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Editorial by Mick Ridley and James Read

Government at the national level and more locally can often seem to be in turmoil. As a country, what some of us may want is very different to what some of the rest of us may want. Brexit has brought us a Super Saturday but things are far from clear and our relationship with Europe will continue to dominate the news for years to come.



The future of Central Bedfordshire can sometimes seem to be equally uncertain. Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has been working on its Local Plan and it was reviewed by national planning inspectors in recent months. The plan is important because it is the proof that CBC is fulfilling its obligations to allow for new housing. It was the absence of an approved CBC plan that turned the decision on the Gladman development in Meppershall (140 unexpected houses backing on to Nuns Wood).

The national planning inspector's letter dated 30 September casts doubt over the acceptability of the CBC plan as drafted. It is critical of a proposed area of development north of Luton, which would encroach on the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and on the Green Belt at Sundon. It is critical of the proposed building on Green Belt at Harlington and other villages. It is critical of the proposed 5,000 homes at Marston Vale stating that "its appearance would be harmful to one of the defining landscape characteristics of the area" – namely the Greensand Ridge. It suggests that the proposed amount of growth in Arlesey is too much. But it also suggests that the redevelopment of RAF Henlow is drawn into a fresh consultation with the local community, implying that more new build in that location should be added to the CBC Local Plan. This would bring a new threat of very large-scale development on Meppershall's doorstep. It makes our continued village identity all the more crucial.

In this time of uncertainty and worries about the future, it is nice to take a step back and enjoy the certainties of our village life. This issue of *The Meppershall Messenger* includes a celebration-in-photos of September's beautiful Scarecrow Festival. The winner, Roger's Bakery, is shown on the cover and all the colour of the many entries is displayed in a special pull-out supplement. What a great Meppershall moment.

November is of course the month when We Will Remember Them and many will come to St Mary's churchyard, to the war memorial, for the Act of Remembrance at 10.45am on Sunday 10th November. These moments in the village year bring us together as one. Current uncertainties are small when we humbly compare them with the commitment and sacrifice of past and current servicemen and women. All are welcome.

And one last piece of certainty is Santa's Float, all ready to tour the village in the run-up to Christmas on December 15th (Shefford end) and 16th (High Street end). Make a note in your calendar to be home and give him a warm welcome. There are some things you can always rely on.

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

A Macmillan Coffee Morning was held in the Village Hall on Friday September 27th. Thank you so much everyone for your support and generosity. We raised £611 for Macmillan. A fantastic achievement.

Thank you to Jean Holden for organising the raffle, to Elsie, her daughter and to Viv and Karen for their help with several guessing games. Also, thanks to those who popped a delicious cake on the table and to those who helped serve them.

It was an enjoyable morning filled with chatter, smiles and laughter the proceeds of which will help others to enjoy the same.

Marcia's Homemade Cakes

Dear Editors

Thanks to a lot of support from friends and family, 'Team Meppershall' raised £1,450 in the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust Bike and Hike event in September. Huge thanks to Trevor Wilkinson as always, to Pete Clark for his 175KM epic ride and to Miriam and everyone who helped with refreshments for visitors to Meppershall at church. We hope to have an even bigger team next year.

Team Meppershall – Pete, Becky & Denise, David, Dan, Jim, Graham, Trevor & James

We want to say a big thank you for another great contribution to the *Meppershall Messenger* from Ian Hampton. His great idea for a 'Name That Church' competition appears in this issue on pages 10 and 11.

The competition uses his photographs of some beautiful ancient church buildings in our region. Why not look at them in colour in our online edition at: <http://bit.ly/MessengerIssues>

He has even donated the prize (see right) and we hope there will be plenty of entries from which he can draw a winner! Take a look and submit your entries – we will confirm the winner in our next issue.

The Editors



Garden Waste Collections – Important Dates

Central Bedfordshire Council has confirmed that the usual winter suspension of garden waste collection will run as follows:

- Last collection: Friday 6th December
- First collection of spring: Monday 2nd March

For other bin collections, Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on our regular collection day of Wednesday and Central Beds says the revised collection days will be:

- Tuesday 24th December (instead of Wednesday 25th)
- Thursday 2nd January (instead of Wednesday 1st January)

Central Bedfordshire Council Launches New Community Grants

CBC is now advertising for ideas and proposals that could benefit from its new £700k investment in new grant schemes in our region. The aim is to help local groups meet the needs of their communities.

Applications for the Ward Councillor Grant Scheme can be initially discussed via our councillors – and applications can be made online via bit.ly/CBCWardGrant:

Mark.Liddiard@CentralBedfordshire.gov.uk

Anthony.Brown@CentralBedfordshire.gov.uk

The idea is to explore how relatively small amounts of grant funding could make a big difference to local groups across cultural, environmental, sporting or social projects. Groups need to raise some money independently – and if they are successful when they apply to CBC, the grant will match what they have raised.

Each Central Bedfordshire Councillor has access to £2,000 – the number of grants issued is up to them and councillors can combine their funds if needed.

A second scheme launching soon – the Community Assets Grant Scheme – allows groups to apply for up to £25k for capital projects such as building work or more expensive items such as defibrillators or lights.

Across these schemes, the focus is on community benefit and our councillors are keen to hear your ideas. Perhaps there is something you know the community needs, something that needs a bit of funding to get it going? This scheme could be for you. Find out more from the councillors or online at <http://bit.ly/CentralBedsGrant>.

Our New Printer Has Arrived!

It only seems like yesterday that our last printer (Olivetti d-COLOR-MF364) arrived for printing the Meppershall Messenger magazine. In fact, that was 2016, but here we are - three years later and nearly 1 million copies produced - on Friday 11th October 2019, the latest **Develop Inco⁺ 458** (the latest Konica / Olivetti branded) printer arrived, again courtesy of MIRUS Managed Print Limited (formerly 2r Systems Limited).

Our brand-new printer is a faster upgrade based on the old one, more economic to run and has all the features of our old machine, so we can continue to support the various groups and villagers who require small, produced at cost, print jobs done here in the village. (If you do require a small printing job done, then please contact the Treasurer – contact details at the back of your Meppershall Messenger magazine.)

