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## Editorial by Mick Ridley and James Read

The summer has finally come to an end and the last month sees lots of change around us. Children are moving into new classes and schools and our young adults are flying the nest for the first time to start college or university, leaving behind parents with mixed emotions of pride and loss. Big adjustments all round.



We also see change in the landscape around us. The harvest is largely finished and as you can see from our front cover, showing Bury Farm land out towards Gravenhurst with the Chilterns and Pegsdon Hills in the background, huge modern machinery has been used to gather the crops that will feed us in the coming months. It is a reminder of the working, rural community that we find ourselves in.

Since we last went to press, the village has seen the Family, Fun, Food & Film! event take place. It was heartening to see so many turning out and engaging with local community groups and stallholders as well as enjoying the free entertainment in the Village Hall for our younger villagers, the Greatest Showman on the pop-up cinema screen and lastly RF2 in the evening. The Meppershall Messenger would like to extend its thanks to the Meppershall Events team for putting on such an inclusive day – we have printed a special pull-out section highlighting the day.

It is with great pleasure that we saw the Scarecrow Festival making its return this year at the end of September. We will be covering this in our next edition with photos from around the village. Meanwhile we wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who entered and to Dawn and Michelle for organising it all; well done 'Time for Tea at Rogers' (1<sup>st</sup> place), 'Avengershall' (2<sup>nd</sup>) and 'Walk the Plank' (3<sup>rd</sup>).

Whilst it might seem some way away, the whole of the UK will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day in May next year. The Meppershall Events team are currently planning how we can mark this momentous occasion and the Messenger would also like to contribute. We are looking for your stories about WWII – how the residents of our village through their friends and families were affected by the war. These stories don't need to just focus on the conflict itself but also how day to day lives were touched through evacuation, rationing or how families were affected by being left behind whilst others were away fighting. We also want to ensure this covers all perspectives; some in our community will know family who were fighting on the other side and may have been taken prisoner of war in the UK and then chosen to make their home here.

We will all have stories and we would love to hear them. Please send anything you might have to us at [mepp.messenger@gmail.com](mailto:mepp.messenger@gmail.com)



## Letters to the Editors

### Dear Editors

We would like to let you know about our son Cameron Maxwell who has just passed out of the Army Foundation College in Harrogate on Thursday 8th August 2019.

Whilst there he has gained Non-Vocational qualifications such as English, Maths and ICT and achieved a Duke of Edinburgh award as well as completing army training. His platoon also won the Mallon trophy which is named after a corporal who led a section of junior soldiers at the college who tragically died whilst serving with the army and is presented to the Platoon that has performed the best throughout the year. A fantastic achievement!

Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer KCB, DSO, MBE was the Inspecting Officer and we were treated to a parachute display which was very impressive!

Out of the 785 people who started the courses 634 were on the parade with 568 men and 66 women.

We are incredibly proud of what Cameron has achieved so far and the sky really is the limit with regards to his army career. He is off to complete the next stage of his training at Bovington, near Dorset where he will learn to drive armoured vehicles and progress on to join the Royal Lancers.

Many thanks

**Tony and Emma Maxwell**



### Dear Editors

The GNOMES would like to express their appreciation and thanks to all those who helped organise and run the Meppershall Fun Day. It was a long day for them, but they coped extremely well. Also, we would like to thank all those that supported us by coming to our stall and having a go at our Lucky 7 game.

**Denis Neilson (Secretary)**

**Dear Editors**

I would like to make you aware that Central Bedfordshire Council have recently launched an online bus pass application process allowing customers to apply for their bus pass through the Central Bedfordshire Council website. This is the culmination of many months of work to bring this online offering to the public. Residents of Central Bedfordshire can apply for age related and disabled passes through the online service – known as My Bus Pass, as well as get a replacement pass or request a renewal. If customers require assistance with their applications this can be accessed via email or telephone.

At the same time, the administration of bus pass applications has passed from our Customer Services Team to a dedicated team at Euclid Ltd who currently provide our bus pass card management and production. They carry out this bureau service for a number of local authorities and are experts in the field. Along with the online portal, we hope this will significantly streamline the bus pass application process for customers.

Customers can still continue to apply by post if they wish. The latest application form can be printed from the Central Bedfordshire website or a paper copy can be requested by telephone.

If you have an enquiry office or regularly deal with enquiries regarding bus passes, can I please ask that you refer customers to the online portal or email / telephone service, detailed below, for the fastest service. If you regularly give out bus pass forms for residents to complete, can I please ask that you ensure these are the most up-to-date forms available from the website? We do still get examples of the pre-2018 form submitted which unfortunately is no longer accurate, particularly for customers wishing to apply for a disabled persons bus pass.

The updated details for Central Bedfordshire Bus Pass Applications are as follows:

Online information, form downloads and application portal home page:

<https://bit.ly/2mulxor>

Email Assistance: [centralbeds@mybuspass.co.uk](mailto:centralbeds@mybuspass.co.uk)

Telephone Assistance: 0300 300 8308 (please press the appropriate button for bus pass enquiries)

Postal Applications: Central Bedfordshire Bus Pass Applications, PO Box 212, WATERLOOVILLE, PO7 6ZN

Kind regards,

**Nick Doolan - Principal Public Transport Officer**

**Central Bedfordshire Council** Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 1LF

**Dear Editors**

### **39th SHEFFORD CRAFT AND PRODUCE SHOW**

This was held at the end of August and the committee would like to thank all who helped to make it such a success including those who entered or visited during the afternoon, as well as those who supported us at the Show and throughout the year. There were over 400 entries and it was lovely to see some new faces among the people taking part.

Despite heavy rain the day before the Show, there was a good display of garden flowers among the excellent array of entries from children and adults demonstrating many other skills.

This year our Special Class for adults was a knitted or crocheted blanket for a premature baby. These were to be donated to Bedford Hospital and it was our pleasure to deliver 56 blankets with which they were delighted. The committee and the hospital would like to thank all who were kind enough to make them.

**Helen Allard**

**Dear Editors**

### **Thoughts (whilst) on Litter Picking; Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

7am: 'my' patch today, the designated Village Clear-up day, is the roadside from the Tesco/Esso roundabout up to the village sign. Early start to try and beat the traffic, equipped with hi-viz jacket, old bird seed bags and litter picker.

It's a lovely autumn morning. Misty, mellow and hedgerow fruitful. Farm harvest evidently complete from the stubble surfaces field-side.

Park at farm drive end and start by tidying the suitcase and furniture wood abandoned opposite, the day before. Bizarre and lazy dumping.

Work up the roadside hedge line facing traffic, focussing on the ground but maintaining awareness of approaching cars. Two more suitcases on this side of road 100 metres uphill, partially tucked under the hedge. Initial, wild imagination wonders what gruesome contents might be inside. I quickly establish that they are empty and make note to add them to existing pile for Council collection. Why are they there?

The usual assortment of paper wrappers, sandwich boxes, Red Bull cans, glass and plastic bottles etc. supplemented by the occasional oddity. Today it is the cleaning head of a vacuum cleaner. The regular Stella drinker persists in the throw aways. 'He' has been abandoning empties into the hedge for several years now.

I reckon that, in general, drivers have become less generous and sympathetic over the years I have been doing this. A few make an effort to slow down, and swing out: more at least slow down, and a few ignore (deliberately I assume) the fact that I am there at

all. The hedge becomes my refuge. One of these days I must clarify the rights of a pedestrian on a road that has no foot pavement. I would expect and hope them to be on an equal 'footing' (!) with vehicles.

My first bag fills quickly and I return to my car for a second one. Onwards again, still facing Meppershall. Why would you buy a bottle of coke and then throw it away  $\frac{3}{4}$  full? I have to empty it by hand (not always pleasant) to reduce the weight in my overflowing bag. Presumably, almost everything on the road verge has been 'excreted' by car owners! The field edge footpath bears its own collection, picked up the previous evening by another volunteer.

A second bag fills quickly too on the opposite side, and I am unable to accommodate anything from the last 100 metres back down to opposite the farm drive. This is the trickiest bit as far as safety is concerned, with a blind bend and hedge tight up against the road. Many car drivers seem to delight in accelerating away uphill from the Bypass roundabout, reaching 50 – 60 mph (my estimate) by the time they arrive at the blind spot. Would they be able to cope safely if they suddenly found an unexpected event in the road or verge beyond? I doubt it.

