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## Editorial by Mick Ridley and James Read

Since moving to Meppershall in 2004, one of the very special moments in village life has always been Santa's float touring the village. Whatever the pre-Christmas early winter weather, there is a merry gang who have consistently made it happen every year for decades. They know who they are and they are highly appreciated! This year I want to pay a special tribute to one of the reindeer-in-chief and give you a glimpse of a huge character in village life who, for me, is part of the essence of this place in a truly great way.



For many years Mick Trundle squeezed his 6'9" frame into the driver's seat of the Landrover Defender to pull Santa from house to house. His steady piloting of the red-clad bearded celebrity was absolutely reliable (which cannot be said for the farm trailer of unknown vintage on which the winter rooftop scene is constructed!)

Mick is no stranger to the spotlight – often performing over the years with the Meppershall Players or as Master of Ceremonies with Paul Carne at many a Meppershall Village Fair. He was around when the then Meppershall Amateur Dramatic Society did "Spring and Port Wine" as one of its inaugural shows in the very early 1970s. He recounts a favourite role as Hobson in "Hobson's Choice" and an occasion dressed as Shirley Temple when he appeared with the players in return for a substantial fee at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool. In 1984 the Players began their now familiar Christmas pantomimes and staged variety shows – including a major production set in the London Underground in 1985 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the second world war. The history of The Meppershall Players requires its own article, we think! Would anyone like to help with that in the new year?

Mick's father came to Luton in 1938, Mick was born one year later and the family moved to Caddington in 1945 – very much a rural village. On leaving school he became an apprentice blacksmith in Luton before volunteering for the navy. After training at catering school in Chatham, he served for five years including a spell with HMS Vanguard (1959-60).

While serving with the Royal Navy, in 1962 he married Penny and on returning to civvy street they lived together in Caddington. But the countryside further away from Luton beckoned and, a few years later, a fateful visit to a newsagent and a purchase of the Biggleswade Chronicle led them to an advert for the sale of 5 acres of land and a building in a place they only vaguely recognised. "Where's Meppershall?!" ...Penny and Mick remember the discussion. "God knows!" But they came, none the less.

Arriving in 1970, "It was more glasshouses than brick houses," says Mick. They planned to keep pigs. Penny's uncle was a prize-winning pig farmer with cups and trophies to prove it and their new place was also well suited to it. So, they joined the ranks of other local Meppershall farmers (including Fred Jenkins at Nunswood, Ian Murden opposite the bakery and John Cooper) who were already in the pig keeping business.



But it is not the pigs that are Mick and Penny's hallmark today, but the beautiful deep red cow herd that we all often see (and hear) in their field at the top of Crackle Hill behind the Village Hall. Their first cow was an old Jersey named Clare but over the years the memory of a Red Poll herd kept in the 1950s on Caddington Common, and their wish to help preserve a rare breed, turned their minds to these striking cattle. Today, Penny and Mick's Red Polls in Meppershall are also linked with Gravenhurst (for example at the Cow Bridge), where a stock bull can also sometimes be seen on a seasonal basis. Once one of the most popular herds in England, in the last century Red Polls became less productive than Friesians for milk and the arrival of continental breeds saw them additionally decline as beef animals. They are now supported by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and we are proud to have them as part of village life.

Rare things, of which our village – and our country – need more. We wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the wonderful aspects of Penny and Mick's story (there is much more to tell!) and to thank them for being such a strong part of the community for so many years, building the kind of village that we are fortunate to call home this Christmas time.

***Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a peaceful and prosperous new year.***

## **Letters to the Editors**

Dear Editors,

I would like to bring to the attention of Messenger readers that Meppershall Parish Council have been kind enough to store the toys and equipment left over from the Tuesday afternoon toddler group that used to be held in the old village hall.

I started going to the group with my one-year old daughter in 2011 whilst expecting daughter number two, and it wasn't too long before I became a committee member.

Through being involved in running Meppershall Tots and frequently meeting to discuss the crafts and themes I made some good friends. All those years later, five of us still meet up regularly but now the talk is around hormonal middle schoolers not the terrible twos!

Sadly though, just after my youngest started reception year, as the group had become so poorly attended it was decided it would be closed.

The time has come when the Parish Council needs the storage space back so if anyone is keen to revive a parent and toddler group the toys and funds (around £200) are readily available. I know that there have been enquiries made at the hall about such a group. You can get in touch with me for more details during evenings on 07947 949695.