Richard and Jim from MIRUS Managed Print removed our old printer and installed the new one, setting it all up ready to go for next month's Meppershall Messenger print run, in double quick time.



<https://www.mirus-it.co.uk/solutions/managed-print>

MIRUS Managed Print reduces costs, enables security and removes the problems of old printers and copiers. MIRUS Managed Print was born when MIRUS Group acquired 2r Systems in 2017, bringing 30 years of industry knowledge and expertise to the company, now part of IT Labs.



MIRUS and formerly, 2r Systems have been associated with the Meppershall Messenger for over 25 years and have supplied our last three brand new printers. They provide print and photocopy solutions that are cost-effective and multi-functional, to businesses, organisations and individuals throughout the UK, from market leaders such as Olivetti, Develop, Konica Minolta and Ricoh. They guarantee the best printing products, for the lowest prices, tailored to suit business,

organisational, or individual office requirements, with skilled service-focused technicians on-hand to provide support.

The Meppershall Messenger (Magazine Committee) are long-standing customers of MIRUS Managed Print, (Formerly 2r Systems Limited) and would like to say a very big thank you to both Richard and Jim for making the installation of the new printer so straight-forward. A special thanks to Richard Finch (Former Managing Director of 2r Systems Limited and now Director of Print Services for MIRUS Managed Print) for providing the Meppershall Messenger (Magazine Committee) with another excellent value deal on the maintenance and support for our printer for the next three years. (and yes, he did come and help with the installation too!) And finally, the committee's thanks goes to all the team back at MIRUS Managed Print (formerly 2r Systems Limited) in Milton Keynes, who have supported the Committee and the Meppershall Messenger magazine printing team for the past three years, for all their help advice, guidance and service support given and we look forward to another three years of the same, as we continue to produce the Meppershall Messenger magazine for the village of Meppershall.

John Thompson – Treasurer



Walnut Tree Café Afternoon Tea

As mentioned in our previous article, although we have closed the cafe on Mondays, we can now offer an Afternoon Tea special on Monday 25th November.

Our Afternoon Tea consists of a selection of sandwiches/savoury pastry, fresh scone with clotted cream and jam and other sweet delights, plus unlimited tea or coffee for £13.50 per person. You can add a glass of Prosecco for an additional £3.50 per person.

If you would like to book, please either contact us via our Facebook Page @walnuttreecafe

Email: thewalnuttreecafe@gmail.com

or call our mobile number 07942210546 (during opening hours).
We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards, Karen & Viv

Parish Council – Leisure Facilities Update

Over the last few months the parish council has received many questions about village leisure facilities, we hope this article answers those questions.

- **What will the field behind the village hall be called and why?** In 2018 the Foster family asked us to find an alternative to the name Fosters Field. As 2018 marked 100 years since the end of the First World War, the name Centenary Field was chosen.
- **When will Centenary Field be available for use by residents?** Once Croudace Homes have completed their contractual obligations the land will be transferred to the parish council who have appropriate insurance cover and will open it up for use. We hope that this will be before the end of the year.
- **Why has it taken so long to have the facilities open to the public?** Centenary Field was the last area to be developed by Croudace Homes as it was where they had their material compound. When they moved off site a lot of work was required and there are still works that need to be completed e.g. fencing, installation of bins, seats, standpipes, dropping of kerbs, inspection of facilities etc.
- **What facilities will there be on Centenary Field?** At handover there will be a toddler play area, a junior play area, the MUGA, a fenced no dogs allowed football pitch, seating, bins and area set aside for future use as a cemetery. And the rest of the field of course.
- **Who will be able to use the football pitch?** We have been talking with a local football club who wish to use the pitch for club games during the football season. This may help us offset some of the maintenance costs, but obviously we want the area to be available for use by all our residents, (but not our four-legged friends!).
- **Is there anymore play equipment to be installed on Centenary Field by Croudace?** No. Croudace have installed circa £66,000 of new play equipment and reinstalled any equipment that could be re-used from Fosters Field. They have also helped to make areas future proof e.g.: bigger toddler play area so that we can add in new items and have agreed to leave fencing around the football pitch at a cost of circa £10,000.
- **What's the wooden PC Storage building used for?** Croudace Homes have provided us FOC with the wooden PC storage building that sits to the right of the village hall. It's a place where we can store things such as our litter pick equipment, spare goal nets, spare bin liners etc. It has been vandalised on several occasions so is currently empty until we can organise a repair that will last.
- **Will the parish council be installing any new play equipment in the village?** Yes. We will have access in the next financial year to money provided by other housing developments in the village that can be used to install new play

facilities. We hope next year to involve children from the village in our choice of items to install.

- **Will you be removing the play equipment from Old Road Meadow when Centenary Field is opened?** No, but we may add to the play area at Old Road Meadow as some developers have provided funds specifically for this location.
- **Have you any other plans for Old Road Meadow?** Yes, we need to repaint the picnic table as it has been vandalised and will be installing another picnic table in the area. We will also be completing some maintenance work on trees and installing new signage.
- **I've heard rumours about an outdoor gym, what's that about?** A developer has recently provided £28,000 specifically to provide an outdoor gym. We have plans to install this on Centenary Field behind the football pitch in the next financial year.
- **Will you be making any improvements to the allotments?** Yes. We have secured funds to install security fencing, replace the water lines and provide an ECO toilet.
- **When will the cemetery be open for use?** At present there are no plans to open a cemetery on Centenary Field as the village church cemetery and other local facilities have capacity. The parish council has however an obligation to plan for future village needs.



Still got a query?

We welcome your questions, comments and concerns. If you can't make a parish council meeting which is usually held on the second Monday of the month to speak to us, please email the Parish Clerk, Alessandra, on clerk@meppershall.org and she will endeavour to help or forward your request to councillors for a response.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

We now have in place a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which covers properties in Walnut Tree Way, Harriots Field and Banland Croft.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pete, a near neighbour, for helping me put up the Neighbourhood Watch signage and **Croudace Homes.co.uk** for funding the purchase of the said signs.