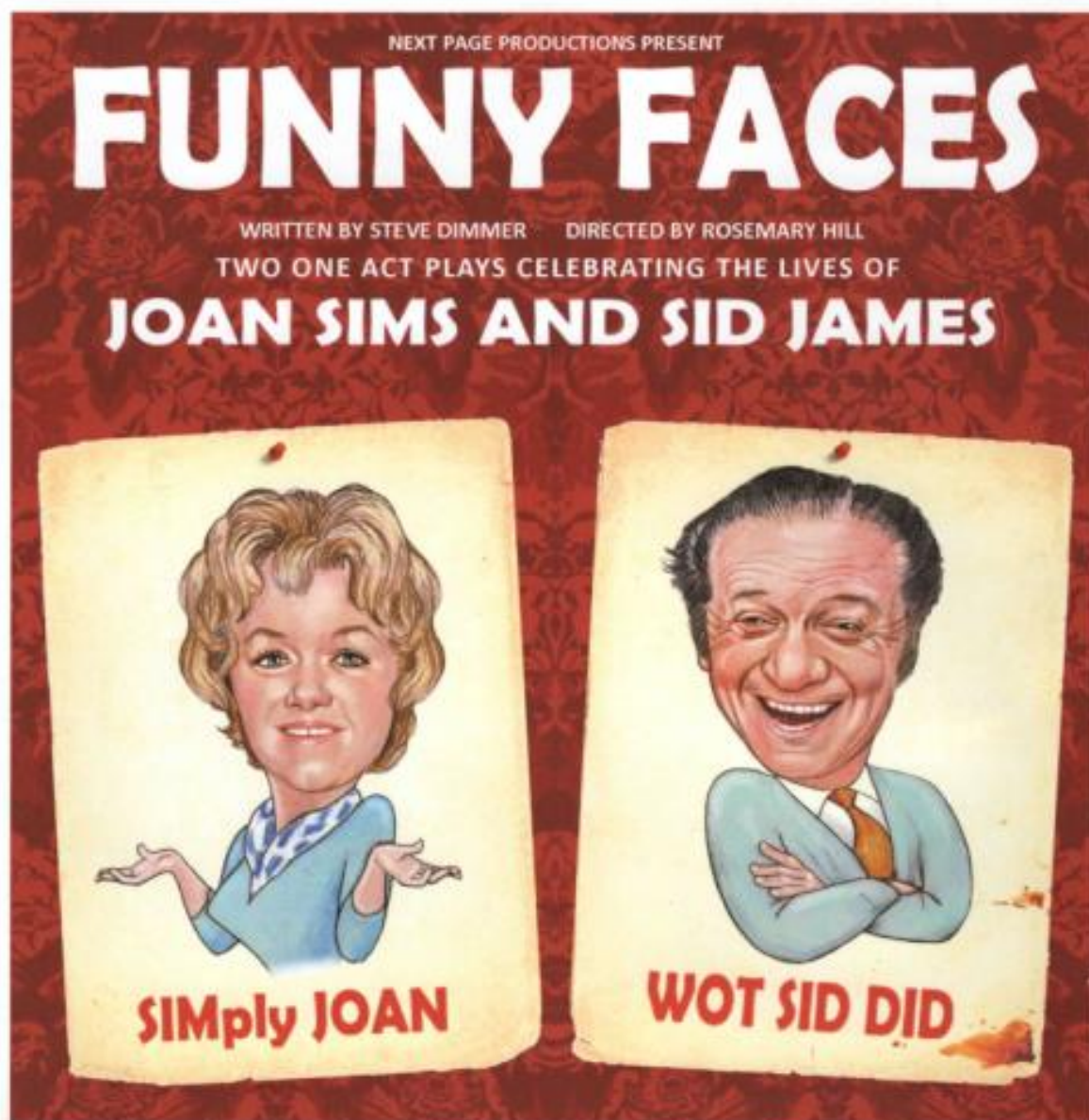
I often consider analysing the contents of my litter foraging, separating out into types and weighing it. That idea dissipates by the time I get home. Life is too short! I do try and rescue the aluminium cans into our own recycling bin however.

As I load up into the car, I notice a sheet of cardboard or plastic shining in the early morning sun on the stubble about 100 metres into the field opposite. I wander off to pick it up as my final act of litter picking. Not until I am right upon it do I realise that it is, in fact, a dense mat of cobwebs and spider tunnels, spun out over a square metre or so (a singular or community effort?). What industry and transient beauty displayed. There's a life lesson here, surely, about our lifestyle footprints and community effort alongside the fragile robustness of our world and our responsibilities as stewards of it.

Well done to all the litter pickers doing their bit, and to Alex, our Parish Clerk for organising today. Maybe it should be a quarterly rather than an annual event.

**Chris Foster**

Meppershall Village Hall Presents



A professional touring theatre production of  
Funny Faces

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 7:30 pm

Tickets £10.00 (no concessions) from

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/meppershall-village-hall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/meppershall-village-hall)



## English Farm Woodland Survey by the British Trust for Ornithology at Polehanger Farm by Andrew Foster

Between March and July this year, we participated in a national bird survey of young woodland. On behalf of the Forestry Commission and RSPB, the British Trust for Ornithology visited the Polehanger Farm River Woodland once a month early in the morning.

The survey was aimed at understanding how bird species have adapted to and made use of woodland that has been planted on English farms within the past 25 years.

The table and map below showcase the total of each species observed on these visits and the approximate locations of territories.

It is very satisfying to see such a wide range of species present in the woodland. Despite not being present during the surveys, we know that there are Buzzards, Owls a Sparrowhawk and a Red Kite in the area too.

This autumn will see work resume on the River Woodland with further path improvements, thinning of dead and selected trees to help improve overall woodland health and other minor works as part of an ongoing woodland management plan.

What have you seen on your walks? We'd love to hear about your experiences in the woodland and see any photos you'd like to share. Contact us at [woodland@polehanger.co.uk](mailto:woodland@polehanger.co.uk).

Species	Abbreviation	Estimated Territories	Total Count
Blackbird	B	4	18
Blackcap	BC	7	19
Blue Tit	BT	4	23
Chaffinch	CH	2	9
Chiffchaff	CC	3	11
Dunnock	D	1	1
Goldcrest	GC	1	1
Great Tit	GT	2	15
Greenfinch	GR	1	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	GS	1	1
Long Tailed Tit	LT	0	1
Magpie	MG	1	4
Robin	R	6	27
Song Thrush	ST	1	3
Whitethroat	WH	1	2
Woodpigeon	WP	0	8
Wren	WR	11	35
Jay	J	0	2
Carrion Crow	C	0	2
Garden Warbler	GW	1	1



This aerial photo shows the locations at which the different bird species were spotted – look at the table opposite to see the code for each species.

St Mary's Church, Meppershall  
Junior Church (ages 3 to 12)



Join us on  
**Sunday 6 October (11am)**  
at St Mary's Church



## Walnut Tree Café update

Firstly, we'd like to thank everyone who came to the Fun day at the Village Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> September and to the Meppershall events team for organising the day's entertainment. We were very busy in the social area and it was lovely to see so many of our regulars as well as many new faces who tried our hot drinks for the first time. Hope you all had a lovely day.

As we have mentioned in a previous article, Mondays are extremely quiet, and we have finally reached the difficult decision to close the café on a Monday from 21<sup>st</sup> October (the last Monday we will be open is the 14<sup>th</sup> October). As an alternative to regular opening hours, we plan to hold 'Specials' on occasional Mondays, such as Afternoon Teas. Any 'Specials' on a Monday will be on a pre-booked basis only, so look out in the Messenger for information regarding our first event.

A number of clubs meet on a regular basis where you will always find a warm welcome:-

- Craft club, Wednesdays, 10 - 12
- Seated exercise, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10 - 10:45
- Book club, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 10 onwards
- Gnomes Coffee morning, 2nd Thursday of the month, 10:30-11:30, everyone welcome
- Independent Travel Counsellor; Kevin Hankin, every Thursday from 11.30

If you have an interest you would like to share with others, please pop in and see us... maybe a Board games club, an old cars club...?

With all the clubs that run within the café there is no fee to attend, only that attendees purchase a drink from the café. Please don't forget the Gnomes can help you get to any of the clubs running in the café - just give them a call.

