

Volume 39

MAY 2023

Issue 2

CROWNING *of the* KING



 Celebrate the Coronation
of King Charles III  
With Meppershall Social Club at Meppershall Village Hall, SG17 5SA
Saturday 6th May 2023



For more details see inside this issue



Meppershall Village Website: www.meppershall-pc.gov.uk

Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Editorial By James Read | 2 |
| Letters | 3 |
| Domestic Abuse Survey | 4 |
| Bake it Like Berry (The Meppershall Bake Off is back!)..... | 4 |
| Meppershall Summer Fair..... | 5 |
| Meppershall Parish Council Summary of Minutes 13 th March 2023..... | 6 |
| Meppershall Social Club..... | 9 |
| Meppershall Village Quiz – Friends of St Mary’s..... | 9 |
| Meppershall GNOMES | 10 |
| Meppershall Good Neighbours Annual General Meeting | 11 |
| Parish Church Of St Mary The Virgin (Church Of England) | 12 |
| Church News and Events In May | 13 |
| Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers | 14 |
| Toddington Poetry Society | 14 |
| The Meppershall Messenger Annual General Meeting..... | 15 |
| NHS National Cancer Screening..... | 16 |
| Shefford Osteopathic Clinic: Exercise | 17 |
| Shefford Craft and Produce Show | 18 |
| Mid Bedfordshire Cancer Support Group | 19 |
| Fire Station News..... | 20 |
| Finance: Pensions and Inheritance By Paul Savuto | 21 |
| Birthdays | 23 |
| In Memoriam..... | 24 |
| A Tribute to Margaret Bryant..... | 24 |
| The Coronation Garden By Donna Cameron..... | 24 |
| Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club (Campton) | 26 |
| Cineaste’s Corner by Dave Peters: Wages of Fear..... | 27 |
| The Meppershall Players @ STMA | 29 |
| Murder Afloat..... | 30 |
| Henlow Amateur Theatrical Society – HATS | 31 |
| Meppershall Wanderbus Timetable | 32 |
| Meppershall Wanderbus Excursions | 33 |
| Useful Contact Details In Meppershall | 34 |
| The Team And Collation Dates | 36 |

Editorial By James Read

It's a history-making month and there's lots to read here in your village magazine. Whatever you make of our royal family and the concept of monarchy, the Coronation makes this a remarkable time in our history.



The first King of England emerged in Anglo-Saxon times, at a time when the nation we call home was first named and ruled. King Egbert was not actually called "King" when he took the throne in 829AD. He was the "Bretwalda of Britain" – an overlord granted power over the multiple Anglo-Saxon territories that stretched across our island in a patchwork led by competing, rival regional chiefs. His Majesty King Charles III will be number 62 in that line of succession on the English throne.

By chance, the Coronation falls a few days after the anniversary of the Act of Union (1st May 1707) which created the single nation we call Great Britain by combining England, Wales and Scotland. His Majesty will be the 12th Monarch to rule that nation.

But it was 1922 when the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland came into being, making Charles only the 5th Monarch to rule, by that definition, the nation which we live in today.

I believe almost all of us will be looking forward to 6th May 2023 with excitement and pride. While governments come and go, and even national boundaries change, Charles III is the successor in an institution that traces its history back over almost 1,200 years. Almost 200,000 UK armed forces personnel swear allegiance to him and people across the country draw pleasure, inspiration and confidence from the presence of the Royal Family in public life. And we'll all take the chance for a bit of a party!

No Monarch before him has come to the throne at a greater age – a great contrast with his mother who became Queen as such a young woman. His heirs are, today, defined only by family relationship – not by whether they are male or female, as was the case in the past. And, for the first time, the many faiths that comprise our great nation will play a formal role in the ceremony of the Coronation in Westminster Abbey. Long may this greater diversity and inclusion, in the activities and expressions of our Monarchy, continue and grow.

If you have a Big Lunch (street party) or a Big Help Out planned, or if you are celebrating at the Social Club (page 9), or enjoying the Coronation Concert, send us a photo for our June issue. Read more about the national events at <https://www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced>.

Meppershall's bells will ring out from the church tower at 10.30am on Monday 8th May in celebration of the Coronation – do listen out! Our ringers have grown in number, with training sessions taking place since last year, to make sure we have enough to Ring For The King (which is only right – our church is almost as old as the Monarchy!)

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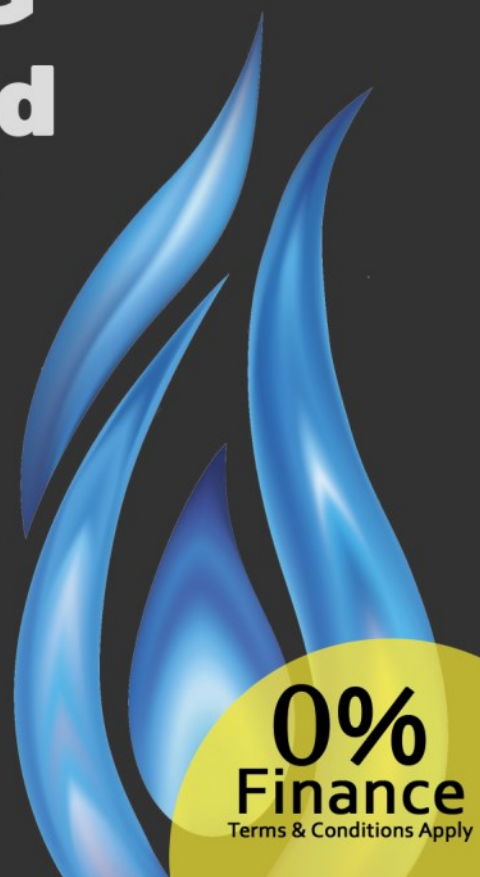
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Letters

Dear Editor

I was very surprised to read in last month's Messenger that:

'4 in 10 women declined their NHS breast screening appointment invitation last year'

In 2017 I went for my routine mammogram appointment. Following this I was asked to return for a biopsy. **Cancer was found** – It was ONLY detected by the MAMMOGRAM SCREENING - even the consultant I was referred to could not feel anything.

The fantastic NHS took care of me – I had an operation to remove the cancer, followed by Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy and Herceptin.

That was over FIVE years ago now. If I had not attended that routine mammogram I do not know if I would be here today.

Please, please, do go for your breast screening - **its free and could save your life!**

Kim, A Meppershall Resident

Dear Editor

This letter was dated 24th March – just too late for the April issue.

I recently had a visit from Mr Kevin Cadd, a resident of Meppershall, who advised me of the following and asked if I could find out what was going on. It would appear some of the hedgerow, trees and bushes had been removed from the edge of Shefford Road. This was just past the retirement home on the left hand side travelling towards Shefford.

I immediately looked at the Central Beds (CBC) planning pages to see if any recent applications had been made regarding this site. There were none. I then contacted my colleague Alex, Meppershall Parish Council Clerk, who forwarded me the following information:

'We have been aware of work to clear the copse in this area since last week. There is nothing we can do to stop them as the area has no protection under TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders). If they are burning on site and this is causing a nuisance then residents can contact CBC (Central Bedfordshire Council) or if the smoke is drifting onto the road and is a road health and safety issue then contact the Police. See CBC webpage:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/50/environmental_issues/290/domestic_nuisance-noise_smoke_diy_nuisance/3

'I believe the fire service and police were on site last week.

'If the land owner is hoping to submit a planning application for this site then it is yet to be submitted and I cannot find any details of pre-planning advice online. This site is definitely outside of our village envelope and is not an allocated site under the Local Plan. As CBC have a robust 5+ year housing supply then this windfall site would not be required. They may have spent lots of money for nothing.

'If the hedges have been removed then this may not be permitted – see below:

'The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 are designed to give protection to important hedgerows in England and Wales. Anyone proposing to remove a hedgerow, or part

of a hedgerow, which is covered by the regulations, must first notify the Local Planning Authority by submitting a Hedgerow Removal Notice. For the purposes of the regulations, remove is defined as uprooting or otherwise destroying a hedgerow. The Regulations apply to any hedgerow which:

- 'Grows in, or adjacent to any common land, Local Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest, or land used for agriculture, forestry of the breeding or keeping of horses, ponies or donkeys and;
- 'Has a continuous length of at least 20 metres, or if less than 20 metres, meets another hedgerow at each end;
- 'In calculating the total length of a hedgerow, any gap resulting from a contravention of these regulations and any gap not exceeding 20 metres should be treated as part of the hedgerow. A hedgerow, which meets another hedgerow, is to be treated as ending at the point of intersection or junction.
- 'The regulations do not apply to any hedgerow within the curtilage of, or marking a boundary of the curtilage of a dwelling house.'

If someone can get me or Meppershall Parish Clerk photos of the site as it is today without hedges then I can send these through to CBC for them to investigate.

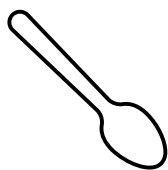
Yours sincerely, Cllr Anthony Seaman

Domestic Abuse Survey

Central Bedfordshire Council are conducting a survey to better understand public awareness of domestic abuse and those affected by it – gathering responses from those who have experienced, witnessed or perpetrated domestic abuse. The survey can be completed online or as a paper copy. Online is preferred, it is online at: <https://centralbedfordshire.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/DAsurvey>. Paper copies are available from BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. The survey runs from 3rd April until Wednesday 31st May. It is completely anonymous. Links are provided to organisations that can offer support to residents who feel they need support or guidance. **Community Engagement Team, Office of the Chief Executive, CBC.**

Bake it Like Berry (The Meppershall Bake Off is back!)