Living within a Neighbourhood Watch area reduces the likelihood of being a burglary victim. Households living in a Neighbourhood Watch area experience 21% fewer burglaries than similar households. Being a victim of burglary also raises yours, and your neighbours' risk of being burgled again.

The Home Secretary has put a Modern Crime Prevention Strategy at the top of the policing agenda and the Neighbourhood Watch scheme is in support of this objective. Crime is changing and, within the Neighbourhood Watch (Members' Guide), more varied advice is given about how to prevent the new challenges facing our communities, (see the Cyber Crime leaflet with the November Messenger), as well as more basic security measures. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is free and the joining process is relatively easy. To join, visit **www.ourwatch.org.uk** and then enter your postcode.

We have new members in both Walnut Tree Way and Harriots Field but to-date have no members in Banland Croft. The more members we have, the greater the likelihood of our premises being more secure. By being in a Neighbourhood Watch area, some insurance companies will offer a discount on house insurance. By becoming a member, some security products can be obtained at a discount.

For other residents of Meppershall, have you thought of setting up your own scheme? It is quite easy to set up - once again visit **www.ourwatch.org.uk** and then enter your postcode.

Thank you to those members who have already joined and we hope many more of you will join in the near future.

Tony Seaman - Walnut Tree Way Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

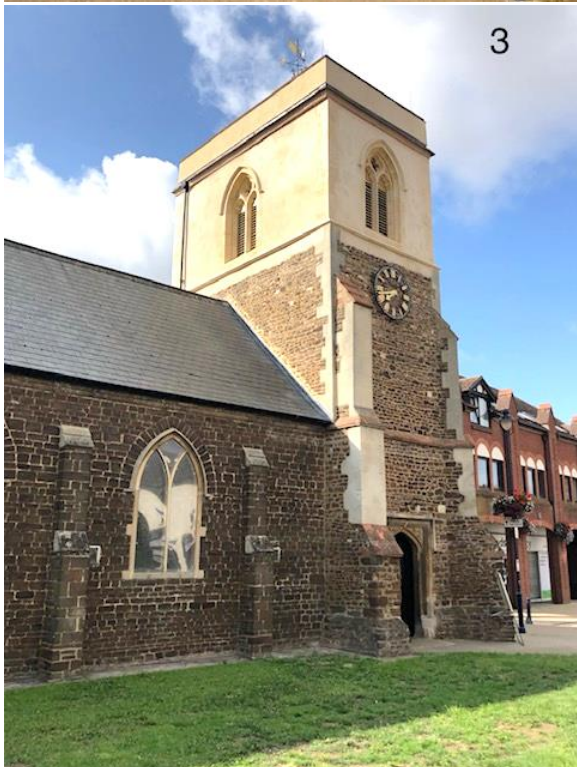
Speed Watch - Meppershall

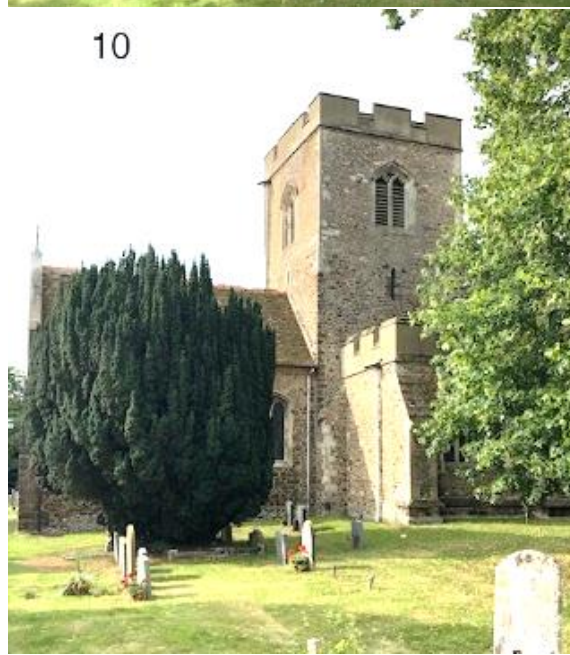
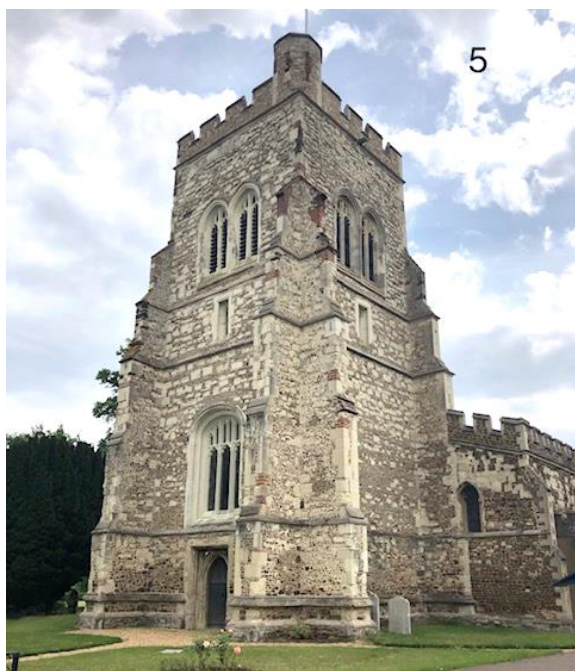
It has been noticed that some residents, contractors and delivery drivers have been travelling at too fast a speed around the Croudace Orchard estate. The estate has a number of blind bends which on a narrow road risk head-on collision. On occasions, vehicles have been seen to mount pavements in order to miss oncoming traffic.

Many children and parents use these pavements to go to and from school. As soon as Central Beds Council adopts the estate road, an application for a residential 20 m.p.h. speed limit will be applied for. Residents of Fildyke Road have raised the same concern.