Walnut Tree Café is based in the Social area of the New Village Hall off Walnut Tree way. We are an independent local business using local suppliers for much of our food and drink. From 21<sup>st</sup> Oct our new opening times are Tues – Fri, 9:10am till 2:30pm (last orders at 2:00pm). We serve speciality teas, coffees, fresh cakes and light lunches (many items freshly cooked on site by us). Our aim is to provide a relaxing environment for local people to enjoy a coffee/tea or lunch with friends. Ideal if you have just moved into the village to meet new people. We also have free Wi-Fi so you

could always 'work from home' and enjoy a coffee. If you haven't already, pop in and see us, we will be very happy to welcome you.

Some of our reviews;

*"A great surprise, lovely new village hall and great café with lovely staff, thank you x."*

*"Lovely Gluten Free ploughman's with oat crackers rather than bread. Fresh salad, lovely cup of tea with tea leaves, not a tea bag in sight! Highly recommend."*

*"Cannot recommend Walnut Tree Café enough!! Always a friendly welcome with wonderful food as well. Well worth a visit 😊"*

*"Love, love this place, friendly staff, great food and brilliant atmosphere"*

*Friendly staff and good food. Good place to meet friends and family.*

*Lovely friendly atmosphere. The food is always delicious 😊*

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

Church Road, off Campton Road, Meppershall

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



**Rector: The Reverend Veronica Goodman**

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

**Churchwardens:**

Dawn Abbatt 01462 816962 Chris Valentine 01462 815971

Email: [Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com](mailto:Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com)

**PCC Secretary:**

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

### **Message from St Mary's**

This time again by Andrew...

Imagine you're in Tanzania Africa. Picture a man leaning over another man kneeling on the ground, and - this is strange - pouring pints of milk over the man's eyes. Pouring the milk wastefully, with a kind of tenderness and compassion, pouring slowly, lashings of it, a look of concern on his face.

I was the young boy who saw that scene in our garden in Tanzania. *"Daddy, why were you pouring milk on the gardener's face?"* My Dad explained that the gardener had been cutting the Frangipani hedge, and poisonous white sap from the thick leathery leaves had squirted into his eyes. Frangipani sap can cause rash, blistering, vomiting and diarrhoea, and milk was a kind of emergency first aid antidote. I was impressed.

Another memory was playing in the sandpit by the kindergarten (pre-school) wall and feeling pleased to have found little white eggs in the sand. The look of horror on the Mums' faces as they scrabbled to take us away, explaining they were snake eggs and mummy Spitting Cobra might be back for her babies!

Another time I was walking back on the coral reef in Dar-es-Salaam (I can't imagine you'd be allowed to do that now for environmental reasons) and noticed a large Clam. Fascinated, I reached out to feel the rivulets on its shell mantle and put my hand inside. Clams capture fish by snapping shut with their powerful muscles and locking closed. Thankfully my father noticed and shouted 'Stop!'. There have been cases of people drowning when the tide rises and they can't be freed from the clam's lock...

Another thing I call to mind about my father was his love of trees. Wherever we lived in Tanzania he would plant trees and tree seeds - even if it was just a pip from an orange or an avocado seed from a fruit he'd just eaten. This was unheard of - he was a kind of guerrilla gardener before it became fashionable for eco-warriors to throw Seed Bombs onto waste land and derelict sites in the hope that they will grow and bloom.

He would plant trees on road junctions (as you could back then) or wherever he thought a tree or two would be good. In Africa trees preserve the soil and provide shade and firewood. People teach school children and hold meetings under trees. I like to think my Dad did his bit for our planet and people.

Having shared these memories with you, here I come to my point. I belong to a Tanzanian Whatsapp group, and whereas we tend to post photos of family and friends and holidays, I notice their posts are mostly about development and self-improvement and health; school or college grants to be had, job vacancies, home remedies, bursaries to study abroad and inspirational bible quotes. They are so positive in the face of hard times, and so keen to develop.

My Dad planted seeds and trees - literally. I'm inviting you to plant a *different kind of seed*.

Remember I wrote last time about the Bishop's Harvest Appeal for Solar Power for a village in Singida region Tanzania? Well, now I'm asking you to please jump online and pick up your debit card and give.

Plant your 'seed' - invest in the development of people in a village the size of ours so they can grow and have a better life for their families and children too. You could even offset the carbon you used if you went on a holiday flight this way if you like.

Darkness falls between 6pm and 7pm in tropical Singida. That means the work or study day is over quickly, and people have to light dirty, polluting and unhealthy paraffin lamps which cause burns because they are not the safe hurricane lanterns we know of in this country. Solar power will enable children to study and read with electric light after dark, parents to charge their phones which they use for text message banking so their money can't be stolen, watch TV and breathe clean air in their home without fear of getting burns.

Please join me in supporting *Light up Tanzania*, the Bishop's Harvest Appeal? I left Africa before I grew old enough to see the harvest of trees my Dad planted. You too, may never know what harvest will result from your giving. Jesus taught that when we help someone in need, in some mysterious way that we don't fully understand, we are helping Him: "*whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*" (Matthew 25:40).

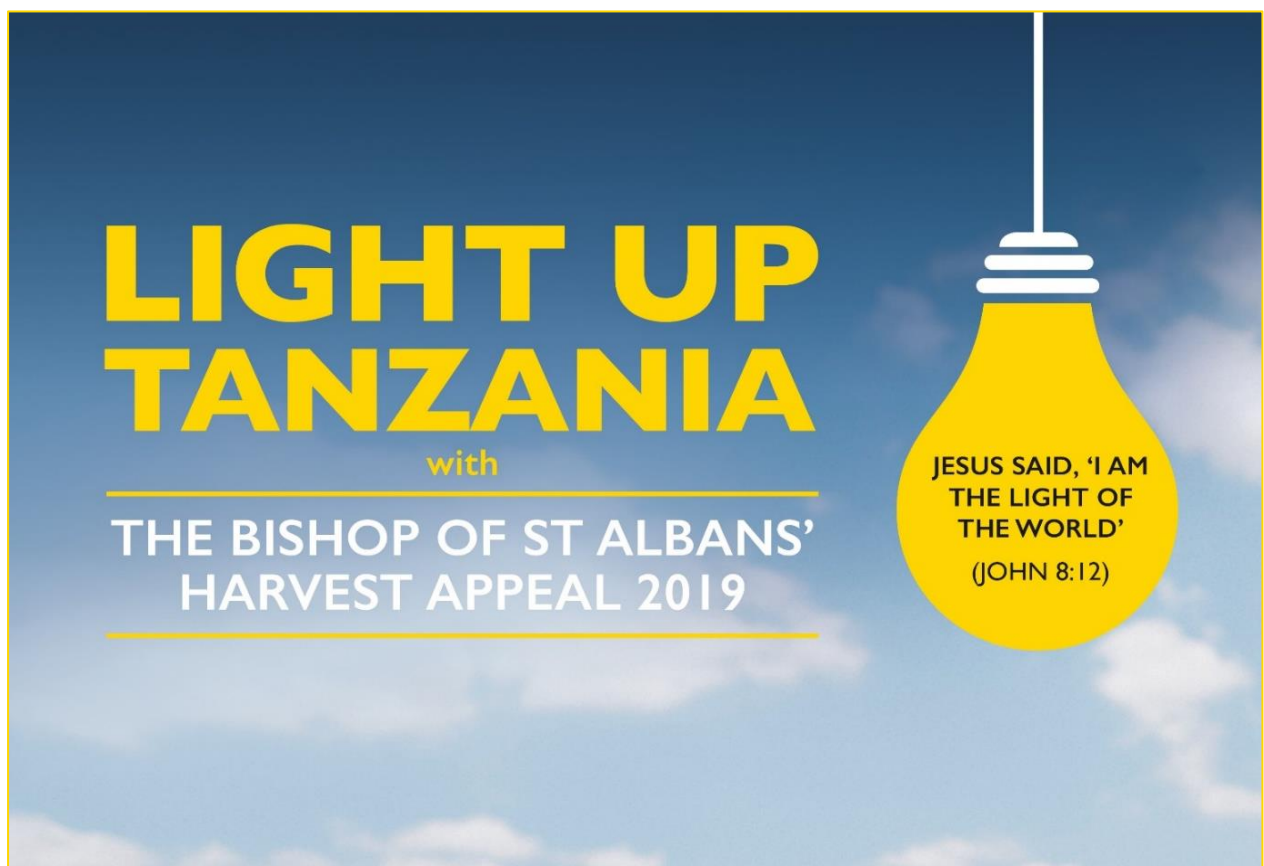
Donate at The Rectory or online - google Bishops Harvest Appeal St Albans or visit: [www.harvestappeal.org](http://www.harvestappeal.org) and scroll down to pay.