Prove your baking prowess! Meppershall Bake Off is open to all and takes place in the Bake Off marquee at the Village Fair, on Saturday 1st July.



The Women's Institute are on standby again so judging will include having a wealth of experience on hand.

Categories and classes will be formally announced in the next edition of The Meppershall Messenger – with the usual registration booklet including set recipes, rules etc released thereafter.

Good things come to those who **bake**... but if you can't wait to know more, just contact alli.roberts@hotmail.com! Go on, give it a dough!

Meppershall Events

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Meppershall
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Saturday 1st July 2023

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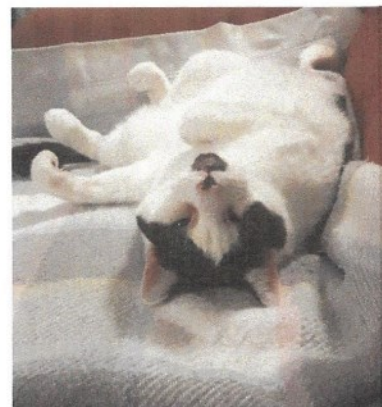


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Meppershall Parish Council Summary of Minutes 13th March 2023

Chairman's announcements

- The crime statistic for Meppershall show 3 reported crimes for last month.
- A grant request for assistance with coronation celebration funding from the Meppershall Social Club is pending.
- The clerk is dealing with damage by UKPN to Old Road Meadow subsequent to installation of a new electricity pole for the homes being built on the former site of the Mow.
- The Defibrillator Seminar went well with 25+ attendees. Thanks was given to the Clerk and Mrs Sharon Tingey for giving up their time to help with refreshments. As a consequence of the seminar the Clerk has been asked to:
 - Look into the provision of a 'bleed kit' for the village.
 - Discuss with Councillor Parsons the procedure for checking the status of village defibrillators and to instruct Councillor Addy how to do this as a backup.

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

- Brookmead and Brookside footpaths – Communication with the Highways Asset Team regarding resurfacing or patching continues. Ward Councillors have met with residents on site and are working with CBC Officers to see if work in these areas will be included in plans for 2023-2024.
- Shefford Road resurfacing – Councillor Liddiard has requested that CBC Highways consider the resurfacing of Shefford Road from Hoo Road up to 32 Shefford Road and that these works be added to a prioritisation plan.
- Mr Scott Terry, CBC Principal Highways Officer will be coming to the village next week to view potholes and the general state of the roads. It is recognised that pot holes have become worse over the last week due to weather conditions and their repair is a key priority for CBC.
- 100 High Street and removal of trees on site – No trees on this site (or on land near the Care Home) are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), therefore CBC does not have jurisdiction to interfere with their removal. Hedgerows, however, are protected.
- CBC Officer Recruitment – CBC are experiencing challenges with the recruitment of Highways and Planning Officers. They are managing with agency staff at present. A recruitment strategy has been requested.
- Hoo Road Signage – Current CBC Officers are leaving / have left CBC; however this will be requested when a new officer is in post.

Questions / comments from the public

- The state of Brookmead due to construction work and traffic is not good at the moment, can anything be done about this as it only gets cleaned once a week?
Unfortunately not much can be done.

Procedures, Consultations and Legal

- a. **Procedures** - *Resolved to approve MPC Schedule of Delegation v1.0. Carried.*
- b. **Health & Safety and Risk Management** - *Resolved to approve the 2022-2023 Risk Review and Actions and that they be signed by the Chairman. Resolved to approve the MPC Litter Pick Risk Assessment.*
- c. **Annual Parish Meeting** - *Cllrs agreed to facilitate and hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April, starting at 7:00pm in the Village Hall as per the approved meeting schedule and that the Clerk publicise the meeting as usual.*

- d. **Beds Police Priority Setting** - The Clerk and Councillor Parsons attended a meeting of all Area 5 parishes on 7th March who agreed that the priority will be antisocial behaviour (ASB) with visible police presence. A follow up meeting is planned for 20th June 2023. A meeting is also planned on 16th May where Clerks and Chairs will be encouraged to share resources and work together on a number of projects. Both meetings will be held at the Shefford Town Council offices.
- e. **IT and Communications** - A report on website usage was circulated to councillors at the beginning of the month. The MPC allotment logo has been changed as requested by councillors so that wording reads as Meppershall Parish Council Allotments. Minor amendments have been made to the MPC website.
- f. **Stocken House Green Space** - The Clerk has not received any update on the adoption agreement. *Clerk has chased for an update but nothing received yet.*
- g. **MPC Crackle Hill Track / Driveway** - To consider action required subsequent to Anglian Water installing water meters and attempting to pass utilities across MPC land without permission. The Clerk and Councillor Thompson met with Anglian Water and their contractor on 13th March. Anglian Water are to confirm in writing the following:
 - Current stop cock and meters installed on MPC land to be removed and re-routed.
 - Water line for fire hydrant to be installed in location not on MPC land.
 - Anglian Water to reinstate / tarmac area of MPC driveway up to roadside.
 - Grass re-seeding to take place.

The MPC track / driveway will need to be closed for the works to be completed that will also require digging into the road. The Clerk advised that the driveway could be closed with appropriate warning and signage in place. *Resolved that the Clerk continue to liaise with Anglian Water for the removal of their assets from MPC land and that if required a notice confirming closure of the permissive path (Crackle Hill Track / Driveway) is issued.*

Finance

a. Purchase orders

Cllr Thompson did not participate in agenda items 811.a.ii having previously declared an interest. Cllr Chapman took over as Chairman of the meeting for this agenda item.

- i. *Resolved to purchase litter pick equipment (pickers, hoops and bags) and refreshments for litter pick volunteers (Open Spaces Act 1906, s.10).*
- ii. *Resolved to purchase and donate tables at cost of £905.20+ VAT for use during meetings to Meppershall Village Hall (Local Government Act 1972, s.133).*
- iii. *Councillors to contact the Clerk if they wish to attend any BATPC Breakthrough Communications training.*
- iv. *Resolved to purchase replacement defibrillator battery, stationery and fencing in cemetery (Public health Act 1936, s.234 / Local Government Act 1972, s.111 / Open Spaces Act 1906, s.10).*

b. Document approval - *Resolved to approve Bank Statements & Reconciliations Current Account 170 and 171, Bank Statements and Reconciliations Savings Account 040 and MultiPay Card Statements and Reconciliations February 2023.*

c. Orders for the payment of money – *Resolved that the schedule of payments as presented be approved and authorised for payment by Councillor Thompson and or Councillor Parsons. Resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk for the payment of any products or services where an invoice is received prior to 31st March 2023.*

Planning and Housing

a. Planning applications

- i. CB/23/00556/LB & CB/23/00555/FULL - The Hollies, 2 Shillington Road, SG17 5ND - Listed Building: Erection of part single and part two-storey rear extension and internal alterations. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 23/00556 & 23/00555.*
- ii. CB/23/00469/FULL - 48 Orchard Close, SG17 5LW - Single storey front extension and infill of existing open porch. *Resolved that the Council has no objection to planning application 23/00469.*
- iii. CB/TCA/23/00071 - The Old Coach House, 10-12 Rectory Road, SG17 5NB - Works to trees within a Conservation Area: remove Silver Birch Tree. *Resolved that the Council objects to tree planning application 23/00071 as no reason is given in the application as to why the tree in a conservation areas need to be removed.*

b. Appeals

- i. APP/P0240/W/22/3307451 - CB/22/00799/FULL - The Pigling, SG17 5LL - Erection of two detached dwellings with associated garages and carport. – Amendments. *Resolved that the Council continues to object to application 22/00799.*

Neighbourhood Plan

- a. **Report** - The Clerk has discussed with the Neighbourhood Plan consultant next steps and is progressing these.
- b. Neighbourhood Plan submission to CBC for External Review and Regulation 16 referendum. *Resolved to approve the amended draft Neighbourhood Plan for submission to CBC for external Review and Regulation 16 referendum.*

Highways and Transport

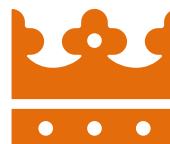
- a. **OPCC and RMF grant funding update** - The Clerk advised that no further work has been completed the gateway was installed in January. Installation of the VAS is still pending.
The Clerk was asked to continue to chase Highways on the installation of the VAS again.
- b. **Update on road safety improvements on new developments** - Councillor Seaman is awaiting an update from Davidsons; have responded; but approval from CBC for this initiative has been requested, to move forward.

Environment and Leisure

- a. **Allotments update** - The Clerk advised that new plot holders continue to come forward.
- b. **Update on Dog Fouling campaign** - The MPC dog fouling social media campaign is due to finish in April but continues to receive positive feedback. Unfortunately Mrs Thorne collected 5 bags full of dog mess from Old Road Meadow, councillors were extremely disappointed in uncaring dog owners for this. The Clerk was asked to organise signage stating that dogs should be on leads in MPC open spaces. They will review the situation later in the year and if dog fouling does not improve, they will consider not permitting dogs in MPC owned open spaces. *The Clerk was asked to make a Freedom of Information request to CBC regarding the number and location of fines given for dog fouling in the area. The Clerk and Councillor Standbridge were also asked to come up with a social media campaign aimed at nuisance dog barking.*
- c. Grass Cutting - *Resolved to approve the appointment of A & B Gardening Ltd as MPC 2023-2024 grass contractors.*

Meppershall Social Club

MSC hopes this finds you all well.