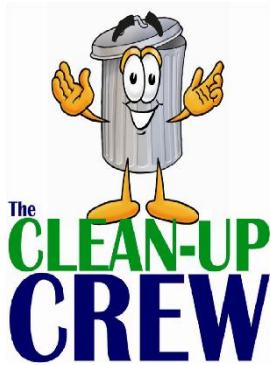
Name That Church Competition

Do you recognise these 10 churches? They all sit within 4 miles of Meppershall as the crow flies. Ian Hampton, who took the pictures and devised the competition, has kindly donated a nice bottle of Prosecco and a box of chocolates to the person who names the most correct locations (towns/villages) for them. If more than one person names them all, he will draw a winner. Email him with your answers by Monday 25 November or call 851657 if you don't use email. (ianhampton2619@hotmail.com).





Autumn clean-up – a story in pictures



**15+ brave
volunteers**



What we found.....



**16 bags of
rubbish**



**In bushes & trees at
Old Road Meadow
and kerbside
throughout the
village**



**Where weren't
there food
wrappers?**



**Everywhere,
everywhere,
everywhere!**



**Dog poo bags –
too many to count
on Crackle Hill!**



Why?

In future please



be a volunteer



And finally,



ACO Technologies plc for donating the Hi-Viz vest and gloves.

Central Bedfordshire Council for donating litter pick grabbers and bin bags.

Stondon Parish Council for lending their litter pick equipment.

Meppershall Village Hall and the Social Club for lending the bins.

Walnut Tree Café for opening on a Saturday, keeping our volunteers watered and fed.

And most importantly to all our Volunteers!



The Friends of St Mary's Church Meppershall
invite you to a...

Family Christmas Sing-Along

Featuring traditional dancing and
music from **Hemlock Morris** with bar,
mince pies, Santa hats, raffle and
Christmas sing-along.

Children's prize for
"Best dressed Christmas character" !
£5 adults (children £1)

Friday 20 December 2019 from 6.15pm.

Meppershall Village Hall

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:

Dawn Abbatt 01462 816962 Chris Valentine 01462 815971

Email: Meppershall.PCC@gmail.com

PCC Secretary:

Anne Parsons 01462 813333 Email: annie10639@gmail.com

Message from St Mary's

November is here again - and we are again honouring our promise - "We will remember them!"

This year, The Royal British Legion is asking communities across Britain to "Remember Together" the service and sacrifice, friendship and collaboration of the men and women of Britain, the Commonwealth and Allied nations who fought together 75 years ago, particularly in three key battles in 1944 - Monte Cassino, D-Day, and Kohima and Imphal. *"We ask the nation to commemorate their contributions to our liberty and Remember Together."* The Legion recalls (*for more detail see their website*):

At Monte Cassino, a 240,000 strong Allied Army with contingents from six continents representing many nations, opened the way to the liberation of Rome. At the time there was a perception that the Allied armies in Italy were "D-Day dodgers, busy sunning themselves" while others were really fighting the war. However, by the time Polish troops had captured the summit of Monte Cassino, the Allied armies there had suffered over 54,000 casualties.

On D-Day thirteen nations collaborated to land 156,000 men in Normandy. The D-Day landings included over 5,000 vessels and ships, nearly 11,000 aeroplanes - 23,400 Allied paratroopers - and over 130,000 ground troops. By the end of D-Day Allied forces had suffered nearly 10,000 casualties, of which 4,000 were fatalities. The sacrifice and courage of those who played their part in D-Day secured a foothold on mainland Europe from which the Allies were able to go on to liberate Western Europe.

At Kohima and Imphal one of the most ethnically diverse Armies in history came together to win "one of the most remarkable victories" of the war. In 1943, General William Slim took command of what would become the 14th Army – a collected force of British, pre-partition Indian, Gurkha, and African troops (from 9 different African nations!)

The forces at Kohima endured some of the worst close quarters fighting of the Second World War but in the end inflicted on the Japanese Imperial Army the worst defeat in its history. They shattered belief in the invincibility of the Japanese and victory after victory followed for the 14th Army.

Each Year on Remembrance Day we read the inscription taken from a cemetery for British soldiers who fell at Kohima:

*"When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today".*

They were dark days - but nations came together - to fight for peace and freedom.

When I look at our war memorial and our single war grave - and knowing what I know - I still have very little concept of the human cost of it all. I have never been to the war cemeteries on the continent, nor seen the rows of white headstones as far as the eye can see or walked where "lads lie slumbering beneath" unmarked - but not forgotten.

Sadly, nations that had fought and died together for peace and freedom were not nearly so able to live together in peace and freedom afterwards - and those we welcomed onto our soil to take bullets in the cause of our freedom too, we were not nearly so ready to welcome into our churches to share worship with us or to live down our streets to share our daily lives! Hopefully, over the years that has changed.

Victory was won because of the contributions of so many individuals, so many nations, offering their gifts and resources - even their lives - in the common cause that was war. And we honour still the men and women who dedicate their lives to guard our peace and freedom - our way of life.

In our time there are many other causes that need the nations to work together - world peace; climate change; pollution of the air, the oceans and the land; the loss of biodiversity and endangered species, the human need for food and clean drinking water; the fight against disease... to name but a few of them.

The truth is that when we all come together and use our skills and talents for good - marvellous things can be achieved. I believe that when we ask God to be a part of our working together - because of God's promises his mercy and his power - we can hope not just for marvellous things, but also miracles along the way.

With best wishes, Rector Roni

(Information and statistics from the Royal British Legion Website)

You can visit www.britishlegion.org.uk for more information and to support the annual poppy appeal. You can also donate by phone via the Legion's fundraising support team on 0845 845 1945 or by text (see website above for details).