Kind regards

Angela Ridley





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## **Aerial Combat     By Susanne Wright**

Yesterday was Remembrance Day.  
Today a JCB, like a big yellow dinosaur,  
is gouging deep holes around the field behind,  
and two men in high-viz jackets  
slowly erect a steel fence.

I walk down the track, past the development site,  
and look into the sky: it's blue and clear,  
unusually for November.  
A Red Kite, young and displaced from its accustomed territory,  
is circling over a low-lying field.  
Five black crows are also up in the air;  
they deliberately ambush the Kite, again and again.  
Taking it in turns, they fly right across the Kite's path,  
almost graze its wings.  
They're a hundred feet up, but every time it happens  
I hear an annoyed warning call from the Kite -  
something between a mew and a growl.  
In the further distance, a flock of starlings  
eddy, and regroup: still beautiful and unconcerned,  
above our landscape.

It's true we first learned to fly planes  
by studying birds, but only we have created  
the rows of white headstones in the cemeteries,  
the sea of crosses and poppies at cenotaphs.  
At the bottom of the Channel a wrecked war-plane rusts.  
Over cities, a grey choking cloud is growing.  
And now we think even to mine the deep ocean floor  
seeking minerals for bigger batteries,  
hoping to lessen the multiplying exhaust fumes.

# MEPPERSHALL AT CHRISTMAS

<b>Sunday 1st</b>	Meppershall Living Advent Calendar begins – a new window somewhere in the village every day!		
<b>Sunday 1st</b>	A Christmas Carol - a one-man performance by Matt Jones.	5.30pm	St Mary's
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	Christingle Service	11.00am	St Mary's
<b>Thursday 12th</b>	Meppershall Good Neighbours Group (GNOMES) Coffee and Carols	10.45am	Walnut Tree Café, Village Hall
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	Celebrating the Waiting Hymns, poems and readings for Advent	11.00am	St Mary's
<b>Sunday 15th &amp; Monday 16th</b>	Rumour is that Santa may be in the village - look out for Facebook updates		
<b>Monday 16th</b>	Reception/KS1 Christmas performance	2.30pm	Meppershall Church of England Academy
<b>Tuesday 17th</b>	Reception/KS1 Christmas performance	2.30pm	Meppershall Church of England Academy
<b>Tuesday 17th</b>	KS2 Christmas Performance concert	6.00pm	St Mary's
<b>Thursday 19th</b>	Grandparents' Carol Service	2.30pm	Meppershall Church of England Academy
<b>Friday 20th</b>	Traditional Christmas Sing-Along including music and dancing from Hemlock Morris	From 6.15pm	Friends of St Mary's at Village Hall
	Markus - solo vocalist		Meppershall Social Club at Village Hall
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	Carols by Candlelight 9 lessons and Carols	6.30pm	St Mary's
<b>Christmas Eve Tuesday 24</b>	All welcome to a Family Celebration of Christmas	3.30pm	St Mary's
	Christmas Eve Disco	6.00pm	Meppershall Social Club at Village Hall
	Midnight Holy Communion	11.30pm	St Mary's
<b>Christmas Day Tuesday 25</b>	Celebrating Christmas: Christmas Communion	11am	St Mary's
<b>New Year's Eve Monday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	New Year's Eve Disco	8.00pm	Meppershall Social Club at Village Hall

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> December
- First collection of spring: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> December (instead of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>)
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January (instead of Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January)



### Walnut Tree Café

The café is to be run by a new team in January. Hopefully all the information regarding new opening hours are included in this month's messenger.

It is with great sadness that we (Karen and Viv) are not continuing with Walnut Tree Café after the Christmas break. It's been a very difficult decision to make but we are unable to continue the huge commitment required to make our business grow. We are confident it is now in good hands to continue its growth with your support.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported us this year with our venture, we will miss you all. Hopefully we will see you on the other side and enjoy a coffee together.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Karen and Viv



## Meppershall Speed Watch – Results

Month 2019	Location	Vehicles recorded in one hour	Over 35mph	Over 40mph
August	Shefford Rd	-	12	0
September	Shefford Rd southbound	153	4	0
October	Shefford Rd southbound	72	11	2
November	Shefford Rd northbound	78	6	1

Too many people are still ignoring the speed limit and putting themselves and others at risk. Please remember to observe the 30mph and 20mph speed limits through our village and be careful.... (volunteers always welcome!)