With the Coronation around the corner, we have a fabulous day planned for you; here is the line up for **Saturday 6th May**:

- 10.30am Open for the live showing of The Coronation of HM King Charles III on the giant screen, FREE Tea, Coffee & Biscuits, bar opens 11am.
- 4.00-5.00pm Indoor street party in the Village Hall; we will be catering for up to 80 children under 12 years, food and drink provided.
- 5.00-6.00pm Don Neufville, a very talented magician.
- 6.00-7.00pm Kids disco dancing.
- 5.00-8.00pm Bouncy Castle (with parental supervision).
- 5.00-9.00pm Addys Chopz food vendor for you hungry teens and adults!
- 8.00pm-late Live music from the fabulous Redneck Jammers to complete the day.

A FREE TICKET is required for each child attending the street party, these are available from the bar during usual opening hours. Come and celebrate with MSC.

Sunday 7th May - MSC will be showing The King's Coronation Concert from 8.00pm, LIVE on the giant screen and on two large screen TVs. Please join us for a right royal rave up!

Friday 12th May - Music night with the fab sounds of A & B Roadshow.

Friday 26th May - Karaoke with Stu & Scott.

Sunday 28th May - Afternoon barbeque followed by the amazing talent of Markus.

May we take this opportunity to thank all those involved in arranging our Silent Disco and especially to those that supported it. What a fab night was had by all! Watch this space for the next one!

FREE POOL MONDAYS! Every Monday in May from 6pm, MEMBERS ONLY.

MSC have a new neighbour! **The Happy Plaice** are now outside the Village hall every Tuesday from 4.30pm; bar open from 5.00pm for a drink to enjoy with your meal.

Please note that random membership card checks will be made on a regular basis, so please ensure you carry your card with you at all times. There are numerous cards awaiting collection behind the bar. Thank you for your continued support and custom! That's it for May, have a wonderful month, enjoy the bank holidays! **MSC**

THE MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE QUIZ

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MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE FAIR



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Thursday 11th May at 10.30 am to 12 noon.

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Photos from our Jubilee celebration coffee morning 2022.



**Join us for our monthly coffee
mornings:**

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Meppershall GNOMES

Annual General Meeting

**Saturday 27th May
10.30am**

**Walnut Social Area -
Meppershall Village Hall**

Everyone welcome.





The Meppershall Messenger

Our A.G.M.

This year will take place on

Saturday 24th June 2023

From 10am to 12noon

in the Walnut Room (Social Area)

At Meppershall Village Hall

All Welcome

We hold our Annual General Meeting each year which is open to anyone – to come and listen to what's going on and make comments, feedback or offer ideas. It's a chance to find out more and to meet the team. Free tea & coffee and biscuits and cake!

This year we are especially interested to hear from anyone who may be able to:

- 1) Lend a hand on the editorial side of things – writing articles, editing articles submitted by readers, identifying opportunities for new content, managing editorial correspondence, creating page layouts, editing the final version of the magazine. This would suit someone with good Microsoft Office skills, including Word and OneDrive.
- 2) Offer Help with our Printing, Folding, Home Pre-Collating, Final Collating and Stapling and Distribution of the magazine

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

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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...

First of all, you may have noticed that the work on the Church has begun! The work will continue through the summer and we hope be completed by mid-November by which time we will have new roofs to the tower and transepts and we will at last be able to remove the Harris fencing from around the church! My thanks to all whose generosity has enabled this - and especially to Chris Valentine, our Churchwarden, for working so hard with our architect to make it happen!

With the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, this year May will truly be an historic month. At 74, King Charles is the oldest Monarch ever to have been crowned. The 11am Sunday service on the 7th May will celebrate the Coronation, and the Church Bells will also ring in celebration on Monday 8th in the morning from 10.30am.

In his first speech, referring to his late Mother, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and her pledge to the people of all Commonwealth countries in 1947 that “my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service” King Charles added “That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today.”

“As the Queen herself did with such unswerving devotion, I too, now solemnly pledge myself, throughout the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the constitutional principles at the heart of our nation.” And commenting on having seen our society become one of many cultures and many faiths he said: “Whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love.”

The Coronation will be a time to celebrate King Charles, but also a time for our whole nation to reflect on our history, to celebrate something of who we are now, and look forward... A time perhaps for all of us to commit ourselves once again to building and becoming the kind of society where all are cared for, no needs go unnoticed or unmet.

In the King’s Christmas speech he envisioned a people who “readily respond to the plight of others” and paid tribute to the “wonderfully kind people” who donate food

“or that most precious commodity of all - their time” to support those in greatest need. (Telegraph 25.12 22) Indeed we are all invited to join in the Big Help Out as part of our Coronation celebrations.

The 28th May is also the Feast of Pentecost in Church - when we celebrate the outpouring of the promised Holy Spirit on the first Christians - the Birthday of the Church. Pentecost is the time we also boldly pray and ask the Holy Spirit to come and fall on us again, to fill us, to gift us and to use us in His service! So Pentecost is a time too, to look around and to seek to be inspired about how to use our time and our gifts to serve God, to serve one another, and to make our world a better place as we pray and work for the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Perhaps together, we can all step into June with new energy, new hope, and new vision.

With best wishes, Rector Roni & Keith Callard, Reader.

Church News and Events In May

Usual Pattern of Services

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sundays | 11.00am | Morning Worship every Sunday Holy Communion: 2 nd and 4 th Sundays Sunday 7 th May – Celebrating the Coronation Sunday 28 th May – The Feast of Pentecost |
| Every Wednesday | 10.00am | Holy Communion in church |
| Church open to visit | 10.00-4.00 | Private prayer and quiet time – the church open for you to sit and visit each 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/ | |
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| Find us on YouTube: | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjDLGAy8GI6afkO8iALYOA | |

This Spring, why not come and enjoy your local, historic Parish Church on your own, or with friends, or with your family? A warm welcome awaits you in the beautiful setting of the oldest building in the village. You'll find a friendly bunch of people, plenty of tea and coffee (and often cake and biscuits) and lots of village chatter. 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).

Meppershall Second Sunday Strollers

Our walk this month is on Sunday 14th May, leaving from the church gate at 2pm, and heading to The Greyhound at Haynes via Campton, Sandy Smith Nature Reserve and Chicksands Wood where we hope we will see bluebells. We'll pass the village hall and you can join the walk there as we pass by at 2.10pm. It's 5.5 miles in total, with some very light ups and downs and very little mud! Join at All Saints Campton to knock a couple of miles off the total distance (we'll be passing that point at around 2.40pm). After 4 miles we will walk through the Elephant Cage – historic site of the famous (and now-dismantled) radio monitoring array. The Greyhound is a nice pub with outdoor seating where drinks will be available. We will be parking cars at the end of the walk near The Greyhound in advance – if you want to do that please come to church at 1.10pm to drop a car and have a lift back. Please get in touch if you need more info, or a lift back, or to drop a car in advance at the end of the walk. We're an informal, dog-friendly group and we would love to have you along for a walk. Find us on 857836 (James and Miriam) or at <https://www.facebook.com/MeppershallStrollers>.

Toddington Poetry Society

Next meeting: Tuesday 9th May, 8pm, Luton Irish Forum. AGM; plus second half of the evening will be poetry on the theme of Insects.

Here is a poem to get you started:

William Blake **The Fly** (from *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, 1794)

Little Fly
Thy summer's play
My thoughtless hand
Has brush'd away.

Am not I
A fly like thee?
Or art not thou
A man like me?

For I dance
And drink and sing:
Till some blind hand
Shall brush my wing.

If thought is life
And strength and breath:
And the want
Of thought is death;

Then am I
A happy fly,
If I live,
Or if I die.

Admission free on AGM evening.

You can find TPS on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TPSLuton



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Our A.G.M.

This year will take place on

Saturday 24th June 2023

From 10am to 12noon

in the Walnut Room (Social Area)

At Meppershall Village Hall

All Welcome

We hold our Annual General Meeting each year which is open to anyone – to come and listen to what's going on and make comments, feedback or offer ideas. It's a chance to find out more and to meet the team. Free tea & coffee and biscuits and cake!

This year we are especially interested to hear from anyone who may be able to:

- 1) Lend a hand on the editorial side of things – writing articles, editing articles submitted by readers, identifying opportunities for new content, managing editorial correspondence, creating page layouts, editing the final version of the magazine. This would suit someone with good Microsoft Office skills, including Word and OneDrive.
- 2) Offer help with our Printing, Folding, Home Pre-Collating, Final Collating and Stapling and Distribution of the magazine.