Church Services and Events – November 2019

At St Mary's unless stated below

Date	Time	Service / Event
Sat 2 nd November	9-4pm	Churchyard Clear-Up – join in the community volunteering (with free lunch!) to tidy and clear the churchyard ready for Remembrance. Bring your own tools (rakes, brooms, pruners, gloves etc.)
Sun 3 rd November All Saints	11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church Service of Special Memories – remembering those we have lost
Weds 6 th November	10.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 8 th November	9.00pm	Silent Together Enjoy the presence of God in the tranquillity of the church - 30 mins.
Sun 10 th November Remembrance Sunday	8.30am 10.45am 2.15pm	Holy Communion Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard, followed by Service of Remembrance in the church Second Sunday Stroll – a walk of remembrance from Blunham to the SOE memorial at Tempsford. 2-ish miles each way, about 4.5 miles in total (with optional pub at each end). Meet at the gate of the church of 'St Edmund or St James', Park Lane, Blunham at 2.30pm. More info, tel. 857836.
Mon 11 th November	7.15pm for 7.30 start	Bible Society: The Birth of the Church: The Place of the Scriptures. With Eddie O'Callaghan, at St Michael's, Shefford.
Tues 12 th November	2-4pm	Rectory Tea - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 13 th November	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th Nov 2 nd before Advent	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion Morning Worship – All Welcome!
Weds 20 th November	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sat 23 rd November	9.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer (breakfast from 8ish)
Sun 24 th November Christ the King	11.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church. SPARKS Service
Tues 26 th November	2-4pm	Rectory Tea - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 27 th November	10.00am	Holy Communion

And for December...

Reading of 'A Christmas Carol' 1 st December, 5pm	Christingle Service 8 th December, 11am	Carols by Candlelight 22 nd December, 6.30pm
Santa's Float Touring the Village 15 th & 16 th December		Crib Service & Midnight Service 24 th December, 3.30pm & 11.30pm

St Mary's Church, Meppershall Junior Church



Join us on

Sunday 3 November (11am)

at St Mary's Church

(ages 3 to 12)

Churchyard Clear-Up - Saturday 2nd November 2019

Please note that we previously advertised the date of Saturday 9th November for our churchyard clear-up – this has been changed to the weekend before – Saturday 2nd November – and we would love to have as many volunteers as possible. Bring your own tools and let us give you lunch and refreshments! It is always a fun day and you can come for as little or as much time as you can manage, between 9 and 4. Why not lend a hand? Call 857836 for more info.



Wow, how time flies when you are having fun. We have been blackberry picking and then we made blackberry jam tarts. We have been collecting autumnal leaves and playing with them in all areas of our setting inside and out. This included throwing them up in the air in our story corner, hanging them on our light up tree, crunching them with the dinosaurs in the sand, leaf rubbing, and stuffing them into a tube to see if they stop the noise coming through.



We now have a music system outside enabling the children to put a CD on, with a varied selection of stories and music for them to choose from. We also have lots of instruments outside as this is where we encourage the children to make more noise, whilst keeping inside calm and peaceful. Hide and seek has also been a favourite activity recently, with big tyres, the playhouse, and a handmade den to hide in.

'In the Moment Planning' has been a great success this term. Something else we now incorporate into everyday play is 'Scribing'. Scribing is an effective way to engage young children in the writing process. We never tell the children we are going to write or they should try to write, instead we wait for the moment they tell us a story or show an interest in writing, then we offer to scribe their story, list, or description for them in their own words. When a child is motivated to do something, this is when they learn the most especially with our support. They are captivated by seeing us write and hearing us say their own words, and can then later act out their story, or discuss something to a group of children with our help at the end of the session, empowering the words on the paper. They often want to illustrate the story or have a go at writing themselves. Every child will have a different motivation and ability, but with our support can enjoy the wonders of writing.

Autumn term is always a little quieter than Spring and Summer term, so the perfect time for a child to start and settle into pre-school. After Christmas our numbers build up and our existing children increase their sessions with us, so 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, to enroll your child or join our waiting list.

You can also visit our fantastic new website: www.meppershallps.co.uk

OFSTED URN EY551988

Registered Charity: 1031913



**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:
2 November & 7 December 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

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

travel counsellors

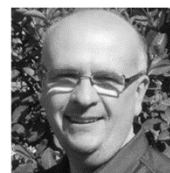


Kevin Hankin

01462 888430

travelcounsellors.co.uk/kevin.hankin

kevin.hankin@travelcounsellors.com



BRING YOUR HOLIDAY DREAMS TO LIFE



WHAT MY CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING:

- ➔ "Kevin is always helpful and extremely efficient so would not go elsewhere for travel arrangements" - Carole H, Bedford
- ➔ "Excellent service, always personally attentive and always responds immediately to requests" - Les E, Hitchin
- ➔ "Helpful and very knowledgeable. Nothing is too much trouble. Excellent service and highly recommend" - Jane F, Lower Stondon
- ➔ "As usual, the trip was brilliant. Members of the party said it was the best trip they had ever been on" - Joan H. Letchworth

Your money's safe - Fully ATOL protected, every penny of your booking is completely protected by our unique financial protection trust



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



It's Panto time (oh no it isn't), oh yes it is!

Cinderella cooks and cleans for her family and never grumbles. With the help of Buttons and two friendly mice, Fidget & Widget, she keeps Stony-Broke Mansion clean and tidy, even though her Step-Mother, Baroness Hardup' and her two Step-Sisters, Desdemona and Ophelia, enjoy making life difficult on a daily basis and her Father, Baron Hardup, tries to keep the peace. A chance encounter in the forest with an old woman, Prince Charming and Dandini set off a chain of events which takes Cinderella and her friends on a rollercoaster ride. Will Cinderella's dreams come true? Will the Baroness and her daughter's plans to keep her out of the way come to fruition? Or will Buttons and the Fairy Godmother save the day? And why does Mr Scrimp want to see the Baron?

The answer to all these questions can be found in the Meppershall Players' 2019 Pantomime 'Cinderella' on Friday 29th November 7.30pm & Saturday 30th November 2pm at Shefford Town Memorial Association Hall (STMA) 10, Hitchin Road, Shefford. Tickets are now on sale online at ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers (there is a nominal on-line booking fee). Matinee £5 (no Concessions), Evening £10 - Concessions £8. For non-internet users call 01462 816336.

Although there is no Saturday evening performance (due to the Baron and Desdemona going to a heavy metal gig), the Players are hosting 'The Ultimate 80's Disco' at the STMA 8pm-late. Tickets are £5 and are on sale now online at ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers (there is a nominal fee when booking on-line). Dance the night away to the sounds of the eighties. Help turn the clock back by dressing up in the fashion trends of the 1980's; prizes awarded for '1980's best dressed' - a great way to kick off the party season.