£75 will help a family buy a subsidised Solar panel installation, £700 will enable a school installation and teach the students to maintain it. And the whole project will give training and employment to a small team assembling, installing and maintaining the Solar.

Let's do it Meppershall!

**Thank you and God bless, Andrew and St Mary's Village Church.**

*Editors comment:* You can read Andrew's full article about his visit to Singida Province, Tanzania at: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-visit-by-AG-to-Tanzania.pdf>



## Church Services and Events – October 2019

*At St Mary's unless stated below*

Date	Time	Service / Event (Continued on next page...)
Weds 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October 16 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	11.00am	<b>Harvest</b> - Holy Communion, plus Junior Church with food afterwards – please come and enjoy.
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> October	2-4pm	<b>Rectory Tea</b> - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 9 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	9pm	<b>Silent Together</b> Enjoy the presence of God in the tranquillity of the church - 30 mins.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 17 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	8.30am 11.00am 2.15pm  4pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship – all welcome! <b>Second Sunday Stroll</b> – meet at the church gate for an autumn loop of Polehanger Woods via Crackle Hill and the River Hit. Around 3.7 miles in total – with an option to join at the Village Hall if you prefer (2.30pm). More info, tel. 857836. <b>Shefford Churches Together</b> Bible Sunday Service at Shefford Methodist Church
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> October	7.15pm for 7.30 start	<b>Bible Society:</b> The Birth of the Church: The Power of God. Matthew 28, Luke 24 and Acts 1. With Revd Christopher Strong, at St Michael's, Shefford.
Weds 16 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> October 18 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion <b>Pet Blessing Service</b> – All Welcome!
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	2-4pm	<b>Rectory Tea</b> - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> October	9.00am	<b>Celtic Morning Prayer</b> (breakfast from 8ish)
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> October 19 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	11.00am	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church.
Weds 30 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> November <b>All Saints</b>	11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church <b>Service of Special Memories</b> – remembering those we have lost

### Events to look out for in November:

- **Churchyard Clear-Up Volunteering Day** on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November – now a regular fixture in the year that helps us to be ready for Remembrance. Do come and help!
- **Remembrance Sunday**, 10<sup>th</sup> November – gathering from 10.45am for the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11.00am and continuing in church





## Meppershall Academy by Caroline Sledge

### Starting afresh

I am sure you, like me, remember the mixed emotions often present at the start of a new school year. Maybe you felt it was a chance to start afresh not just by putting on new school shoes – always a bit stiff and very shiny- but also by thinking about how to improve the way we live, learn and behave towards others. This is how we started afresh together, this year.

It was a real joy to see the children (so much taller all of a sudden!) returning so enthusiastically to school each morning, greeting me and their friends warmly. All the staff enjoyed reconnecting with them and hearing about their adventures over the summer. It was also lovely to hear positive news from the families of our Oaks class leavers who have started at middle school this term. We wish them continued happiness and success.

As well as our returning children, we were all delighted to welcome many new children and their families, not just in our Reception class but in other classes too. We now have 112 children in total, which is a significant increase on last year and the highest number for a while. We are amazed at how well all these new children have settled into school and so quickly. Everyone has been getting familiar with their new classrooms, teachers and expectations, relishing the opportunity to be stretched, with slightly more challenging learning tasks.

We have several new members of staff including Mrs Rogers our new Reception class teacher (pictured below eating lunch with some of the children on their first day in school), and a new member of our office staff, Mrs Dallas.

Many of the staff including our caretaker, Mr Cook, worked hard over the summer, cleaning and tidying the school, and preparing a fresh and welcoming learning environment for the children.

The hard work continued outside too, and I would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to the **GNOMES** (Meppershall's good neighbours) for their part in that. They kindly responded

to my article in **The Messenger** asking for help. As a result, an army of volunteers gave up their time very generously over the summer, tidying, weeding and also replanting the pots at the front of the school. The fruits of their labours definitely gave us all a bright, fresh start to the term. It looks wonderful, thank you. Let's hope we can continue to work together as a community for the benefit of all.





We have had a wonderful start back this term with our fresh 'In the moment' approach, and welcoming back some of our children and over 10 new families to our setting. During the summer term we added a fantastic large sand pit, and separate raised mud bed, both of which have been enjoyed immensely by our little explorers. The staff also spent a few days over the summer holidays sorting through all our resources and adding lots of exciting new resources, with a great attention to detail, and

where possible using more natural materials to enhance each child's exploration experience. If you have any good quality wicker baskets laying around you would be happy to donate, please pop them down to us. They would be much appreciated.

We would also like to welcome Daniel onboard who has a college placement with us, and has already become an invaluable member of the team.

September was particularly kind to us with plenty of warm weather to play outside. However, we will ensure we continue to enjoy all of our provision, even when the weather turns, by wrapping up warm and encouraging all children to bring their wellington boots in. They learn so much in each area of learning and are far happier if they can roam and investigate without us interrupting their play to bring them inside as soon as a few droplets fall from the sky. We always love a windy day too. Great for twirling ribbons, flying kites and watching bubbles blow away. If your little one is ready to start a new adventure, please book a visit to see what we have to offer.



**The highly qualified diverse friendly team at Meppershall Pre-school is dedicated to offering the best possible care to all our children by creating a safe and stimulating environment, encompassing all individual needs.**

**We are currently open every weekday from 9am till 3pm and welcome all children from in and around the surrounding areas (term time only).**

**We now have a few spaces available. Please ring Tamsin on 07816 357159, or email [meppershallps@gmail.com](mailto:meppershallps@gmail.com), to enrol your child or join our waiting list.**

**You can also visit our fantastic new website: [www.meppershallps.co.uk](http://www.meppershallps.co.uk) for more information.**

**OFSTED URN EY551988**

**Registered Charity: 1031913**

## Meppershall Social Club by Lisa Frost

DATE	EVENT DETAILS	TIME
21 Sept	Frankie's Guys – Live music  Tickets £15	8pm -close
1 Nov	Miss Jones Jazz Band	TBC
2 Nov	Shadowplay - Live indie-rock cover band - hits from the Kinks to the Killers and everything in between	8pm -close
3 Nov	Fireworks	TBC
16 Nov	Michael Jackson Tribute – Live music	8pm -close
21 Dec	Soul & Motown – Live Music	8pm -close
24 Dec	Xmas Eve Party/Disco – Details TBC	TBC
31 Dec	New Year's Eve Party/Disco – Details TBC	TBC

**Please see posters or ask at the bar for more details**

If you have recently moved into the village come and check out the Social Club, all are welcome. We are open 5pm - midnight weekdays; 12 noon - midnight weekends.

We hold a number of regular events: Bingo, Karaoke... Vinyl Nights... and Paul Carne's Sunday Evening Quizzes have also returned. See the notice boards in the Social Club or ask at the bar for details.

Next month we will bring you details of the Charity Quiz held on 14 September (just as this edition went to print). We hope that everyone had fun while we raised much needed funds to be split between our 2 charities: Sparks at St Mary's Church in Meppershall and Parkinson's UK.



## The Meppershall Players at S.T.M.A.



The Players would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who came along to our stall at the Meppershall Fun Day held at the Village Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> September. Well done to all those involved with organising the event which definitely had something for everyone, we had a great time.

“Cinderella” is now cast and rehearsals are under way. As usual we are having a lot of fun and laughs. I think it always bodes well for a script when the cast keep laughing when the lines are read out (I hope they can keep straight faces on the performances).

Performance dates are Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm & Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2pm at Shefford Town Memorial Association Hall (STMA) 10, Hitchin Road, Shefford SG17 5JA

Ticket prices: matinée £5 (no concessions); evening £10, concessions £8. Tickets are on sale from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October online from [ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers](https://ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers) (there is a small charge when booking online) or call 01462 816336.

As I write this, the Players are looking forward to seeing “The Importance of Being Earnest” performed by the Bancroft Players at the Queen Mother Theatre in Hitchin. The Bancroft Players have a junior group for 8-13yr olds, Big Spirit Youth for 14-21s, as well as the adult group. Google Bancroft Players or QMT for more information.

We now meet at 7.30pm on Monday evenings at the STMA and welcome any new members who want to join in the fun of any or all aspects of theatrical performances.

If you want to join our merry band of thespians whether it's on or off the stage contact Karen on the number below or pop in and see us on Monday evenings 7.30pm-10pm at The S.T.M.A Hall (Junior members usually finish at 9pm due to School the next day).