The chart above is only a sample of one hour's recording taken on one day within a month.

Speeding takes place across most hours during the day and evening. We have asked Bedfordshire Police to support Meppershall Speed Watch by providing a video recording vehicle to monitor Shefford Road, where the majority of speeding takes place. This recording results in immediate prosecution, unlike Speed Watch where a speeding vehicle has to be reported on more than two occasions before the police are directly involved.

However, it should be borne in mind that the Speed Watch system, unlike the points and licence withdrawal system, can lead to the recorded vehicle being destroyed. With the new building developments needing access to Shefford Road, many residents have expressed their concerns about accidents waiting to happen. In this regard, measures will need to be taken to reduce speed by Central Beds Council (CBC), examples being raised road platforms, mini-roundabouts and speed chicanes. These measures have been successfully introduced in Barton-le-Clay, Lower Stondon and Houghton Conquest, to name but a few. It is true that prevention is better than cure but we don't want a serious accident to occur before sensible and cost-effective measures are taken.

If the builders responsible for the developments are concerned for the safety of prospective purchasers, then a hefty contribution towards the road safety measures would go a long way to assist the cash-strapped council in their decisions.

**Colette House, Speed Watch Co-ordinator, Andrew Pain, Tony Seaman and Clive Lester, Speed Watch.**



# Meppershall Living



Countdown to Christmas with



# Advent Calendar

4

Meppershall  
C of E Academy



5

Meppershall  
Village Stores



6

5  
Orchard Close



10

21  
High Street



11

33  
Brookmead



12

80  
Shefford Road



16

Meppershall  
Pre-School



17

9  
The acres



18

43 & 47  
High Street



22

45  
Walnut Tree Way



23

3c  
Fildyke Road



24

The Crib  
St Mary's Church



a new window lit every night!

## **While away winter with a good book and much more.....**

As the nights draw in, it's a good opportunity to curl up with a good book, borrowed for free, from your local library. But nowadays our libraries are about much more than just books.

Staff at Central Bedfordshire Council's library service have put together a handy guide - 10 things you might not know about your local library

As well as supplying a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books your local library and your library card can give you access to a fantastic range of resources and activities. Here are a few you might not know about:

1. Books on prescription are book collections that have been specially selected to provide help and support to those suffering from long term conditions and their carers. There are also books on prescription collections for those with dementia, mental health conditions and a collection for teenagers.
2. As well as books you can borrow magazines and comics and read newspapers in the library.
3. You can use a computer and access the internet for free in your local library.
4. If you find it hard to find the time to visit your local library why not visit the Virtual Library and download an e-book, audio book, magazine or newspaper to your computer, phone, e-reader or tablet. They are free and the Virtual Library is open all day every day.
5. Looking for something to do? There are loads of activities and clubs in your local library, such as knitting and craft groups, board game clubs, colouring clubs for adults and coffee mornings as well as the popular parent and pre-schooler Rhyme Time sessions.
6. Or maybe you would rather be entertained – look out for information about author talks, local interest talks, local history events and live theatre. Sign up to our library news e-bulletins and receive details about local events direct to your inbox!
7. Do you like to read but struggle to keep up with a traditional book club? Then why not try our read and recommend groups, you can drop in and talk about any book you have read and listen to recommendations from others. All the fun without the commitment.
8. Music is a great way to relax, you can download your favourite tracks or browse for something new on our free digital music resource, Freegal- find it on the Virtual Library.
9. Interested in researching your family tree then you can use Ancestry for free at your local library.
10. Keen to find out what is happening in your local community – check out your local library's community noticeboards or take a look in its local information folder.

To join the library, access the virtual library and sign up for an e-bulletin visit [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries) or call in at your local library.



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

Proceeds after costs  
shared 50/50 with  
MAPTA – the school  
parent-teacher  
association



## 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**

They say "Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat" (not that I have ever eaten goose!)

I guess we all have different expectations of Christmas - some like a noisy family Christmas, some like it quiet, for some it is a lonely time as they miss those who have left "empty chairs around the table", and for some it is a time when money worries are really heightened.

Andrew and I are looking forward to a family Christmas this year.