Fri 29th 7.30pm & Sat 30th 2pm November Cinderella Panto 2019 at S.T.M.A Hall

Sat 30th November 'The Ultimate 80's Disco' at S.T.M.A 8pm-late

Sat 11th January 2020 Cinderella Panto 2pm & 7.30pm at S.T.M.A

Sat 18th January 2020 Cinderella Panto Venue T.B.C

Fri 8th May & Sat 9th May V.E. Musical Play

Fri 14th & Sat 15th August V.J. Variety Show

If you would like to join our merry band of thespians, whether on stage or off, 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).

Membership is currently free. We look forward to meeting and welcoming you.

Karen Mitchell (Players' Secretary) 01462 816336

Cinderella

A Pantomime by Karen Mitchell

Performing at
Shefford Town Memorial Association Hall
(S.T.M.A)

On
Friday Evening 29th November 7.45pm

Seats £10 Concessions £8

&

Saturday Matinee 30th November 2pm

Seats all £5 (No concessions)

Doors open 30 minutes before curtain up

Tickets on Sale

At

ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers

Online tickets sales will cease 24 hours before each performance

For non-internet ticket sales Contact 01462 816336



GNOMES (Meppershall Good Neighbour Group)

Everyone is invited to join us at our coffee morning on Thursday 14th November between 10:30 and 11:30 in the Walnut Way Café. Should you require transport to get there and back just call the GNOMES. You will probably be arranging your calendar for pre-Christmas activities. Well, if you like singing Christmas Carols and songs, make a note in your diary and come along to our December coffee morning on 12th December (same times as November) when we shall have a rousing singalong. Once again, all are welcome.

Sheffield Baptist Church

On Sunday 3rd November at 10:30am Sheffield Baptist Church will be hosting another all-age Messy Church under the heading "God's Armour of Light". The session lasts about 1 1/2 hours and includes crafts, music & a time of exploring the theme from the Bible. This is not just for children - Many adults attend and have fun participating in all the activities!

We end with a shared light lunch which is provided by the church

Family Carols & Christingles Service

On Sunday 22nd December from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, Sheffield Baptist Church are holding a family "Carols & Christingles" service. We will explore the birth of Jesus in an accessible way, using a nativity script, Bible readings & familiar carols we can all share in.

Towards the end of our time together, Christingles will be prepared (all items supplied for you) and we'll light the candles in order to share the light that Jesus can bring into our lives.

Refreshments, including cake will then be served. Everyone welcome!

Andrew Johnson - Sheffield Baptist Church

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 or see our contact info at the back of this issue. We'd love to meet you! Get involved! It's fun!

Making a Difference, The Rotary Club

It is always distressing to hear about the destruction caused by war or extreme weather and the plight of the people left in behind in its wake. Rotary clubs work with ShelterBox and Aquabox so that in times of devastation, however this is caused, people who have lost everything are provided with an adequate shelter for a family, warm bedding, cooking facilities, essential tools and a means to purify water. The ShelterBox base is in Cornwall and equipment is stored in a large warehouse there and at other strategic places around the world, ready to be sent out at short notice. We donate money on a regular basis to help replenish the stocks.

We have also recently sent money to Mercy Ships, a charity which sends out a state-of-the-art mobile hospital ship providing free expert surgical care and aftercare to people living far from any form of medical attention.

In the summer the Rotary clubs of Biggleswade Ivel, Biggleswade and Sandy organised a Fun Day for the pupils of the Ivel Valley School in Biggleswade and this was a great success. Money was also given to the school to buy two computers. The collaboration between the Biggleswade Ivel and Flitwick clubs has been ongoing to provide garden facilities for a little local boy who has profound problems.

We raise money by putting on enjoyable events and we really appreciate the attendance and support that we receive. Recently we had `Ask the Gardeners` and fish and chip supper, where a panel of experts answered questions from members of the audience.

On November 16th there will be a `Call my Bluff` which is always highly entertaining but made more so with Wine Tasting alongside. This will be in Willington Village Memorial Hall at 7pm and there will be a hot two course supper. Tickets are £15 from Alan tel. 01234 838994, Brian tel. 01767 317031; or email tickets@ivelrotary.org.uk.

On 11th December we will be out and about with Santa on his Sleigh collecting for Keech Cottage. Advance notice to put in your diaries for 6th March next year is the Murder Mystery evening to be held at Stratton School, Biggleswade. The School drama group will be acting out the play, so will you be able to guess who the murderer is or will you need the mystery to be explained by the detective at the end.

Biggleswade Ivel Rotary club meets at 7pm on Wednesdays in the Green Man, Stanford and we are always very happy to welcome people who would like to be involved in some way.

Trugs & Trowels – Campton Gardening Club

**Monthly meetings start at 7.30pm – approx. 9.00pm finish
at Campton Village Hall, Gravenhurst Road, Campton.**

non-members welcome - Admission £3

You don't have to be a member to attend, so why not come along
with a friend or neighbour to see what it's all about.

We have a 'Free & Swap' table for any unwanted plants, tools,
pots or anything garden related.

You can also browse through our free library of garden books,
whilst enjoying a nice cup of tea or coffee and biscuit.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:-	
Monday, 4th November	Talk by Roger & Penny Grey 'Plants of China'
Monday, 2nd December	Christmas Themed Evening Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Quiz
Monday, 6th January 2020	Membership Renewal 'Look Back & Look Forward'
Monday, 3rd February	Talk by Nic Garner (Freelance Journalist) 'Unusual Vegetables'
Monday, 2nd March	Official talk on 'History Warden Abbey Vineyard'
Monday, 6th April	Talk by Connie Price, gardener at the 'Swiss Garden'
Monday, 4th May	Talk by Martin Towsey (Garden Manager) 'The Bedfordshire Estates'

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

Sheffield Leisure Group by Enid Pamment

The shops and stores are beginning to fill up with festive goods, gifts and Christmas cards – without hardly allowing the time to pack our 'Summer' stuff away for another year!

