford, Biggleswade, Cambridge, Hitchin, Milton Keynes, St Albans, St Neots & Welwyn Garden City. We need additional volunteer drivers to take on a particular route – normally we can let you choose – on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. How often you drive will be entirely up to you and, usually, we can fit you into our roster programme to suit your other commitments.

You need to be under 75 and have Category D1 on your driving licence. This will be common if you are in the older generation age group but it can be applied for from the DVLA so age need not be a restriction. You will receive training and will never be asked to drive on your own until you are entirely comfortable about doing so. Our passengers are typically older and it's a very social, friendly atmosphere. **Interested?** Email us (thewanderbus@gmail.com) with your contact details and we will get back to you to answer any questions and hopefully set a date to start your volunteering. Alternatively, you can call us on 0300-123-3023

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. 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
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CBC councillors:

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

Parish Council Clerk

Alessandre Marabese	clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk
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Member of Parliament:

Nadine Dorries	Nadine.Dorries.MP@parliament.uk
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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

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

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

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

Kathy Georgiou 01462 629313

Meppershall Village Hall

Trustees trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

Bookings bookings@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk 07485 102727

The Team And Collation Dates

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Editor welcomes contributions to the Messenger, whether as letters, articles or notices. Contributions should preferably be as attachments to e-mail (address below) but handwritten contributions may be sent by post, or left in the folder kept at the Village Stores. Contributions should run to not more than one A5 page (except by prior arrangement) and should be received by the Editor not later than the 12th of the month for publication at the end of that month. Contributions received after the deadline may be held over.

DISCLAIMER

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

THE TEAM

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Collating Dates 2022/23			
December-January Double Issue	November 28 th	April 2023 Issue	March 27 th
February 2022 Issue	January 30 th	May 2023 Issue	April 24 th
March 2023 Issue	February 27 th	June 2023 Issue	May 29 th
Please contact John Thompson to confirm arrangements (contact information above).			

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