When we were married, we discovered that we had slightly different expectations of a good Christmas dinner. In my family it was always turkey, sausages and stuffing (turkey as big as the oven would hold) to feed us and aunts and uncles and grandparents and a few other visitors besides - usually around 14-16 people. Then roast potatoes and parsnips, carrots and peas, sprouts and chestnuts, cranberry sauce and gravy. Our sons added Yorkshire puddings. In Andrew's family there was also a Ham, and bread sauce - although he still doesn't quite understand Yorkshires with Turkey!

It has got even more complicated as our boys have married and other traditions have come into the family. There are those from the North who have always had a Morecambe Bay potted shrimp starter - and who normally have pigs in blankets and red cabbage (definitely not sprouts!) and Jamie Oliver Christmas gravy - to be specific; those from the South who change their choices each year, and those from the West who need their chestnuts roasted and vegetarian options! I wonder how similar or different your traditions are?

This year Paul and Nicola have offered to cook for us. It will be delicious, it will be fun, the grandchildren will be excitable and it will undoubtedly be noisy.

But I think however we find ourselves spending our Christmas - in the quieter moments - whether we sense “something” in a cold wintry starlit Christmas night, whether we look at the candles around the manger in awe and wonder, whether the Christmas story retold in school nativity plays and the carols ringing out in the voices of children warm our hearts again - I believe there are still angels singing at the wonder of this holy night and there is still a Saviour coming to make his presence known among us.

I wish you a happy and holy Christmas and a wonderful new year in 2020.

***With best wishes, Rector Roni***

### **Church Building Repairs**



Many of you may have noticed that the church building and churchyard wall are under repair. This is planned maintenance and restoration work. Our church building dates – in part - back to the 12th century, so understandably it needs ongoing care and attention. With the benefit of the scaffolding all of the

roof tiles have been cleared of moss, any loose tiles fixed and any damaged or missing tiles replaced. Also, a leak over the porch has been mended. Additionally, the tower and two transept roofs are to be re-felted, as a temporary measure, until a long-term fix can be achieved. This will ensure that existing leaks are stopped.

Additional works include replacing damaged guttering and down pipes, clearance of drains and the repair and partial rebuilding of the churchyard wall. The work is programmed to be completed by the end of January, weather permitting.

Funding for this work will come partly from money raised by the Friends of St Mary's, for which we are very grateful, supplemented from the church's restoration fund.

This is part of an on-going programme of works which in the past 18 months has seen new pew cushions provided and a new boiler being installed. This all makes the building far more user friendly. Further major works are still required to the stonework and roofs of the tower and transepts. We will report again on that in due course.

## Church Services and Events – December 2019

*At St Mary's unless stated below*

Date	Time	Service / Event
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> December 1 <sup>st</sup> of Advent	11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church <b>Reading of 'A Christmas Carol' by Matt Jones</b> – with legendary hot chocolate.
Weds 4 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Advent	8.30am 11.00am 2.15pm	Holy Communion <b>Christingle Service</b> – all welcome Second Sunday Stroll – meet at the church gate for a 4 mile walk out to Upper Stondon and returning in a loop east of Manor Farm via Cow Lane, Chapel Farm and Coneygate. More info, tel. 857836.
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> December	7.15pm for 7.30 start	<b>Bible Society:</b> The Birth of the Church: The Place of Prayer. With Revd Caren Topley at All Saints Clifton. Including a short study for Christmas – 'Jesus the Refugee'.
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00- 4.00pm	<b>Rectory Tea</b> - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Holy Communion
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00pm	<b>Silent Together</b> Enjoy the presence of God in the tranquillity of the church - 30 mins.
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> December 3 <sup>rd</sup> of Advent	8.30am 11.00am Late PM/Eve	Holy Communion Morning Worship – All Welcome! <b>Santa's Float Touring the Village</b> – Shefford Road End
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Late PM/Eve	<b>Santa's Float Touring the Village</b> – Shillington Road and High Street End
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 4 <sup>th</sup> of Advent	11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church. <b>Carols by Candlelight – Nine Lessons &amp; Carols</b>
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve	3.30pm 11.30pm	<b>Crib Service</b> <b>Midnight Service of Holy Communion</b>
Weds 25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day	11.00am	<b>Christmas Morning Service of Holy Communion</b>

Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am	<b>Celtic Morning Prayer</b> (breakfast from 8ish)
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> December 1 <sup>st</sup> of Christmas	10.00am	<b>United Benefice Service</b> at St Michael's, Shefford. with breakfast from 9am.
Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> January	10.00am	New Year's Day Holy Communion

## Church Services and Events – January 2020

*At St Mary's unless stated below*

Date	Time	Service / Event
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Christmas	11.00am	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	9.00pm	<b>Silent Together</b> Enjoy the presence of God in the tranquillity of the church - 30 mins.
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> January Epiphany	8.30am 10.45am 2.15pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship – all welcome! <b>Second Sunday Stroll</b> – a loop of 4.5 miles between Haynes and Wilstead. Meet at the Haynes Village Noticeboard at the western end of Northwood End Road, Haynes. More info, lifts etc - tel. 857836.
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> January	7.15pm for 7.30 start	<b>Bible Society:</b> The Damascus Road – Paul. With Revd Paul Lanham, at St Michael's, Shefford.
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> January	2.00- 4.00pm	<b>Rectory Tea</b> - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Epiphany	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion Morning Worship – All Welcome!
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> January	9.00am 7.00pm (for 7.30pm)	<b>Celtic Morning Prayer</b> (breakfast from 8ish) <b>Meppershall Village Quiz</b> – organised by the Friends of St Mary's Meppershall. A favourite annual village event with quizmasters Graham and Jenny. More info and to book seats or tables/teams of 6 people, tel. 857836.
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> January 3 <sup>rd</sup> of Epiphany	11.00am	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church.
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> January	2.00- 4.00pm	<b>Rectory Tea</b> - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Weds 29 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00am	Holy Communion





This term has flown past and the children are learning and growing so fast. We have been enjoying all the autumnal splendour and honouring all the festivities and ceremonies in November. The children particularly liked exploring different shaped and sized pumpkins, and using a hammer to knock nails in. They also made poppy pictures for 'Remembrance', and cookies for 'Children in Need'. A highlight was cooking beans for the first time outside over a small fire pit. The children learnt how to stay safe whilst cooking in this way, and really enjoyed tucking into their beans afterwards. We hope all our new families feel settled and have enjoyed this term as much as us. We would also like to thank all the families who helped us plant our new hedge awarded by the Woodland Trust, at the end of November. The bacon butties were a welcome reward.

We have already started the festivities at Pre-school, including making a fire place, and decorating a real Christmas tree. We also plan to make Pomanders, and fill the room with the smells of baking angel and elf cinnamon biscuits. The children are also going to be practising all of their favourite songs for our end of term show, and we will be visiting Meppershall Academy to see the dress rehearsal for their show. We will all then celebrate nearing the end of another chapter at Meppershall Pre-school with our Christmas Party. Then the 20th December will be our last day of term.

*Wishing you all and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

**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)**



This term we have had a number of themed evenings as well as working our way through the Brownie Programme and earning a new Skills Builder badge towards our Theme Award.

We had a fun Halloween themed evening playing lots of spooky games and the Brownies dressed up in fancy dress. We also spent another evening doing Roald Dahl themed activities: we made Owl Dream Catchers from the Big Friendly Giant and of course a game with chocolate from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was a particular favourite of the evening. All the girls had read lots of Roald Dahl books and they enjoyed telling us about all the books they had enjoyed reading.

We also attended the Division 'Dress Up and Dance' evening which raised lots of money for Macmillan Cancer. Over 150 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides danced the evening away and earnt a special badge.

Ten Brownies attended this year's Remembrance Service at St Mary's which was a fantastic turnout and they all did fabulously. It was great to see so many people at this years' service. A very big thank you to all the Brownies who were able to come along.

As part of the 'Live Smart' Skills Builder we have been learning DIY skills, driving skills with the girls pretending to drive, which proved to be a very funny and chaotic evening. We have also discussed the different jobs which girls can do, shopped till we dropped and made yummy fajitas.

We will be starting out Christmas activities very soon, with an evening making Christmas crafts and then finish off the year with a Christmas Party, complete with party games and party food.

If you are interested in your daughter joining Brownies, then please contact Snowy Owl (Suzanne) on 07817 392325 or you can register online at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk).

We are also always looking for adult helpers, so if you would like to come along and help us then we would love to hear from you.

## Browzers are Wowzing Meppershall!

Mother and daughter Joanne and Emma have set up a new and exciting business called Browzers, right here in Meppershall!