There are a few tickets left for the Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall on the 24th November. Please give me a call as it would be a shame to waste these good Arena seats.

Cockney Christmas Matinee on Tuesday 10th December, this event should be good fun whilst at the same time watching the aircraft leaving the City Airport and enjoying a good afternoon tea and entertainment.



The River Seine Cruise takes place leaving from Shefford by coach to London and then taking the Eurostar to Paris where we board the ship named Amadeus which will take us as far as the beaches of Normandy. This is a delightful 7-night 4* inclusive river cruise from Wednesday 1st April 2020 on the River Seine. All prices are inclusive. Just a couple of cabins left. Contact Enid.

In the early part of September, we visited Stowe House and Gardens, and had a beautiful day with the sun shining. We had a superb Guide explaining the background history of Stowe, how at one point fell into liquidation and was finally purchased turning this beautiful building into a residential school for boys (now mixed). The students are from notable families some of which are very well known. We were lucky as our chosen day was an 'open' 'family' day for the students, all walking around in their very smart uniforms, likewise their parents. We then hopped back onto the coach and made our way to Stowe Gardens which is a National Trust property. They have a superb restaurant serving both hot and cold food at reasonable prices. The grounds are beautiful with lakes and lilies, you could walk miles, or there is a buggy for those not wishing to walk. It was so lovely seeing the families out enjoying themselves with their dogs and some enjoying a picnic. Such a delightful day.

Our next trip out was 'Vintage Essex' This really was a 'fun trip' with a display of vintage coaches. We arrived at a remote part of Essex and suddenly turned into this garage called Lodge's Coaches standing in the middle of nowhere! There were memorabilia all around the walls and two superb coaches, one dated 1949 and the other dated 1959. Round tables were set for our lunch (in the garage) where a superb ploughman's lunch was provided. Afterwards we were shown a video of the history of Lodge's Coaches which will be 100 years old next year – all with the same family!! having been passed down through the generations. We were then invited to step outside and we had a ride in both the 1949 and 1959 coaches. We were then invited back for a cream tea and then allowed time to look around and take photographs and even step onto some of the aged vehicles! These included Chitty Chitty Bang Bang which was being looked after at the time, although not there now and it did not fly! Alas, it was time to make for home (with a nice smooth ride!). what an experience!

Enjoy the Autumn colours and scenery surrounding us and what beautiful skies and rainbows we have recently experienced!!!

Enid x

FORTHCOMING EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2019

BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL – Thursday 7th November – A Wartime Music Hall, which includes 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 15th 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 17th November Leaving Shefford at 9am returning to Shefford by 9pm (approx.). Stopping en route at Elvedon on the outward journey for coffee and Old Mother Hubbard's for fish & chip supper on our way home.

CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR – Sunday 24th November – London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. Arena Seats rows B.C.D & E – matinee performance including the 1812 overture. Few seats remaining.

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

JOHN RUTTER'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION – (Matinee) Wednesday 11th December 2018. Royal Albert Hall - leaving Shefford approx. 11am.

LONDON THEATRES 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 point for any particular show.

THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT – Wednesday 6th 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, Circle Seats. Rows 2 & 3. Coach leaving Shefford at 4.15pm.

JOHN RUTTER'S REQUIEM – Thursday 14th November 2019. Held at St. Paul's Cathedral. Evening performance. Leaving Shefford at 4pm.

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

THE NUTCRACKER – Matinee Performance – Tuesday 17th December – Over 100 dancers and musicians bring Nutcracker to life with exquisite dancing. Stall Seats – Leaving Shefford at 10.15am.

GOLDILOCKS & THE THREE BEARS – Matinee Performance – Monday 30th December 2019. A comedy panto starring Paul O'Grady, Julian Clary & Matt Baker (The One Show) tall Seats – Leaving Shefford at 10.15am.

EVENTS IN 2020

MOUNTBATTEN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC – Saturday March 7th- Coach leaves Shefford at 10.45am.

HAIRSPRAY – Thursday 18th June – Matinee Performance – Starring Michael Ball as Edna Turnblad, at the London Coliseum. Will play for 12 weeks only. Stall Seats. Leaving Shefford at 11.15am.

(Coming) PRETTY WOMAN - The Musical Showing at the Piccadilly Theatre. *(Tickets not available until September 2020).*

Shows booked at Milton Keynes Theatre for 2020

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

THE KING & I – SATURDAY 7TH March 2020 – Leaving Shefford at 1pm for 2.30pm performance. Back to Shefford by approximately 6pm.

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

EVENTS IN 2020

PARIS, NORMANDY & The River Seine – Wednesday 1st April – Wednesday 8th April 2020. Travelling on the AMADEUS Diamond River Cruises. For further information please contact myself (Enid) for a leaflet or Martin Hay, Director from GoCruise.Co.uk. 01202 027559. Leaflets are available for this event – please telephone if required.

THE FLICKS – British Cinema born in London 1896 - **Monday** 20th April 2020 – Leaving Shefford at 8.30am making our way to meet our Guide at 10.30m in the city for coffee (included) We begin on foot inside Leadenhall Market used in the filming of Harry Potter. From the coach we can see famous film locations. We stop for lunch at Borough Market where there is a good choice of pubs and cafes by the river at London Bridge plus the Southwark Cathedral Refectory. After lunch a short hop to the Cinema Museum. We will be taken on a short tour before taking a seat to enjoy some film clips of old London. There's a cup of tea included to round off our day before heading home at 4.45pm

CREEKS, COCKLES & COCKNEYS – Sunday 17th May 2020. Meeting our Blue Badge Guide in Hadleigh Farm for coffee and a muffin, just outside Southend. Old Leigh on Sea was once a thriving fishing and smuggling village. Leigh fishermen became Dunkirk heroes and even today keep alive Leigh's reputation as the centre of the world charm with cockle boats, cockle sheds, sailor's inns and clapboard cottages. Sample the traditional cockney teatime treat or buy a simple cup of tea before heading home at 4.30pm. Depending on traffic we anticipate arriving in Shefford at 6.30pm.