\*\*\*\*\*

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> & Sat 30<sup>th</sup> November Cinderella Panto 2019 at S.T.M.A Hall. Curtain up 7.30pm  
Sat 11<sup>th</sup> & Sat 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Cinderella Panto Venues TBC

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> & Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May V.E Musical Play

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> & Sat 15<sup>th</sup> August V.J Variety Show

You can find the Meppershall Players on Face book (Meppershall Players Community), Instagram and Twitter. The Players meet Monday evenings 7.30pm-10pm at Shefford Town Memorial Hall. Membership is currently free we welcome people to indulge in all areas of theatrical performances, set building, costumes, directing, acting, make-up, song & dance, etc. Interested? We look forward to meeting you

**Karen Mitchell (Players' Secretary) 01462 816336**





## **GNOMES (Meppershall Good Neighbour Group)**

Welcome back from your summer holidays. The GNOMES have been busy helping residents and tidying up the village school drive following an appeal in The Messenger by the school for some help. We also had a stall at the Meppershall Fun Day which, despite the cold wind, was well attended. We again cordially invite you to join us at our October Coffee Morning in the Walnut Tree Café in the Village Hall on Thursday 10th October at 10:30 for a social chat. We use it as an opportunity for our volunteers to meet up and get to know each other as well as to catch up on the gossip. If you would like to join us but have difficulty getting to the village hall, then do please call 07760 793921 and we will see what we can do.

### **Gnomes working outside their usual remit!**

In August a number of our volunteers gave up their time to work on the front entrance of The Meppershall Academy. This type of work is a little outside our remit, which is to help Meppershall residents in temporary need. However, we are pleased that we were able to contribute a little something to the community on this occasion.

The driveway was cleaned up and tough weeds and moss were removed from in between each of the existing small paving stones. In addition, we weeded the main border and all the pots and tubs.

Finally, we planted up each pot and tub with evergreen plants and some seasonal flowering Pansies.

The Gnomes did not only provide more than 40 hours of time but also provided many of the plants we used.

Thank you also to Growing Strong, Holwell & Morrisons of Shefford who contributed plants towards this community project.

### **CAN YOU HELP? MEPPERSHALL GOOD NEIGHBOUR GROUP IS LOOKING FOR A SECRETARY**

The Meppershall Good Neighbour Group, known as The GNOMES, is a volunteer group working for the benefit of Meppershall residents who, for whatever reason, cannot carry out tasks and activities that they would normally do. Operating for over 5 years, the GNOMES provide, where possible, help over the initial difficult period until something more stable or permanent can be arranged. Communication within the Group is predominantly by email or telephone.

For more information on the Group please visit

<https://www.meppershall.org/index.php/gnomes> and  
<https://www.facebook.com/meppershallgoodneighbour/>

To continue the excellent work of the Group's volunteers, we are actively seeking a Secretary to replace the current one who is retiring in May 2020. This voluntary role takes, on average, about 2 hours a week and involves the:

- a. Taking and publishing of the minutes of the AGM (typically an hour long) and those of 4 Committee Meetings a year (no more than 2 hours each).
- b. Maintenance of the register of Member volunteers
- c. Maintenance of the library of Volunteer Instructions
- d. Completion & Submission of quarterly returns of the Group's activities to Bedford Rural Communities Charity
- e. Compilation and distribution of visiting and phone holder's rotas (usually done twice a year)
- f. Provision of general administration services when required.

The person taking up the post will be over 18 years of age, have enough computer skills to use basic word processing, simple spreadsheets and e-mail for which a computer is provided. The successful person will have to undergo DBS clearance (no charge). This position would suit a practical and capable person who is able to devote, on average, 2 hours a week of their time.

If you are interested and would like to talk it over or need more information then please email, in the first instance: [gnomes.secretary@meppershall.org](mailto:gnomes.secretary@meppershall.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Can you Help? (Your village magazine needs you!)**

We are fortunate to have a very lively and successful village magazine at the present time.

But we need more help! Do you have spare time to help print, collate individual copies, make deliveries or contribute writing, marketing, photography or other skills...? We need all of that, and more! Email us at [mepp.messenger@gmail.com](mailto:mepp.messenger@gmail.com) or see our contact info at the back of this issue. We'd love to meet you! Get involved! It's fun!



**Present**

# Season's Greetings

**A comedy by  
ALAN AYCKBOURN**

**27 & 28 September  
4 & 5 October 2019**

**Curtain at 7.30pm**

**Meppershall Village Hall  
Walnut Tree Way  
SG17 5AB**

This production of "Season's Greetings" is presented by  
special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD  
a Concord Theatricals Company

## **TICKETS**

**£10 Adults £5 Children**

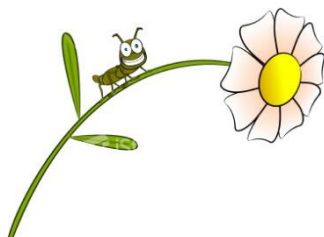
**Telephone the Box Office on  
01462 700785 or 07876 353677**

**or book online at [www.henlowtheatre.org.uk](http://www.henlowtheatre.org.uk)**

Follow us on  
Facebook:  
Henlow Theatre



## **Trugs & Trowels – Campton Gardening Club**



**On Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> October**

**We will be welcoming Ann-Marie O’Keeffe who will be giving us a talk on ‘Garden Design’**

The Winners from our August ‘Competition Evening’ meeting were: -

Best in show: Margaret Langley (Onions); Liz Tyler (Beetroot);

Kath Donachie (potato); Liz Tyler (Garden poetry).

A lot of fun was had by the Club members trying to remember all the missing words to the old poem written by a Northern lad from Cockermouth, William Wordsworth;

“I wandered lonely as a cloud.....”, followed by listing all flower/plant names relating to ladies and gents’ names.

A great night which is only possible with the participation of our fab members.

Watch out for our next competition 🌸 Non-members welcome.

**Monthly meetings start at 7.30pm – approx. 9.00pm finish**

**at Campton Village Hall**

**Everyone Welcome - Admission £3**

For more information, please contact... Maryika 01462 851729



## Iyengar Yoga

There are many different reasons people come to my Iyengar Yoga classes. Some want to ease their aches and pains, some seek to improve their posture and breathing, most want to relieve stress and calm their mind. All leave class having experienced an improvement in their well-being. As B.K.S. Iyengar writes in "Light On Life",

"Yoga brings gifts from your very first day. These benefits are experienced even by beginners who feel something beginning to happen at a deep level in their bodies, in their minds and even in their souls. Some describe the first gifts as a new feeling of lightness or calm or joy."

When I first started Yoga in 1975, I was in my final year at Edinburgh University and was nervous about my final Honours exams. My flatmate enthused about the Iyengar Yoga classes she was attending and so began my life-long interest in Yoga. Yes, my nerves calmed down but I also found my back injury (from a horse-riding accident) became less painful. I continued to study, practice and attend Iyengar Yoga classes, wherever I lived, including Japan. When I returned to the U.K. in 1993, I studied teaching at the Iyengar Yoga Institute in Maida Vale, London, qualifying in 1995. I still continue to study and teach!

B.K.S. Iyengar was introduced to the West in the 1950's, by his pupil, Yehudi Menuhin, the famous violinist. Iyengar's method evolved to bring his immense Yoga experience and wisdom to all. Adapting poses (Asanas) with the help of props, to prevent strain, alignment and extension in the poses and careful preparation for breathing (Pranayama) are key elements in his approach.

If you would like to attend a Yoga class you are most welcome to come and try for yourself. Beginners and general class are at Meppershall School Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30-9pm. The fee for 10 weeks is £75. If you attend your first class and feel it is not right for you then you just pay £8 for that one class (helps school funds!). I teach other classes both in the daytime and evening in other local venues where you can make up a missed class during our 10-week term. We start 10th September.

Sit+Stretch+Relax classes for the less mobile are held once a month -the second Tuesday- 10am-10.40, in the Walnut Tree Cafe, Meppershall Village Hall. As this is a class for the Community there is no charge but any donations will be given to Village Community Groups (as decided by those who attend the class.) Our next class is October 8th. then Nov.12th., Dec 10th. Jan 14th and so on. Hope to see you soon!