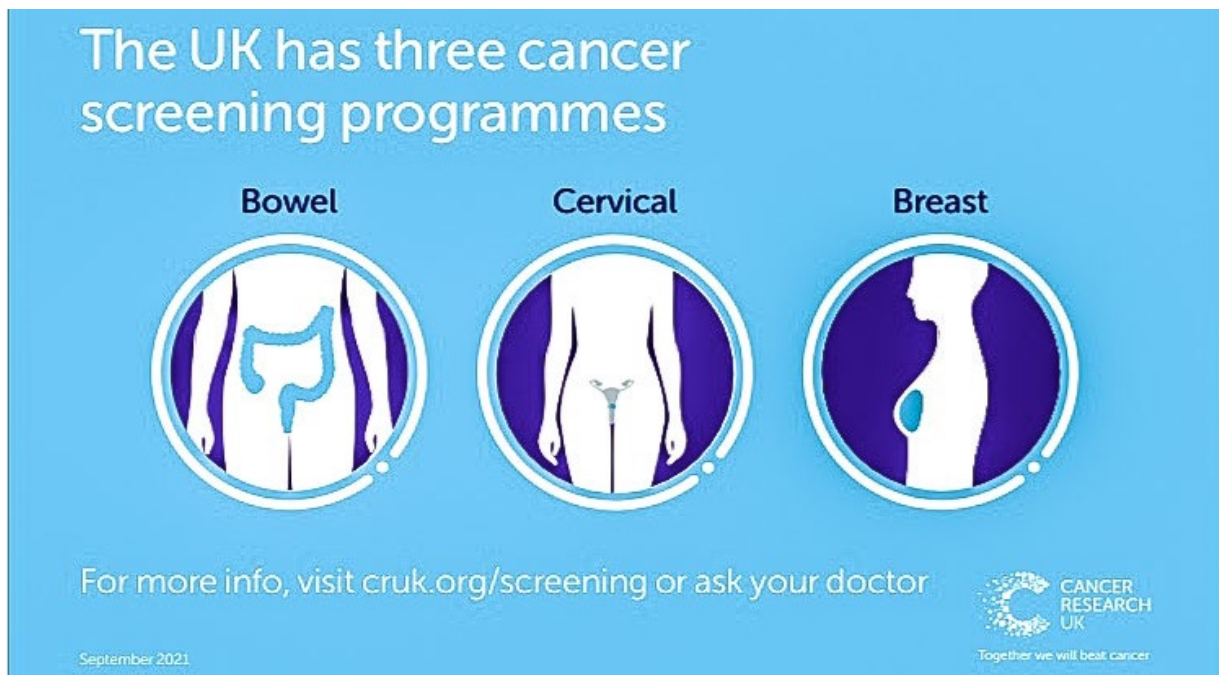
One thing's for sure... with YOUR input and support, The Meppershall Messenger could be EVEN BETTER!

NHS National Cancer Screening

The NHS cancer screening programmes can help to diagnose cancer or risk of cancer earlier and improve the likelihood of successful treatment. There are three national cancer screening programmes in England.

- Cervical (25-64 years of age)
- Breast (50-71 years of age)
- Bowel (60-74 years of age)

If you are eligible, please make every effort to have your screening test. Screening can detect a problem early before you have any symptoms. Finding out about a problem early can mean that treatment is more effective.



1. Cervical screening

The NHS cervical screening programme in England is offered to people with a cervix aged from 25 to 64. Routine screening is offered every three years up to 49 years of age and every five years from 50 to 64 years of age. Depending on the result of the screen, people may be recalled earlier than these routine intervals.

As part of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme, all samples taken at cervical screening appointments are now being tested for high-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in the first instance. This is the virus which causes nearly all cervical cancers. Samples that test positive for HPV will then go on to be further analysed to detect cell abnormalities.

HPV is a very common virus which effects around 8 in 10 people; it is nothing to be embarrassed about, and in many cases, your immune system will naturally get rid of HPV.

For more information on cervical screening, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening/>

Alternatively, visit Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust <https://www.jostrust.org.uk/>

or call 0808 802 8000.

2. Breast screening

About 1 in 8 women in the UK are diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime. If it's detected early, treatment is more successful and there's a good chance of recovery. Breast screening uses an X-ray test called a mammogram that can spot cancers when they're too small to see or feel.

Breast screening is currently offered to women aged 50 to their 71st birthday in England. You may be eligible for breast screening before the age of 50 if you have a very high risk of developing breast cancer.

If you are 71 or over, you will stop receiving screening invitations. You can still have screening once you are 71 or over if you want to and can arrange an appointment by contacting your local screening service on 01582 497 599. For more information about Beds and Herts Breast Screening Service go to <https://www.bhbss.nhs.uk/home.aspx>

If you're worried about breast cancer symptoms such as a lump or an area of thickened tissue in a breast, or you notice that your breasts look or feel different from what's normal for you, do not wait to be offered screening. See a GP. For more information visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/breast-cancer/symptoms/>

3. Bowel screening

Bowel cancer survival is improving in the UK and if diagnosed early, more than 90% of bowel cancer cases can be treated successfully. Screening programmes test to see if people show any early signs of cancer. By detecting bowel cancer at an early stage, treatment has a better chance of working.

As part of the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme, men and women aged 60-74 are sent a home testing kit (Faecal Immunochemical Test or FIT) every two years to collect a small sample of poo to be checked for tiny amounts of blood which could be caused by cancer.

For more information on the bowel cancer screening test, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bowel-cancer-screening/>

You can also find information on the signs and symptoms of bowel cancer at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bowel-cancer/symptoms/>

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Just 11 Minutes of Moderate Daily Exercise Counts

Would you like to exercise but don't have the time?

A new study has found that **11 minutes** of moderate exercise a day is enough to reduce the risk of early death. Findings show that: "Accumulating 75 min per week of moderate-intensity activity brought with it a 23% lower risk of early death."

Moderate exercise includes activities such as:

- Brisk walking
- Water aerobics
- Riding a bike - light effort
- Dancing

- Washing windows/mopping floors
- Pushing a lawn mower
- Badminton
- Doubles tennis
- Gardening

The recommended amount of exercise a week is 150 minutes (about 22 mins per day) but even 75 minutes has a huge impact. That's just 11 minutes each day!

The study said: "If everyone managed at least 75 min per week of moderate-intensity physical activity, around 1 in 10 (10%) premature deaths, 1 in 20 (5%) cases of cardiovascular disease, and nearly 1 in 30 (3%) cases of cancer, would be prevented."

If you would like help and support in achieving this, please contact the friendly team at Shefford Osteopathic Clinic. If you have existing health concerns or injuries, we can advise which exercises would be better for you. Plus, we can treat and improve your mobility, and reduce any pain, aches and stiffness.

Call us on 01462 811006 or visit www.SheffordOsteo.com to make an appointment. Just 11 minutes of daily exercise can make a difference to your health. We'd love to help you achieve this!



Shefford Craft and Produce Show

Save this Date!! Saturday 9th September 2023

The Show Committee would like you to put the date of the next Show in your diary. It will be held as usual in the Methodist Schoolroom on Saturday 9th September. In the morning we hope lots of competitors will bring their entries into the Hall for judging. In the afternoon, from 2pm, we hope that lots of visitors will come to see how clever our local residents, both young and not so young, are at growing and making. Refreshments of tea and homemade cake will be served whilst you wait for the Prize-Giving at 4pm.

The Schedule is almost complete with many new ideas and it will be available by April in the Library and other outlets. The Annual Quiz sheets will also be available for £1 as this creates interest and helps to support the Show.

There will be more updates on the next Shefford Newsline magazines.

We hope to make this year's Show bigger and better to celebrate the end of the recent pandemic restrictions.

The Committee of Shefford Craft and Produce Show



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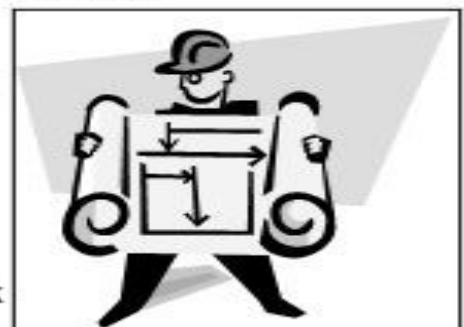
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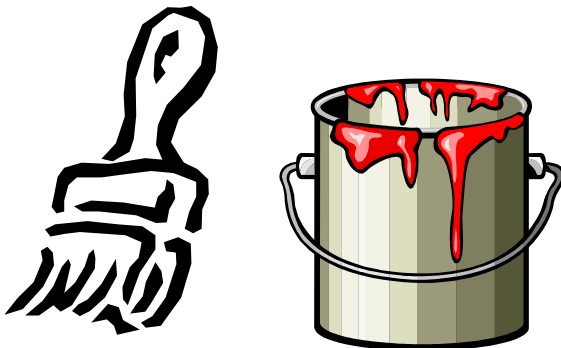
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STATEMENT OF PERSONS NOMINATED

Election of Councillor to

Meppershall & Shillington Ward

Notice is hereby given that the following is a statement of the persons nominated for election as Councillor

| Name of Candidate | Home Address | Description (if any) | Subscribers Proposer (P) Seconder (S) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HOLLAND Dave | 4 Windmill Lodge Hillfoot Road Shillington Beds SG5 3NJ | Reform UK | Daniel Higgs (P) Nicholas Peter Anthony Pnematicatos (S) |
| MORGAN Ray Ross | Address in the Central Bedfordshire Council Area | Liberal Democrat | Janet C White (P) Gladys V Cole (S) |
| SHINGLER Ian Leslie | 14 Dane Road Barton-le-Clay Bedford MK45 4QL | Independent | Tracey Barton (P) Simon Andrew Barton (S) |
| STEPHENSON Blake | 59 High Road Shillington SG5 3LP | Conservative Party Candidate | Sally J Stapleton (P) Philippa Rosemary Carrington McLuskie (S) |
| TIZARD Glenda Janice | 50 Ampthill Road Shefford Beds SG17 5BB | Labour Party | Sean Martin McGeever (P) Julie D McGeever (S) |

The above persons have been and stand validly nominated

Dated: Wednesday, 5 April 2023

Returning Officer: Marcel Coiffait




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The Electoral Commission

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NOTICE OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION

Election of Parish Councillors for Meppershall Parish on 04 May 2023

I Marcel Coiffait, being the Returning Officer at the above election, report that the persons whose names appear below were duly elected Parish Councillor for Meppershall.

| Name of Candidate | Home Address | Description (if any) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ADDY William Luke | Address in the Parish of Meppershall | |
| MERRYWEATHER Paul | Address in the Parish of Campton | |
| MORGAN Mervyn Terence | Address in the Parish of Meppershall | |
| PARSONS John | Address in the Parish of Meppershall | |
| SEAMAN Anthony John | 18 Walnut Tree Way Meppershall Shefford Beds SG17 5AB | |
| STANDBRIDGE Lucy Jane | Address in the Parish of Meppershall | |
| THOMPSON John | Address in the Parish of Meppershall | |
| WRIGHT Leo William Paul | Address in the Parish of Meppershall | |

Dated:
05 April 2023

Marcel Coiffait
Returning Officer

Printed and Published by the Returning Officer
Priory House Monks Walk Chicksands Shefford Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

LOCAL ELECTIONS
Don't forget to vote for your Unitary Authority Councillors
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Meppershall Village Hall, Meppershall, Central Beds.
Walnut Tree Way, Meppershall, Shefford SG17 5AB

Due to the Coronation, there is no meeting on 6th May

Next meeting is 3rd June, 2023.