THE STRICTLY TEA DANCE – Wednesday 8th July 2020 at the Tereza Joanne in the Royal Docks in London's East End. (Part Show & Part Get up & Dance plus 100% fun.) professional ballroom dance couple, tea and cakes, (bar available at reasonable prices). from noon to 3.30pm. Anticipating to be back to Shefford by 6pm.

Please phone for further details – 01462 851397 or email enid.pamment@gmail.com
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.

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.

Raffles are held on outings 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.

Looking forward to meeting you, Enid x



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)

2ND & 4TH 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
Biggleswade, Asda Superstore	14.11	16.05
Biggleswade, London Rd, All Stops	14.13	16.02
Biggleswade, A1 London Road Retail Park	14.16	16.00

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

Timetable Info - Tel: 0300-123-3023

E: thewanderbus@gmail.com

www.wanderbus.org.uk



CHRISTMAS FAIR 28TH NOVEMBER



Our **Thursday 28th 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 30th 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

How much do you need to retire comfortably?

People on an average salary who wish to retire at the age of 65 will now typically require a pension pot of almost £450,000 in order to fund their retirement until they are 100 years old, recent analysis has found ¹.

Never too early to start saving

The research also shows that an individual who starts saving into a pension at 25 years of age will need to invest around £235 a month in order to accumulate a retirement fund of that size. However, a delay of 10 years would see this monthly figure almost double to £428, while someone who only starts saving at the age of 45 would need to set aside £859 a month to attain a pension fund of that size.

This analysis vividly demonstrates the benefit of starting to save for retirement at the earliest opportunity, ideally from the day you first start work. While other financial challenges can inevitably make this difficult, investing regular amounts in a pension throughout your working life provides the best chance of building up sufficient money to enjoy a prosperous retirement.

Better late than never

Although it's undoubtedly better to start saving for a pension early in your working life, it's never too late to begin saving for your retirement. Employer contributions, including those made through automatic enrolment, allied with the favourable tax treatment pensions enjoy and their potential for investment growth means that any contributions you make later in life can also still make a huge difference to your standard of living in retirement.

Make pension saving a priority

While it can seem a long time until retirement, it does come around a lot faster than people expect. So, the sooner you engage with the topic, the better the chance of enjoying the retirement you deserve.

¹AJ Bell, June 2019

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, I'll be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you have. FCA 225814.

Birthday Greetings

The Messenger Team send birthday best wishes to:

Margaret Evesham - 89

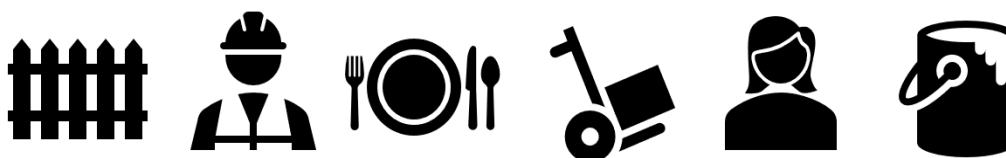
Jean Ford - 87

Stephen North - 83

Ann Hutchinson - 85

Anne Gilmour - 88

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.***



Autumn is definitely here and so we have been working on cutting all the grass and borders back, racking areas clear to allow new growth next year and generally tidying the site ready for winter. It is at this time of year, with the darker evenings, we see a lot more wildlife around The Eco Lodges; so far, a young badger has visited us regularly, the Kestrel is back in the box in the churchyard and we have some very noisy owls!

Remember that The Eco Lodges and the ruins of old St Mary's church can be hired out for private events. We already have weddings, birthday parties and a naming ceremony booked in for next year so think of us if you are looking for a beautiful, unique venue for your event.

Our November events include a BBQ! This is aimed at getting to know our neighbours from Clophill & surrounding villages – as well as the BBQ we will have a bar, café, music and games so come along and bring the family (dogs are welcome too) for a fun afternoon!

Our Wreath Making Workshops are now all fully booked.

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

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

03	<small>Sat Nov</small>	<i>Backyard BBQ</i>
08	<small>Fri Nov</small>	<i>Pamper Evening</i>
10	<small>Sat Nov</small>	<i>Remembrance Cafe</i>
30	<small>Sat Nov</small>	<i>Wreath Making Workshop</i>
01	<small>Sat Dec</small>	<i>Dress the Christmas Tree (with cafe)</i>
07	<small>Sat Dec</small>	<i>Wreath Making Workshop</i>
08	<small>Sat Dec</small>	<i>Wreath Making Workshop</i>
26	<small>Fri Dec</small>	<i>Boxing Day Cafe</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

MARCH	Sunday 31 st	AUGUST	Wednesday 7 th *
APRIL	Wednesday 10 th (half term) *		Wednesday 14 th *
	Sunday 21 st		Sunday 25 th
	Monday 22 nd		Monday 26 th (Bank Holiday)
	Sunday 5 th	SEPTEMBER	Sunday 1 st
MAY	Monday 6 th (Bank Holiday)		Sunday 22 nd
	Sunday 26 th	OCTOBER	Sunday 13 th
	Monday 27 th (Bank Holiday)		Wednesday 23 rd (half term) *
	Wednesday 29 th (half term) *		Sunday 27 th
JUNE	Sunday 9 th	DECEMBER	SANTA SPECIALS
	Sunday 23 rd		PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL:
JULY	Sunday 7 th		Saturday & Sunday 7 th & 8 th
	Sunday 21 st	NB Booking for Santa Specials opened on Sept 1 st and places sell out very quickly For further information on any event, see our website: www.bedfordmes.co.uk	
	Wednesday 24 th *		
	Wednesday 31 st *		
* On our Wednesday openings, only limited catering will be available.			

The Team and Collation Dates

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

DISCLAIMER

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

THE TEAM

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Co-ordination			
Treasurer	John Thompson	16 Brookmead Email: meppershallmessenger@meppershall.org	812983

Collating Dates 2019 - 2020			
December/Jan	December 2nd	April 2020	March 30th
February 2020	January 27th	May 2020	April 27th
March 2020	February 24th	June 2020	June 1 st

Please note that dates in the above table show when collating will take place, at 2.30pm 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!