Located at 42 Coneygate, they have invested in a smart-modern treatment studio meaning clients can be treated in a very comfortable and discrete environment without having to endure the hassle of High Street parking, traffic and inconvenience.

So, what do Browzers offer? Emma helps those wanting eyebrow shape & tint (definition brows); eyelash extensions; LVL (eyelash volume & lift) and Microblading and has partnered with Nouveau and with KB Pro – both leading UK brands for LVL and Microblading respectively. In addition, both Emma and Joanne are fully trained Laser Hair Removal technicians and have invested in a *nd*-YAG medical laser which is one of the most efficient Laser Hair Removal machines available in the UK.

Laser Hair Removal is available to both ladies and gentlemen looking to rid themselves of unwanted body hair and already, clients have seen first-hand the benefit of being treated using Browzers' *nd*-YAG laser. In less than 6 months of trading, Browzers have attracted numerous ladies who suffer from Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) – a condition that affects an



estimated 1 in 5 women with symptoms that include excess facial and body hair as well as reoccurring acne; both of which can become a genuine curse to sufferers that severely effects both self-confidence and self-esteem. These symptoms can be successfully treated with a course of laser treatment which not only deals with the actual symptoms, but also rebuilds that loss of self-confidence and esteem and it has been wonderful to learn from clients that have struggled for years to cope with PCOS symptoms, that their Browzers' treatment has put a smile back on their face.

For gentlemen looking to get rid of unwanted body hair, the discrete and professional service provided by Joanne and Emma gets rid of any initial embarrassment and enables male clients to enjoy a new smooth, hair-free look!

In life it is important to take time out and to feel good about yourself. With such an amazing solution on your doorstep there is really no need to look further afield. Emma and Joanne are friendly, helpful and know their stuff – contact them, book a free patch test and let them do the rest. This is another great service right here in Meppershall!

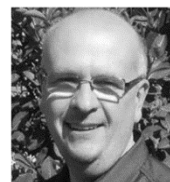
# travel counsellors



**Kevin Hankin**      **01462 888430**

**[travelcounsellors.co.uk/kevin.hankin](http://travelcounsellors.co.uk/kevin.hankin)**

**[kevin.hankin@travelcounsellors.com](mailto: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.



Did you see Cinderella our Panto for 2019? No! Never fear - you can still see if Cinderella gets to the ball or whether the Stepmother Baroness Hardup and Stepsisters Desdemona and Ophelia spoil the party. Will the Prince find his mystery girl? Will the Baron get back in time with the tea bags? Are the mice safe? And can Buttons get to the end of act one without being fired?

You can find the answer to all these questions in the Meppershall Players' Pantomime 'Cinderella' on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 2pm & 7.30pm at Shefford Town Memorial Association Hall (STMA) 10, Hitchin Road, Shefford SG17 5JA

Tickets are on sale now. Online at [ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers](https://ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers) (there is a nominal fee when booking tickets on-line). Matinee £5 (no Concessions), Evening £10, Concessions £8. For non-internet users, call 01462 816336.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Cinderella Panto 2pm & 7.30pm at S.T.M.A.

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Read-through for V.E Play 7.30pm at S.T.M.A.

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Auditions for V.E Play 7.30pm at S.T.M.A.

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> May & Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May V.E Musical Play at S.T.M.A.

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> & Sat 15<sup>th</sup> August V.J Variety Show at S.T.M.A.

\*Do you play the piano? The Players would like a pianist for the VE & VJ productions. Interested? We'd like to hear from you.

Panto 2020 dates Sat 28<sup>th</sup> November & Sat 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> December

You can find the Meppershall Players on Face book (Meppershall Players Community), Insta-gram and Twitter

We now meet at 7.30pm to 10pm Monday evenings at the S.T.M.A., 10 Hitchin Road, Shefford. (Junior members usually finish at 9pm due to school the next day).

Membership is currently free and we welcome people to join our merry band of thespians and 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.