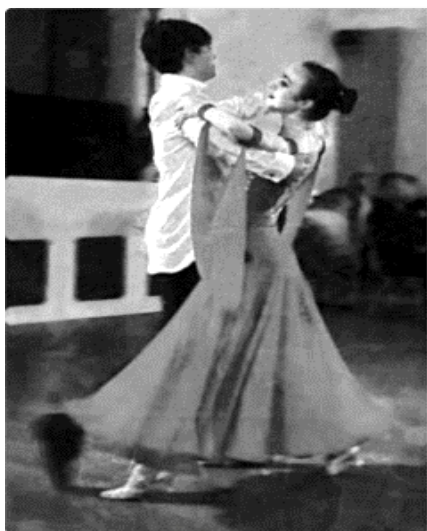
OM Thelma McNairn

Text: 07961906938

Email: [thelmayoga@aol.com](mailto:thelmayoga@aol.com)

## Meppershall Goes Strictly

As the new series of Strictly starts most of us will settle down to go on the journey with the celebrities and the professional dancers. Some of us might be inspired to dance just like Tarun.



Tarun has been taught by Rodney's Dance School for over 9 years. Rodney - a member of the NATD (National Association of Teachers of Dance) has recently started lessons in the Meppershall Village Hall on Saturdays.

Tarun has built up his skills through each medal grade and recently took his Gold Medal test in both Latin American and Ballroom, achieving a highly commended grade in both.

Tarun said 'Dancing is a lot of fun and you make some great friends'

He has trophies from top placement in many competitions, this year he competed at the NATD Medallist of the Year Grand Finals 2019 at the world-famous Tower Ballroom in Blackpool. The same floor all the Strictly contestants get excited about.

This year Kristina Rihanoff and Ian Waite (also NATD members) presented the trophies so you sometimes get to meet the Strictly professional dancers.

If you would like to give it a go and you are aged 8-16 years old come along to the dance classes at the Village Hall on Saturdays 12:00 - 12:30.

Rodney's Dance School also runs classes at other venues for other age groups so check them out on their website [www.rodneysdanceschool.com](http://www.rodneysdanceschool.com) or give them a call on 07773 688 314

Rodney said "I have been teaching dancing for 56 years and I love teaching dance as dancing has a magic all of its own."

Rodney has also said your first lesson is free if you take along this copy of The Meppershall Messenger!



## Shefford Leisure Group by Enid Pamment



Summer 2019 has now passed us by and I hope you have been able to get out and about during the light evenings, enjoy the new facilities available, now possible with our new Village Hall, go for a walk and call in for a welcome coffee on route home. I know the weather has been a little unreliable – especially knowing the sensible clothing to wear!!

A group of 30 picked up our pre-arranged coach from Shefford to drive us to Liverpool. Kevin our driver met us on time in Shefford. We finally arrived at our hotel in Altrincham which was situated a short ride away from the famous Trafford Centre. After an early breakfast, we were off to meet our Blue Badge Guide in Liverpool. Philip our Guide was excellent and very clear visiting Penny Lane, viewing the Cathedral, Liver Building and Albert Dock not forgetting of course the 'Fab Four' where we were able to take pictures. The rest of the day we split up and a few of us decided to explore the Albert Dock and the Harbour which was fascinating. The following day up bright and early again making our way to the Manchester Ship Canal to join our cruise for the 35-mile journey. The weather was mixed but we didn't get wet! So, we were able to listen to the very clear commentary for the whole time. Our last day was a visit to Port Sunlight where again we had a wonderful guide Steve, who took us around the village which was built the early part of the century to accommodate the workers from the nearby Lever Factory. It was on our itinerary to visit Chester but because of the heavy rain and flooding Kevin suggested a different route so we did not get in the rescuer's way dealing with the dam at Whaley Bridge when it collapsed at Toddbrook Reservoir. We felt so sad for those poor people having their homes flooded and ruined. Kevin drove us through the Peak District National Park which is beautiful.

Our visit to 'Vintage Essex' was a real surprise, we met our Blue Badge Guide Jan who after a welcome coffee took us to Thaxted and all around the rolling hills heading South to the little-known Essex Rodings. Suddenly appearing from nowhere we pulled up outside the Lodge Coaches Garage. We were ushered into the garage and amidst the vintage coaches, there were tables beautifully laid with table cloths and bone china crockery. We were soon munching our ploughman's lunch and afterwards one of the family gave us a most interesting history and then projected a film. 2020 will be their centenary and the garage has been in the family throughout the generations. After lunch we were able to wander around showing the 1949 and 1959 coach and they even took us out for two rides one in each coach! When we arrived back the tables were re-laid, this time for tea and cake!! Another surprise was Chitty Chitty Bang Bang was there so we were allowed to sit in the vehicle for picture shot. This really was a most interesting and fun day out!

Two other trips went well to Ridgmont for afternoon tea and ride in the park and also a visit to Hunstanton. Both went well and the weather was kind.

In early September we visited Stowe House and Gardens, with a tour of the house which is a private boarding school and the gardens owned by National Trust. We had a lovely sunny day and enjoyed our walk around the lakes and grounds mingling with families and walking their dogs. What a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

The darker evenings are closing in quite quickly and our minds turn to seasonal activities. Take care and watch out for slippery fallen leaves on the paths. We will see what next month brings!

Enid x

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2019**

**ELTHAM PALACE & THAMES RIVER CRUISE** – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – Leaving Shefford at 9am. *(this is an English Heritage Property entrance for members cheaper, so don't forget your English Heritage card)*. We will tour the house as invited guests of the 'Caurtaulds'. This house is full of quirky details. After the tour we are off to Greenwich where we can find a 'spot of lunch' before meeting our one-hour cruise taking us to the Thames Barrier taking us past the Docklands and the old Millennium Dome where you can see the vast new developments. You can purchase a 'cuppa' before we get back to Greenwich to re-board our coach for the homeward journey back to Shefford.

**CAMDEN MARKET** – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019, leaving Shefford at 8am. Come and see a bit of the true London! Camden Lock Market established in 1974 and Camden Stables Market. *(This event has been organised by Stevenage Travel Group)*

**BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL** – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November – A Wartime Music Hall, which includes a lunch. Brick Lane Music Hall is re-housed in Silvertown and has become synonymous with British music hall. *(This is an event organised by our colleagues Stevenage Group Travel)*.

**THE ELY CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS GIFT & FOOD FAIR** – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Now in its seventh year, this popular event is widely acknowledged in one of East Anglia's exceptional shopping experiences. Over 120 bespoke trade stalls are located in the Cathedral's magnificent nave, its famous Lady Chapel and a heated marquee in the beautiful Cathedral grounds. Coach will leave Shefford at 9.30am.

**THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR** – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November Leaving Shefford at 9am. Will return to Shefford by 9pm. Stopping on route at Elvedon for the outwood journey and a Fish & Chip restaurant on our way home. *(Sold Out)*

**CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR** – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November – London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. Arena Seats rows B.C.D & E – matinee performance including the 1812 overture. *(few tickets remaining)*

**COCKNEY CHRISTMAS MATINEE** – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Leaving Shefford at 9.30am for lunch at 12noon. Held on the Tereza-Joanne in London's Royal Docks (E16 2QY) which includes a Christmas lunch. The coach will leave for homeward bound by 4pm.

**JOHN RUTTER'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION – (Matinee)** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Royal Albert Hall - Leaving Shefford approx.11am.

### **LONDON SHOWS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

*(organised in conjunction with Stevenage Group Travel) – 2019*

*Kindly note: Shefford is not a regular pick-up point however arrangements may be made to transport you to either Baldock, Letchworth or Hitchin to collect the coach, this depends solely on how many people require Shefford as a pick up for any particular show.*

**THE BEAUTY OF TCHAIKOVSKY** – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 – A sensational new concert, featuring dancers from the Birmingham Royal Ballet at the Royal Albert Hall. Coach leaves Shefford at 4pm.

**BIG The Musical** – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Matinee performance. – Fun filled family spectacular, based on the smash hit movie with Tom Hanks. Dominion Theatre (nine weeks only).

**THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT** – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Hit songs from the most sensational shows. Join many of the West End stars for a dazzling evening of glitz and glamour. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at The Royal Albert Hall, Arena Seats row 16. Coach leaving Shefford at 4.15pm.

**JOHN RUTTER'S REQUIEM** AT St. Paul's Cathedral – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Seats North Transept rows N & P. Rear Nave rows G & H. Coach leaving Shefford at 4pm.

**WHITE CHRISTMAS** – Matinee performance – The musical by Irving Berlin – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 – Dominion Theatre – Stall Seats – Leaving Shefford at 10.30am.