Do join us from 11am-1pm either in person
or via zoom.

For Zoom log in details:

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

Meeting ID: 334 851 8015

Password: cancertalk

We are always available to speak to individuals anytime.

Email: daksha@survivingcancer.co.uk

Tel: 07961 377526

SAFETY

FIRE STATION NEWS

Contribution thanks to

Lee Murphy

Watch Commander

Shefford Community Fire Station

Lee.Murphy@bedsfire.gov.uk

We at Shefford Community Fire Station hope you are all well and have been coping with the cold and wet weather conditions we have recently been experiencing. Fire calls have been picking up following a rather unusually quiet Jan and Feb.

Incidents of note

Building Fire - A507 Beadlow

At approx. 4am, Shefford was first in attendance at a well-developed, fully involved building fire. Crew Commander Tracy Hutchinson was the 1st officer in attendance, made pumps 3 and requested the Aerial Platform from Luton Fire Station. The Fire was soon brought under control and fully extinguished late that night.



Dog Rescues – Arlesey / Stotfold

We have been mobilised to a few dog rescues during the cold weather, where dogs were trapped in an icy river or lake. Crew Commander Ant Mason was officer in charge on both occasions, committing crews to the water in full water safe PPE to effect rescues. We are happy to report on both occasions the dogs were reunited with their owners safely.

Live Exercise

Shefford Station ran a live exercise at **Schlegel International** in Henlow. We simulated a Persons reported Chemical leak within the building. We were joined by Biggleswade, Sandy and Stop-sley Fire Stations, as well as having the staff from Schlegel join in to try and make it as realistic as possible. Until the next time, stay safe.



Station Updates

Home Fire Safety Visits - This service has developed a new Power-app that enables us to complete all Home Fire Safety Visits on-line using iPads. It streamlines the whole process and works towards our commitment to becoming more environmentally friendly by reducing our carbon footprint and the amount of paper we use.

For a **free Home Fire Safety Visit** simply go to: www.bedsfire.gov.uk/home.aspx OR call 0800 043 5042.

Recruitment – We are actively looking for new members of the team. BFRS are running a 'Recruits Course' that starts in April and I'm pleased to say Shefford Fire Station have two new trainee Firefighters that have been successful during the selection process and will be on the course. We look forward to having them on station and ready for operational duties in June, ready for the busy summer months.

If you are interested in earning some extra money and would like to serve your community as an On-call Firefighter, then either contact myself: Lee.murphy@bedsfire.gov.uk OR go to the following link: www.bedsfire.gov.uk/Careers/On-call-Recruitment.aspx



Lee Murphy

Watch Commander

Shefford Community Fire Station

Finance: Pensions and Inheritance By Paul Savuto

4 valuable ways a financial planner can help you tackle “overwhelming” pension information.

Do you find pension information confusing? You’re not alone; 50% of people in the UK describe the information they receive about their pension as “overwhelming”, according to a [Standard Life](#) study.

Fortunately, there are places where you can seek guidance or advice. The survey found 83% of people think financial advisers offer useful support. If you’re not sure if your pension is on the right track, a financial planner could help put your mind at ease. Here are four reasons why.

1. A financial planner can cut through jargon

Pension information can be filled with jargon that makes it difficult to understand exactly what it is saying.

From “annuities” to the “Tapered Annual Allowance”, a financial planner could help you cut through confusing terms and take the time to explain what they mean and, more importantly, whether they’re relevant to you.

Having someone you can turn to for answers that you know you can rely on is invaluable.

2. A financial planner can help you make sense of pension statements

Your pension provider will provide a statement each year; this may come in the post or be online.

It will cover pension contributions, including your own, those made by your employer, and tax relief. These figures can help you understand how much is going into your pension.

As your pension will usually be invested, the statement is likely to include investment performance too. As investments can be volatile, it can be difficult to know whether your investments are performing well or not, and it’s also essential to ensure they match your risk profile and goals. As financial planners, we can help you get to grips with pension investments.

In addition, your pension statement will include a forecast. This is a projection based on assumptions that the provider makes, including your retirement date and investment performance, so it’s not a guarantee.

The pension forecast can be incredibly useful when thinking about how your savings will add up to deliver a retirement income. But understanding if it’s “enough” is another challenge.

3. A financial planner can help you calculate if you’re saving “enough”

Calculating how much you should be saving into your pension can be complex. There’s no one-size-fits-all figure, so you’ll need to consider your circumstances and goals to understand what is “enough”.

Not only will you need to calculate potential investment returns, but also the income you need to create the retirement lifestyle you want. As a result, setting a pension target often means pulling together different pieces of information, from life expectancy to other assets you’ll use to create an income, like savings.

A financial plan can help you understand what is “enough” for you to retire on, and, importantly, the steps you can take to reach the goal. With a clear blueprint, you’re more likely to retire with enough savings to live the lifestyle you want.

4. A financial planner can create a plan that means you can enjoy retirement

A financial plan can help you get the most out of your money, and allow you to really enjoy your retirement.

There’s strong evidence that taking control of your finances could boost your wellbeing. In fact, 93% of people that planned for retirement with an income of less than £20,000 say they are enjoying life after giving up work. However, only 66% of people that didn’t plan could say the same. Despite this, 7 in 10 people are doing very little, if anything, to plan for their retirement. So, arranging a meeting now to create a plan for when you give up work means you’re more likely to enjoy the next stage of your life. It’s never too soon to start retirement planning, and doing so earlier could grant you more freedom in the future.

Estate planning: Do you need to include Inheritance Tax?

Inheritance Tax (IHT) can affect what you leave behind for loved ones. It’s essential you understand if it’s something you need to think about, as there could be steps you can take to reduce a potential bill.

Over the last few months, you’ve read about what estate planning is and how to calculate the value of your estate. Mitigating an IHT bill should be an important part of your estate plan if you could be liable for it. Read on to find out when IHT is due.

The standard rate of Inheritance Tax is 40%

With a standard rate of 40%, IHT could substantially reduce the value of what you leave behind for loved ones. According to [HMRC](#), around 3.76% of estates pay IHT.

IHT is a tax on your estate after you pass away if the total value exceeds certain thresholds. There are two allowances that you could use:

If the value of your estate is below the **nil-rate band**, your estate will not be liable for IHT. For the 2023/24 tax year, it is £325,000. Should you leave your main home to your children or grandchildren, you may also be able to use the **residence nil-rate band**. For the 2023/24 tax year, it is £175,000. As a result, you could leave up to £500,000 before IHT is due.

You can also pass on unused allowances to your spouse or civil partner. So, if you plan as a couple, you could leave an estate valued at up to £1 million before it’s liable for IHT. The portion of your estate that exceeds these allowances is usually taxed at 40%.

Let’s say you leave behind assets worth £600,000 to your child, including your main home to take advantage of the residence nil-rate band. The first £500,000 can be passed on without being liable for tax. However, there would be a tax charge of £40,000 on the £100,000 that exceeds the allowances.

You should note both the nil-rate and the residence nil-rate band are frozen at the current level until April 2028. While the value of your estate is below the threshold now, will this still be the case in five years? To plan effectively, you should consider how the value of your estate could change.

A plan is essential if you want to mitigate Inheritance Tax

There are often steps you can take to reduce a potential IHT bill. Creating a plan now could mean your loved ones inherit more of your estate.

There are lots of steps you can take to reduce IHT during your lifetime, including:

- **Gift assets during your lifetime.** You could support your loved ones by gifting assets now or during your lifetime. However, keep in mind that only some gifts will be outside of your estate for IHT purposes immediately. Others may still be included when calculating IHT for up to seven years. Contact us to discuss how to gift to reduce IHT liability now.
- **Place assets in a trust.** Placing assets in a trust could mean they are outside of your estate and, in some cases, you may still be able to benefit from the assets. You will need to name a trustee that will manage the assets on behalf of your beneficiaries. Trusts can be complex, especially if you need to consider IHT, so professional advice can be useful.
- **Leave some of your assets to charity.** This could bring the value of your estate below the IHT threshold. If you leave more than 10% of your entire estate to charity the IHT rate will fall from 40% to 36%, which could lower the bill for some families.
- **Keep the value of your estate below the IHT threshold by spending.** Make the most of your later years by spending more – it could mitigate an IHT bill if it brings the value of your estate below the threshold for paying IHT.