**TINA TURNER THE MUSICAL** – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Evening performance. Opened in the Aldwych Theatre in 2018. (Tina is happy to share her full story) – Dress circle seats. Coach leaving Shefford at 4pm.

### **2020 \***

**PRETTY WOMAN, THE MUSICAL** – Now coming to the West End! - Piccadilly Theatre, London - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March (Matinee Performance) – Stall Seats. Coach leaving Shefford at 10.30am.

### **2020**

**CRUISE ON THE SEINE – Paris and Normandy.** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 for one week, with 'Go Cruise'. Further details available on request.



**CREEKS, COCKLES & COCKNEYS** – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – With a Blue Badge Guide where you can see the Thames Estuary.

**THE STRICTLY TEA DANCE** – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 held at the Tereza Joanne boat in the Royal Docks. Leaving Shefford at 9.30am.

### **SHOWS BOOKED FOR MILTON KEYNES THEATRE**

**THE RED SHOES** by Mathew Bourne – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Leaving Shefford at 1pm for 2.30pm performance. Back to Shefford by approximately 6pm

**THE KING & I** – Saturday 7<sup>TH</sup> March 2020 – Leaving Shefford at 1pm for 2.30pm performance. Back to Shefford by approximately 6pm.

**RIVERDANCE** – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Watch this thrilling energy & passion in the new 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show composed by Bill Whelan. Leaving Shefford at 1pm for 2.30pm performance. Back to Shefford by approximately 6pm.

**Kindly Note: Trips marked with a \* have been arranged by Stevenage Group Travel. If there are only a few people booking their trips, so save time on driver's hours their 'regular' pick-ups are Baldock, Letchworth, Hitchin and Stevenage as sometimes it is not viable for a coach to come to Shefford first and makes it difficult for driver's hours etc. We do hope you understand.**

For all holidays, including transport from Shefford and hotel accommodation, Shefford Leisure Group acts as an agent for the Tour Operator; their terms and conditions apply.

Shefford Leisure Group is open to everyone in the local community, who feel they would like to join us on our ventures and see places they would not see under their own steam. We are always happy to meet new friends.

Raffles are held and all the proceeds are for Keech Hospice Care for Children. For further information regarding dates, prices and availability or to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact me on 01462 851397 or e-mail [enid.pamment@gmail.com](mailto:enid.pamment@gmail.com).

Looking forward to meeting you,

Enid



Having moved to Meppershall with my wife and 2 children a few months ago I am so fortunate that I can bring my business with me. Being a Travel Counsellor is my dream job. After 20 years with a high street agent, 10 of those in management, it was in 2007 I got back to basics and set about building my own business around arranging holidays. Travel is a passion, and helping customers shape their travel dreams is so rewarding.

Building a business from scratch can be challenging, and in order to be successful, it is essential to get your priorities right, from the outset. For me – it has been simple. The customer always comes first. I love to take the time to get to know people, many of whom come to me as referrals from those I already arrange travel for. Investing time in understanding how different people like different things allows me to tailor my service and the types of holiday I offer around each individual. A concierge mentality means that I try to find a way to enhance every single trip in some special way.

Reaching Gold Travel Counsellor status in under 3 years of starting up my business, and achieving continued growth ever since, are things I am immensely proud of... and they make me feel very fortunate. Fortunate, because they show that operating the way that comes naturally to me is working for my customers and my business alike. I take nothing for granted. I work hard every single day and aim to deliver an equal mix of attention to detail, intuitive customer service, and expertise in all things travel. I measure success in repeat custom and referrals. If I get things right, you will come back for more, and most importantly, you will tell your friends and family about me too. I love being creative and finding ways to exceed your expectations when arranging travel. Thinking outside the box and creating unique and unforgettable life memories is what I strive for at every opportunity.

Whatever your enquiry, I'd be delighted to hear from you to see if I can help you get as much out of travel as I have done.

Oh, and I do have a life outside travel! I am Assistant District Commissioner (Activities) with Hitchin Scouts. My role involves me in the many aspects of scouting from arranging activities for the young people (climbing, archery, sailing) to a weekend camp for over 600 young people and adults. It keeps you busy!



T 01462 888430

M 07795 244125

E [kevin.hankin@travelcounsellors.com](mailto:kevin.hankin@travelcounsellors.com)

W <http://www.travelcounsellors.com/kevin.hankin>

Or come and meet me at Walnut Tree Café between 11am and 1pm on Thursdays from 5 September.



**Why not join our new W5 route through to:**

**A1 RETAIL PARK – BIGGLESWADE**

**Nearly two hours to roam through all the shops!**

**(Also stopping at Asda Superstore, Biggleswade)**

**2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> Friday afternoon of each Month.**

Meppershall, New Village Hall	13.38	RR
Meppershall, High St. adj Crackle Hill Rd	13.39	RR
Meppershall, Shefford Rd, All Stops	13.40	RR
Shefford, Ivel Rd, o/s Fire Station	13.42	RR
Shefford, Clifton Rd, opp The Steamer PH	13.44	RR
Shefford, Southfields House	13.45	RR
Clifton, Shefford Rd, opp Post Office	13.48	RR
Clifton, Clifton Park	13.50	RR
Henlow, Clifton Rd, opp The Crown PH	13.55	RR
Henlow, High St, adj Five Bells PH	13.57	RR
Henlow, Langford Rd, adj Newtown	13.58	RR
Langford, o/s Riverside Gardens	14.00	RR
Langford, Station Rd, adj Flexmore Way	14.01	RR
Langford, Church St, All Stops	14.03	RR
Langford, Langford Rd, All Stops	14.04	RR
<b>Biggleswade, Asda Superstore</b>	<b>14.11</b>	<b>16.05</b>
<b>Biggleswade, London Rd, All Stops</b>	<b>14.13</b>	<b>16.02</b>
<b>Biggleswade, A1 London Road Retail Park</b>	<b>14.16</b>	<b>16.00</b>

**Service open to all passengers. Cash fares & travel passes accepted.**

**Timetable Info, Tel: 0300-123-3023**

E: [thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:thewanderbus@gmail.com)

[www.wanderbus.org.uk](http://www.wanderbus.org.uk)



## CHRISTMAS FAIR 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER



Our **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November** Excursion will be to:

**Christmas Fair at Burghley House, Stamford.**

Pick Ups: **09.30/10.00**

Arrival at Burghley: **11.00/11.30**

Return Departure: **15.30**

Bus Tickets will be: **£15.00 per person.**

There is no entry fee to the Fair. The Orangery Restaurant will be open but no reservations will be taken so you may have to queue.

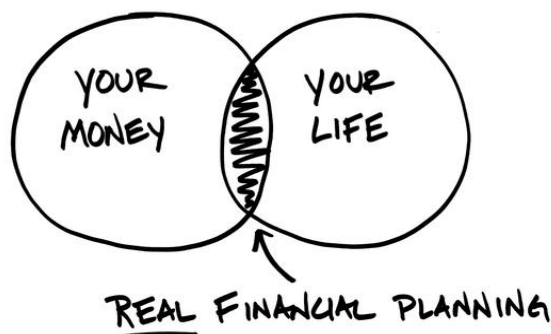
***We require bookings and deposit by 30<sup>th</sup> October.***

We will require a deposit of £5.00 p.p. - *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 you name in Reference).*

*Please note that we require a minimum of 10 bookings or we may not be able to operate the excursion in which case deposits will be refundable.*

## Financial Matters by Paul Savuto

### The benefits of REAL financial planning



For many firms, financial advice is about selling products to meet specific needs. Have a new child? Here's some life insurance. Coming up to retirement? Buy an annuity.

At DGS, we adopt a very different approach that we call 'REAL financial planning'. But what is it, and what does it mean for you?

#### Understanding real financial planning

There's a subtle but important difference between financial advice and financial planning. As financial planners, we focus not on your money, but on your lives.

Real financial planning doesn't simply involve finding products to suit a need. Instead, it answers questions such as:

- What are your dreams and aspirations for the future?
- What do you want for yourselves and your family?
- How much will you need to meet these goals?

Our ethos is that until we know about you, your life and your aims for the future, we don't have the right to talk to you about your money or what to do with it.

#### Getting to know you

When we meet you, our first step is to get to know you. And, we mean *really* get to know you! We want to find out things like:

- Where you are in your life
- How you got to where you are
- Where you want to get to in the future
- What sort of lifestyle you enjoy now, and what you want to enjoy in the future
- Your hopes and aspirations for your family



Only by finding out answers to these questions can we understand both your circumstances and your goals, and work with you to achieve your life ambitions. You'll also benefit from the confidence that you can withstand whatever the future throws at you.