There may be other things you can do too. Contact us to create a tailored estate and IHT plan.

GET IN TOUCH

DGS IFA Ltd are Independent and Chartered Financial Advisers. I am a Chartered Financial Planner with over 30 years financial services experience, so you are in safe hands. For a free review of your financial situation and to discuss your plans and goals, please contact me, Paul Savuto, AFPS, Chartered Financial Planner. DGS Independent Financial Advisers Ltd. 07834 499 595 or email ps@dgsifa.com, I'll be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you have. FCA 225814.

Birthdays

Congratulations on some special birthdays in May:

Ken M who will be 95

Mary M who will be 88



Wishing you all a great year ahead, with warm regards from the whole team at The Meppershall Messenger.

In Memoriam

Margaret and Roger Bryant, April 2023. With so many others in the village who knew them, we send our deepest condolences and sympathies to Shelley, Richard and the whole family.

Margaret and Roger Bryant

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the sudden passing of both Margaret Bryant on the 4th April and her husband Roger Bryant on the 26th April. Before his death, Roger provided the following tribute to Margaret.

With family connections with the village dating back over 150 years Margaret continued this long tradition living in the village her entire life. She had a great love for her garden, baking, and playing her piano, she was always active and could be often seen walking round the village.

They leave behind their two children Shelley and Richard and five grandchildren.

Funeral details to be confirmed. For further details contact Neville's of Shefford. Full tributes will follow in the next issue.

The Coronation Garden By Donna Cameron

Donna's Garden Designs 07833670934

As this month is King Charles' Coronation I thought I cannot pass up the opportunity to discuss our Kings love of Horticulture. King Charles III, the Gardener King!

Not only is he a keen gardener, he was ahead of his time when it came to organic gardening. With the Duchy Estate produce and wildlife friendly gardens at Highgrove. He created meadows of wildflowers here to encourage wildlife.

He of course has now inherited many spectacular gardens to enjoy. All having their own merits.

Charles is our most green fingered monarch to date and he has big plans for re-designing part of the Sandringham gardens.

The King wants to bring back a Topiary Garden with a biodiverse wildlife friendly feel which is also to feature drought tolerant planting due to our changing climate.

Sandringham garden has been much loved by many royals over the years all placing their own stamp on it.

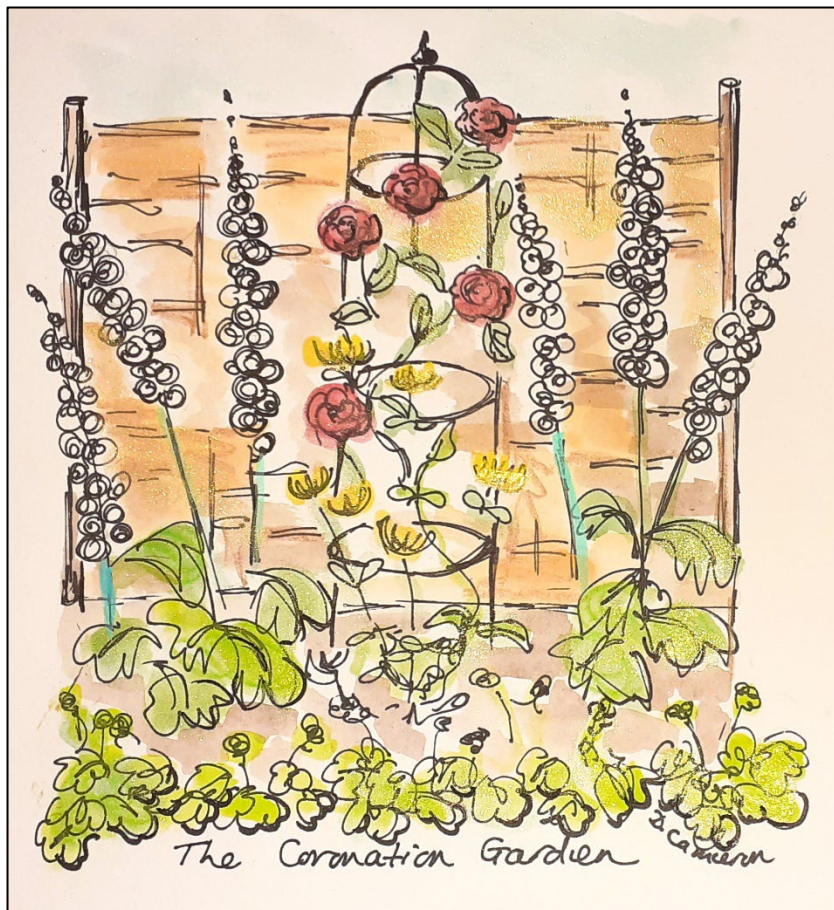
Queen Mary had a summer house built. A magical hideaway, affectionately known as 'The Nest' in which she would spend many an hour. You meander up a small path to this whimsical grotto with the tranquil sound of water below. The Queen would have her afternoon tea up there away from the demands of Royal life.

Sandringham also boasted the most extravagant walled garden of its time, 17 acres in size with the most grand of gates. Far larger than necessary and out of scale to the garden. King George VI mark on Sandringham.

At Clarence House Charles designed a garden in memory of his grandma, the late Queen Mother. A formal parterre near the main entrance featuring clipped borders with Roses, Lavender and Salvias.

King Charles favourite flower is the Delphinium. This tall plant has a commanding presence with its spirals of flowers. Coming in an array of vivid blues, baby pinks and calming white. Brilliant at the back of a border for a cottage garden feel.

With this in mind I have designed a Coronation Garden to celebrate this momentous occasion in history for one of my clients, incorporating these tall majestic flowers either side of a regal obelisk with a crown design at the pinnacle.



Upon this structure, the 'Prince Charles' Rose will grow... accompanied by a highly scented Honeysuckle!

The Prince Charles Rose is a deep crimson with purple tones, crumpled petals and a wonderful scent. The Delphiniums chosen are white as a contrast.

Then along the front to create a cottagey border I have chosen Alchemilla Mollis. Queen Camilla's favourite flower.

These have green foliage and lime green small delicate frilly flowers. When water hits the leaves the tiny droplets sit on them like pearls.

To really showcase these plants I have placed a willow hurdle fence as a back drop giving an informal feel.

It has been a fun project, which the client and I have thoroughly enjoyed producing and we now look forward to seeing this flourishing throughout this historic Coronation year.

Long live the King! Donna x

| Jobs in the Garden for May | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Keep on top of weeds | Thin out hardy annuals |
| Look out for late frosts | Put supports up for annuals such as sweet peas |
| Plant out summer bedding | Open greenhouse vents and doors on hot days |
| Water newly planted trees and shrubs | Divide clumps of daffodils |
| Keep checking roses for aphids | Mound up potatoes |
| Prune early flowering shrubs | |
| Clip evergreen topiary | |

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club (Campton)

Spring is well under way and is very evident by the additional 30 new lambs here in Campton. Our trip out to Ashridge to enjoy the ancient bluebell woodland trails, and Ashridge House gardens, was enjoyed by the group and is now behind us and we look forward to a welcome from Michael Parrish at Shefford Hardwick farm at 4pm, 22nd April, when he will talk to us about the diversity of Bedfordshire farming. This is open to all, and a real insight into rural flexibility.

As you can see by our calendar, we have some changes to dates and locations ahead, so please add these adjustments to your diaries - thank you!

Ask yourself what your ideal garden would be, and in today's fast-living environment you're probably wanting 'low-maintenance' or even 'no-maintenance.' Does this garden exist?... No, but low-maintenance is achievable - it's largely down to the right choices – for instance, in your ratio of paving to lawn to borders, beds and planting. Firstly, look around and see what grows well in your area. A plant in the wrong place will always need attention, whilst evergreens or unusual leaf structures create all-year-round interest. This option doesn't always offer interesting flowers/blossom. Watering can be high maintenance, along with weeding and dead heading. A balance between practical solutions and aesthetic interests along with personal preference is needed. No digging allows mycorrhizal network of fungi to spread which extends to the root system of plants which in turn require less fertilisation and water (great for the environment). As soil develops, improves its drainage and accommodates more carbon, you can add mulch early winter. Plants thrive and establish quickly. Add more plants to fill spaces – this prevents weeds growing (nature fills a void).

Low maintenance lawns...? Artificial grass has become very popular as the lawn is said to be the most intensive maintenance requirement of any garden feature. Well contrary to belief, a fake lawn is not maintenance free. Weed seeds will eventually take hold and weeding an unnatural lawn is not easy. Washing is required on occasion especially if pets share your garden. Artificial grass is an emotive topic with a lack of scientific knowledge to assess the environmental impact of such a new product. When professionals install it, no doubt cuts down on maintenance, although the lack of biodiversity on fake lawn is an obvious drawback, whilst some view it as another component to the garden structure - like a patio.


As spring is finally here it is time to start mowing your lawns. If you haven't done it already, don't cut it too short the first time. The ideal height for the first cut of the season is 2.5cm to 4cm. If it gets a lot of wear and tear, then 5cm. Frequent mowing

maintains lawn quality. Remove all clippings (or for an organic approach leave some for the earthworms).