### **Creating a lifetime financial plan**

Once we get to know you, we use a range of tools including tax, contingency and cash flow planning to build and maintain a financial plan that will last you a lifetime.

For example, we can stress test your situation and model a range of 'what if?' scenarios to test the impact of certain events on your plans.

Analytical work such as cash flow modelling considers the gaps between your goals and the financial reality of achieving them. And, if we find gaps, we can model different possible scenarios to help you understand how we can bridge them. This may include:

- Saving more
- Spending less
- Retiring later
- Downsizing the house
- Leaving less to your family

On the flip side, modelling a range of scenarios may mean that you gift more, retire earlier or spend more than you expected!

We can then make recommendations to restructure your affairs, and this advice can cover a wide range of areas from investments and tax to wills and contingency planning.

### **A regular review**

Over time, your circumstances will change. There will be births and deaths, career changes and other unexpected events. So, it's vital that we regularly monitor your plan in order to keep it up to date.

While you may not think that much can change in a six or twelve-month period, we're always reviewing and analysing a wide range of issues that may affect your plan.

Of course, there are sometimes significant events that prompt a review. Marriage, children or a career change in your life can change things. A fall in the markets in our world can also mean we need to update your plan.

Understanding the issues that you face, finding the right solution, and having the confidence to execute it under pressure is where real financial planners come into their own. Our role as a sounding board to avoid knee-jerk reactions and short-term decisions is also one way that we add value.

DGS are Independent and Chartered Financial Advisers. I am also a Chartered Financial Planner with over 20 years financial services experience, so you are in safe hands. For a free review of your financial situation and to discuss your plan, please contact me, Paul Savuto, AFPS, Chartered Financial Planner. DGS Independent Financial Advisers Ltd.

07834 499 595 or email [ps@dgsifa.com](mailto:ps@dgsifa.com), I'll be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you have. FCA 225814.

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### **Birthday Greetings**

The Messenger Team send birthday best wishes to:

Betty Mather - 91

Sylvia Mumford - 95

Dora Surridge - 91

### **In Memoriam**

R.I.P. June Strobel passed away on 27 June, aged 92. Her funeral was held on the 29th August. We send our condolences to June's family

## Clophill Friends of the Leonard Cheshire DisAbility Home at Ampthill – Grand Jumble Sale

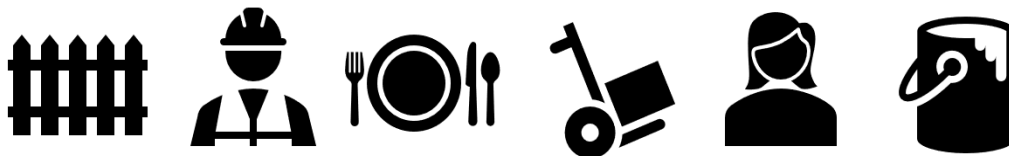
We will be holding our next Grand Jumble Sale on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019, at Clophill Village Hall.

The doors will be opened at 7.00pm. Entry will be charged at 40p per adult, accompanied children are free. Refreshments available. All profits are donated for the direct benefit of the residents at the Leonard Cheshire DisABILITY Home in Ampthill. If you have any good quality jumble for us or would like to help at the event please call 01525 861110.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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### Let's Hear It For The Advertisers!



When it comes to looking for good local services, tradespeople and businesses – look first in The Meppershall Messenger. We are proud to carry advertising from a range of local contacts supplying a wide variety of goods and services in our area and **who are often part of the community**. Why not try them out? ***Take a moment NOW to look through the useful ads in the centre section and also in the colour section.***



**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

**Mid Beds Cancer Support Group  
MEPPERSHALL & ALL surrounding areas**

Informal cancer group for patients, families, friends, carers who wish to meet others for support & information.

Come along to our meetings on **Saturdays 5 October 2019; 2 November 2019, 11am-1pm, Village Hall, Walnut Tree Way, Meppershall, SG17 5AB**

We'd love to talk to you!

Daksha & Phil Trivedi,

Email: [daksha.trivedi@btconnect.com](mailto:daksha.trivedi@btconnect.com)

Tel: 01462 813943; M: 07961 377526

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



We have had a busy summer maintaining and improving The Eco Lodge site and welcomed some new volunteers to CHT – we are especially thrilled with the new giant bug hotel that doubles as a wall that has been installed. We hope this will provide homes for many different species of insects as well as looking amazing! It has been built completely from recycled and reclaimed natural materials and features pallets, tiles, cut logs, rubble and cut branches to ensure many different environments are offered for different species.

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a Gold Award from Green Tourism for our Eco Lodge accommodation – Green Tourism are the leader in green grading for accommodation providers and have rated over 2000 eco-friendly venue providers in the UK and abroad. For more information about their ethos and to search for your next eco-friendly holiday see [www.green-tourism.com](http://www.green-tourism.com)

October is here and with it comes The Pumpkin Festival! A fantastic family event where you can carve a pre-hollowed pumpkin (no messy scooping), take part in a range of fun activities and also enjoy the BBQ, Bar, Live Music and more! Reserve your locally grown pumpkin online to avoid disappointment.

If you would like to take part in any event or volunteer to be a helper please contact either Emily or Louise on 07935 911207, for a full list see [www.clophillecolodges.co.uk/events](http://www.clophillecolodges.co.uk/events)

Next Events: For a full list of events and to book please see [www.clophillecolodges.co.uk/events](http://www.clophillecolodges.co.uk/events) or call us on 07935 911207.

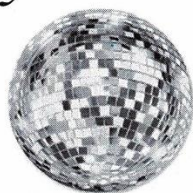
<b>26</b>	<small>Sat Oct</small>	<i>Pumpkin Festival</i>
<b>27</b>	<small>Sun Oct</small>	<i>Sunday Teas &amp; Halloween Crafts</i>
<b>03</b>	<small>Sun Nov</small>	<i>Backyard BBQ</i>
<b>08</b>	<small>Fri Nov</small>	<i>Pamper Evening</i>
<b>10</b>	<small>Sun Nov</small>	<i>Remembrance Cafe</i>
<b>30</b>	<small>Sat Nov</small>	<i>Wreath Making Workshop</i>



**Summerfield Miniature Railway**  
**Bedford Model Engineering Society**  
**Off the A600 just past Haynes Turn**  
**Public Running Days in 2019 from 10.30 AM to 4 PM**

<b>MARCH</b>	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>AUGUST</b>	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> *
<b>APRIL</b>	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> (half term) *		Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> *
	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>		Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>
	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> (Bank Holiday)
	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>		<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
<b>MAY</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> (Bank Holiday)	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	
	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>OCTOBER</b>	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>
	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> (Bank Holiday)		Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> (half term) *
	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> (half term) *		Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>JUNE</b>	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>SANTA SPECIALS</b>
	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>		<b>PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL:</b>
<b>JULY</b>	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>		<b>NB</b>  Booking for Santa Specials opens on Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> and places sell out very quickly  For further information on any event, see our website: <a href="http://www.bedfordmes.co.uk">www.bedfordmes.co.uk</a>
	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>		
	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> *		
	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> *		
* On our Wednesday openings, only limited catering will be available.			

*R<sub>DS</sub>*  
**Rodneys Dance School**



*New Dance Classes  
 For Children!*

*At Meppershall Village hall*

*Ballroom and Latin*

*Classes for children from age 8 to 16, taught in a fun, modern and  
 relaxed style.*

*07773688314/01462686131*

*Rodneysdanceschool.com*

*Or catch us on Facebook*

## The Team and Collation Dates

### CONTRIBUTIONS

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

### DISCLAIMER

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

### THE TEAM

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Collating Dates 2019 - 2020			
November	October 28th	March 2020	February 24th
December	December 2nd	April 2020	March 30th
February 2020	January 27th	May 2020	April 27th

***Please note that dates in the above table show when collating will take place, at 2.45pm in the Sugar Loaf, for the corresponding month, displayed to the left. The issue being collated usually relates to the following month. Collation in January, February and March is subject to change owing to the works that will be taking place at the Sugar Loaf. Watch this space!***



The Meppershall Events Committee would like to thank all those that turned out and supported the Outdoor Movie and Family Fun Day on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Below are a few photos that we hope have captured a flavour of the day.