Are you full of Beans? In the veg patch they are known as legumes and are grown not only for their delicious crop but also for the nitrogen they restore to the soil. Runner beans and French beans can now be sown in pots indoors – they are sensitive to frost when a healthy young plant is planted out. Meanwhile you can improve the soil where they are going to grow by adding plenty of organic matter. Plant out early summer against supports 15cm apart. Weed regularly, watch for slugs and snails, and when they reach the top pinch out the growing tip. ‘Cosse violet’ is a very good French bean variety, with purple flowers. White Lady and Scarlet Emperor are reliable runner beans. On wet days, tend to your house plants, wipe leaves with water and lemon juice for shine and repot - adding slow release fertiliser. **Maryika - 01462 851729**

Calendar 2023

| Date | Event | Location |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1st May | Red, White & Blue Coronation Social | 6pm start 43 Rectory Road |
| 26th June | Richard Knock - Wildlife Trust and Sheep Farming | Campton Village Hall |
| 30th July | Meppershall Manor visit - historic castle mound | Meppershall Manor |
| 14th August | Competition Judging | Campton Village Hall |
| 4th September | Becky Almond - How to care for your garden | Campton Village Hall |
| 2nd October | Richard Knock - Bedfordshire wild orchids | Campton Village Hall |

New members always welcome! See you in April. **Maryika. 01462 851729** 

Cineaste's Corner by Dave Peters: Wages of Fear

This month we welcome a new section celebrating cinema and sharing views and experiences on films you might like to watch. Dave Peters has lived in Meppershall for some 27 years (like so many other villagers, he expected to stay for 3 or 4 years but then life got in the way!) “My father got me into films at a very young age” says Dave, “As he was a huge film fan, with an encyclopaedic knowledge of directors, actors, screenwriters etc. So I got the bug from him and have never looked back.” Dave’s viewing interests have expanded over the years and he has watched a lot of what we might call ‘foreign films.’ “So I am somewhat evangelical about letting people know there is more to film than just the The Marvel Cinematic Universe

“I particularly like Japanese and Korean cinema, and although I don’t have an all-time-favourite film, the French auteur Celene Sciamma’s absolute masterpiece ‘Portrait of a Lady on Fire’ hasn’t been out of my top 3 since it was released in 2019,” he said.

Welcome, Dave – and thank you for this new column.



The advertisement for 'The Conifers Canine Hotel' features a large background image of a rustic wooden building with a red-tiled roof. A person stands near the entrance, and a small dog is visible on the lawn. A circular logo at the top center contains a blue silhouette of a dog and the text 'THE CONIFERS CANINE HOTEL'. To the right, two inset images show a modern kitchen and a dog resting on a bed. A blue banner at the bottom contains the website, phone number, address, and a five-star rating.

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Wages of Fear

The film I'd like to open with is one I only recently rewatched, it's called "The Wages of Fear" (1953) and was directed by Henri-Georges Clouzot. The British Film Institute Blu-ray transfer I watched is just excellent and totally belies the age of the film. As this is a French production you won't be surprised to learn that most of the dialogue is in French, especially that between the four main characters. However, there are some scenes that are entirely in English, and some Spanish and German dialogue also makes an appearance. Thank the Lord for sub-titles for us monoglots.

This is the first film adaptation of Georges Arnaud's 1950 novel "Le Salaire de la Peur". The second adaptation is the William Friedkin directed "Sorcerer" (1977). Both are excellent nail-biting thrillers, but I think "Wages of Fear" is the best of the two, it's definitely the tensest. I remember watching this for the first-time on TV many years ago, and some of the scenes stayed vividly in my memory even though, until I watched it again, I couldn't remember which film they came from. For example, the tobacco blowing off an unrolled cigarette paper seconds before the sight and then sound of a massive explosion going off in the distance.

The story itself is set in an unnamed Central American country where a ramshackle group of lost and desperate fugitive men eke out a hand to mouth existence in a squalid township. None of them can ever hope to earn the \$1000 necessary to secure false papers and an air ticket to civilisation. The only employer is an American oil company that has little or no regard for the health and safety of its locally hired employees. One day one of the oil rigs suffers a catastrophic gas explosion. It is determined that the only way to extinguish the ensuing out-of-control conflagration is by means of a carefully orchestrated explosion that will snuff out the flames, just like blowing out a candle. To achieve this a large supply of nitro-glycerine is needed and this can only be delivered by driving it many miles up an unmaintained dirt road to the remote location. The company puts out a request for volunteers to undertake the trip and eventually selects four men to deliver the nitro in two trucks (one being sent as a backup just in case of 'accidents'). Each man is promised \$2000 when the job is completed.

Yves Montand plays Mario who has been trapped in this backwater for a very long time. His tedious existence is interrupted by the sudden arrival of Jo (Charles Vanel), an older man whose apparent toughness and machismo impresses Mario and causes him to ignore his usual roommate and companion Luigi (Folco Lulli). All put their names forward as candidates to undertake the mission and after a driving assessment Mario and another man are chosen to drive one truck, and Mario's ex-roommate Luigi and a Dutchman called Bimba (Peter van Eyck) the other. Jo is desperately disappointed not to have been chosen, but when the allotted departure time arrives Mario's co-driver is nowhere to be seen, but 'coincidentally' Jo just happens to turn up in time to replace him. The two trucks are loaded up with their dangerous cargo and depart in the dead of night 30 minutes apart for safety. Things then start to get very edge-of-the-seat indeed and continue that way right to the end, with several hazards and obstacles having to be overcome enroute to the site of the fire.

This is a film about desperation, courage, self-sacrifice, and companionship in the face of incredible risk. It's a tense, suspenseful, superbly made film that despite being 70 years old beats the majority of modern thrillers hands down. I think it's also a film that deserves a couple of minutes of quiet contemplation after it's ended, just so you can fully absorb what you just saw.



The Meppershall Players @ STMA



May 2023

The Players would like to say a big THANK YOU to the stall holders at the Table Top Sale On Saturday 22nd April at the STMA (Shefford Town Memorial Association) Hall, Shefford, and all the lovely people who came to browse in search of a bargain.....

.....And to our audience at our "One Night Only" Cabaret Show' in the evening.

The Players will be attending the STMA Summer Fete on Sunday 4th June, with a fun win prizes stall; we haven't quite decided on the format or prizes yet but we will have by the time we get to June ☺

The Players A.G.M will be held on Monday 5th June at 7.45pm at the STMA Hall, 10, Hitchin road, Shefford SG17 5JA. Non-members are most welcome, this is a great time to meet the Players and find out what we're about (mainly having fun)

We're still undecided on this year's Pantomime. We are thinking about Puss in Boots although there are a few more we are looking at. We have booked the dates for Saturday 2nd & 9th December with afternoon (3pm) and evening (7.30pm) performances. We've also frozen our admission prices, which will be the same as 2022 £10 & £5 Concessions (17yrs & under & 60yrs & over)

If you're over 18yrs and would like to be part of our Pantomime Phone Karen on the number below or come to one of our meetings on Monday evenings at the STMA 10, Hitchin Road, Shefford.

We're a friendly bunch who enjoy entertaining our audiences.

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



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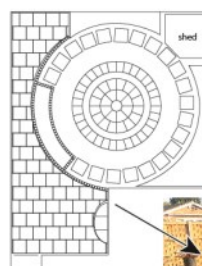
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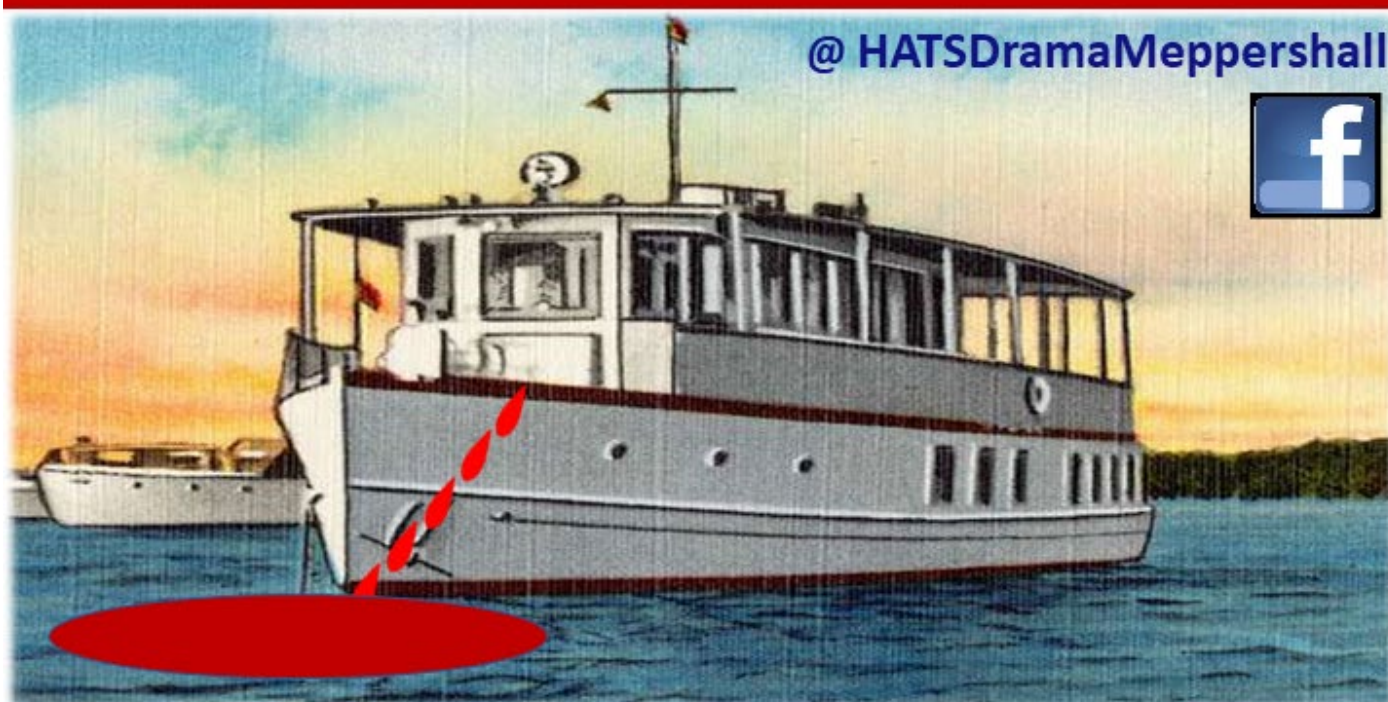


Christine Woodhead's

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A Murder Mystery Evening with Supper

@ HATSDramaMeppershall



Tickets: £16 Each or £90 Table of 6

including ploughman's supper from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hats-drama

book on-line or phone 0333 666 3366

[booking fees apply]



**Thu, Fri, Sat, 18, 19, 20th May 7.30pm
at Meppershall Village Hall SG17 5AB**



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

31

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AT MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE HALL.

HATS Drama Group presents the murder mystery
‘Murder Afloat’ by Christine Woodhead

at Meppershall Village Hall, Shefford SG17 5AB

18, 19, 20th May at 7.30pm.

Tickets £16, or £90 for Table of 6, includes supper.

From www.ticketsource.co.uk/hats-drama

Or phone 0333 666 3366 (booking fees apply).

Let's take you back to the 1920s. Onboard his luxury
yacht, Lord Malloran is entertaining his high-class
guests at a cocktail party for Lady Prudence's
birthday - but relationships are fraught by hidden
secrets and something ghastly is about to happen.

**You will have the chance to deduce who done the deed and
why, whilst enjoying a sumptuous ploughman's supper!**



HATSDramaMeppershall

Tel. 07941 987757

Enquiries: lin.winfield5@gmail.com

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MEPPERSHALL - WANDERBUS

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



New Timetable - Certain Days/ Routes/Times have changed

VALID FROM 5th March 2023

Please check to ensure we do not miss you!

| As from 5 th March 2023 | | “Stops at all Bus Stops on Request” | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| W2 BEDFORD | - 2nd & 3rd Wednesdays of Month | OUT | RETURN |
| Shefford Rd, all stops | | 09.00 | RR |
| High St. / Rectory Rd - all stops | | 09.02 | RR |
| Interchange Retail Park | | 09.40 | 12.15 |
| St Pauls Square / Corn Exchange | | 09.55 | 12.00 |
| W3S BIGGLESWADE | - Every Monday | OUT | RETURN |
| Rectory Rd / High Street, All Stops | | 09.37 / 09.38 | RR |
| Shefford Road, All Stops | | 09.40 | RR |
| Biggleswade – A1 Retail Park | | 10.05 | 12.10 |
| Station/ Town Centre - pick up Church St. Bus Stop o/s Asda | | 10.10 | 12.05 |
| 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 / Station & Town Centre | | 10.25 / 10.30 | |
| Church St bus stop 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 | 14.10 |
| W8A ST ALBANS | - 1st 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 | | 10.15 | 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 – 0300-123-3023

E: Thewanderbus@gmail.com

Buses available for PRIVATE HIRE – Call for Quote.



2023 EXCURSIONS – 4th THURSDAY OF MONTH!

Call **0300-123-3023** or e mail: thewanderbus@gmail.com for more info or to book your seat.

We do require a deposit of £10.00 p.p. for any excursion. If not cancelled with 7 days of excursion, the deposit may be withheld. A cheque to Wanderbus, 5 The Pastures, Upper Stondon, Beds SG16 6QB or a bank transfer to: CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code 40-52-40, Acc No. 00013118 Name: Wanderbus Ltd (Use your name in Reference)

| | DESTINATIONS | Venue Entry + Bus Fare Per Person |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25th May | Gotha Gardens, Ashwell, Nr Baldock | Entry £13.75 + £6.25 Bus Fare Pickup 13.15/13.30 D. 16.15 |
| <i>Private tour of these lovely gardens including tea and cake. (Afternoon trip)</i> | | |
| 22nd June | The Raptor Foundation, Woodhurst, Huntingdon | Entry £6.00 + £11.50 Bus Fare. Pickup 10.30/11.00 D. 15.30 |
| <i>The Raptor Foundation rescues, rehabilitates and returns injured birds of prey back to the wild. Your visit supports the very important work. If you love birds then there will be various owls, kites etc to view and also wonderful flying displays. Café on site.</i> | | |
| 27th July | Stowe House & Gardens, Stowe, Buckingham | Entry £24.00 + £11.00 Bus fare Pickup – 10.00/10.30 Arrive 11.30 Depart 15.30 |
| <i>Included in the £24.00 entry fee - House Tour Cost incl. Tea/Coffee & Biscuits. After House Tour we will drive to the Gardens entrance where there is a café for refreshments. National Trust members get free entry to the Gardens (Saving £13.00 – mention when booking)</i> | | |
| 24th August | Barnsdale Gardens, Exton, Rutland 1.16hrs | £12.50 entry + £17.50 Bus Fare Pickup 10.00/10.30 D. 15.45 |
| <i>Geoff Hamilton's gardens run by his son Nick. With 38 individual gardens in an eight-acre site, there's plenty to see and do. Café with good menu choices.</i> | | |
| 28th Sept | Audley End House & Gardens, nr Saffron Walden, Essex | £16.50 House & Gardens. Free to English Heritage £13.50 bus fare. Pickup 10.00/10.30 D. 15.00 |
| <i>One of the largest and most opulent Jacobean houses. Set in idyllic gardens (Capability Brown design) with a beautiful parterre and walled kitchen garden</i> | | |
| 26th Oct | Bletchley Park, Bletchley, MK | £19.50 Entry + £8.50 Bus Fare Pickup 11.00/11.30 D.16.00 |
| <i>Bletchley Park is an English county house and estate in Bletchley, Milton Keynes that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War. Guided tour available free of charge.</i> | | |
| 23rd Nov | Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market | TBA |
| | | |

Useful Contact Details In Meppershall

DEFIBRILLATORS – outside School, Village Hall and Budgens

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

Lower Stondon GP Practice

109 Station Rd Lower Stondon SG16 6JJ 01462 850305

Shefford Dental Practice, 34 High St Shefford 01462 814020

Shefford Dental Clinic, 99 Hitchin Rd Shefford 01462 648465

Lloyds Chemists, 7 High St Shefford 01462 813283

Shefford Pharmacy, Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive 01462 818633

Police:

Emergency 999, non-emergency 101

Hospitals

Bedford Hospital 01234 355122

Lister Hospital, Stevenage 01438 314333

Luton and Dunstable Hospital 01582 491166

Utilities

Gas Emergency 0800 111999

Anglian Water 03457 145145

Electrical (power cuts, overhead cable down etc) 0800 3163105

(Or 105 from a landline)

Central Beds Council

0300 300 8301

CBC Councillors:

Tony Brown anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Mark Liddiard mark.liddiard@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Parish Council Clerk

Alessandre Marabese clerk@meppershall-pc.gov.uk

Member of Parliament:

Nadine Dorries Nadine.Dorries.MP@parliament.uk

St Marys Church

Rev. Veronica Goodman, The Rectory, Church Road 01462 339962

See full details in the church pages of The Meppershall Messenger

Library: High St Shefford

0300 300 8067

Tuesday – Friday 9am – 6pm, Saturday 9am – 4pm, closed Monday & Sunday

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, Village Hall Car Park.

Schools

Meppershall Academy, High Street

01462 813293

Meppershall Pre-School Village Hall, Ella Carey-Butler

07816 357159

meppershallps@gmail.com

Robert Bloomfield, Shefford

01462 628800

Samuel Whitbread Academy, Clifton

01462 629900

Henlow Academy

01462 813733

Redborne Upper School, Ampthill

01525 404462

Organisations

Meppershall Players, Karen Mitchell

01462 816336

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

HATS Drama Group, Linda Winfield

lin.winfield5@gmail.com

Meppershall Village Hall Trustees

trustees@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

Meppershall Village Hall Bookings

bookings@meppershallvillagehall.co.uk

Bookings Tel.

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Editor | James Read | Email: mepp.messenger@gmail.com |
| Co-Editor | Vacancy | |
| Assistant Editor | Vacancy | |
| Advertising & Distribution | Andrew Pain | andrewgpain@hotmail.com 07875 580069 |
| Treasurer | John Thompson | meppershallmessenger@meppershall.org |

PRODUCTION DATES AND DEADLINES

The table below shows the dates for collation of the magazine. The collation team generally meet at 2.30pm in the Village Hall on the collation date. Printing takes place 7 days prior to collation. The deadline for submissions is 14 days prior to collation. Please look out for updates and alterations to usual plans when occasionally necessary. Can you spare some time to help produce the magazine? We would love to have you on the team! Use the contacts above to find out more.

| Issue date | Collation date | Issue date | Collation date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| June 2023 | 30 th May (Tues) | February 2024 | 29 th Jan 2024 |
| July 2023 | 26 th June | March 2024 | 26 th Feb 2024 |
| Aug-Sept 2023 | 31 st July | April 2024 | 1 st April 2024 |
| October 2023 | 25 th Sept | May 2024 | TBC |
| November 2023 | 30 th Oct | June 2024 | TBC |
| Dec-Jan 2023 | 27 th Nov | July 2024 | TBC |
| Contact John Thompson to confirm arrangements (contact information above). | | | |