***The Players wish all the readers of the Messenger  
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

The Meppershall Players

Present

# *Cinderella*

A Pantomime by Karen Mitchell

**Performing at**

**Shefford Town Memorial Association Hall**

**(S.T.M.A)**

**On**

**Saturday Evening 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January 7.45pm**

**Seats £10 Concessions £8**

**&**

**Saturday Matinee 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January 2pm**

**Seats all £5 (No concessions)**

**Doors open 30 minutes before curtain up**

**Tickets on Sale**

**At**

**[ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers](http://ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers)**

**online tickets sales will cease 24 hours before each  
performance**

**For non-internet ticket sales Contact 01462 816336**

## Meppershall Social Club

If you have recently moved into the village come and check out the Social Club, all are welcome. Our winter opening hours are: - Monday to Thursday 7pm to 11pm - Friday 6pm to 12 midnight - Saturday 12 noon to 12 midnight - Sunday 12 noon to 11pm

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

In the New Year we will be holding our AGM and letting you all know how much we have raised over the course of the year to be split between our 2 charities, Sparks at St Mary's Church in Meppershall and Parkinson's UK.

<b><u>MEPPERSHALL SOCIAL CLUB – 2019</u></b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT DETAILS</b>	<b>TIME</b>
16 Nov	Michael Jackson Tribute – Live music	8pm -close
20 Dec	Christmas Bingo	eyes down at 7.30pm
21 Dec	Soul & Motown – Live Music	8pm -close
24 Dec	Xmas Eve Disco – <b>FREE ENTRY</b> – children supervised by a responsible adult are welcome	7.30pm – midnight
31 Dec	New Year's Eve Disco – <b>FREE ENTRY</b> – children supervised by a responsible adult are welcome	7.30pm – 1am

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

\*\*\*\*\*



## Future LuToN expansion consultation: Making best use of our runway

London Luton Airport Ltd is currently scheduled to consult on its expansion proposals from 16 October – 16 December 2019. The proposals will allow the airport to handle up to 32 million passengers a year by 2039, up from nearly 18 million today.

Consultation events will be held across the region – please see [futureluton.llal.org.uk](http://futureluton.llal.org.uk) for further information and updates. Consultation event dates and venues will be published before the consultation begins.



## GNOMES (Meppershall Good Neighbour Group)

The GNOMES would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our volunteers and those who have supported us throughout the year and to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As a pre-Christmas celebration we cordially invite everyone to join us for our Christmas Coffee morning in the Walnut Way Café (Village Hall) on Thursday 12th December between 10.30am and 11.30am during which we will have a singalong of seasonal songs and carols. Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 is the date for our first coffee morning of the new year to which all are invited.

Once more should you need transport to and from our coffee mornings please call, in good time, 07760 793921.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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!

\*\*\*\*\*

## St Mary's Church, Meppershall, Junior Church

Join us on  
**Sunday 1 December (11am)**  
 at St Mary's Church  
 (ages 3 to 12)



The JC team wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!!!

**Junior Church will be back on  
 Sunday 2 February 2020**



## Trugs & Trowels – Campton Gardening Club



### 'TRUGS & TROWELS' Campton Gardening Club

Monthly meetings start at 7.30pm  
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, 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Christmas Themed Evening Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Quiz
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Membership Renewal 'Look Back & Look Forward'
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Talk by Nic Garner (Freelance Journalist) 'Unusual Vegetables'
Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Official talk on 'History of the Warden Abbey Vineyard'
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Talk by Connie Price, gardener at the 'Swiss Garden'
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Talk by Martin Towsey (Garden Manager) 'The Bedfordshire Estates'

*For more information, please contact...*

*Maryika 01462 851729*



## Shefford Leisure Group by Enid Pamment

Really, to me everything seems to be a little mixed up. The weather doesn't really know what season we are in, the awful flooding in parts of our country, those poor people! We really are so lucky living where we do.



The shops are full of Christmas fayre and shop windows looking very seasonal, full of tinsel and sparkle. We just have to sit back and see what 2020 brings.

This year we have experienced quite a few really enjoyable outings, and in October we visited Eltham Palace (English Heritage property) and although we had a 'damp start' the sun did come out for our most interesting tour of the Palace, where Stephen and Virginia Courtauld built their 1930's mansion house on to the Great Hall of Eltham Palace, the childhood home of Henry VIII, creating an Art Deco masterpiece. We did view the grounds and gardens, which are beautifully kept, from inside the windows. Afterwards we re-boarded our coach for the short trip to Greenwich where we had free time to have lunch and find our way around this popular and busy town with so much to see and do. At the allotted time we met our Guide and Cockney skipper who gave us a wonderful humorous commentary as we glided along the River Thames to the Thames Barrier, taking us past Docklands and the old Millennium Dome and then back to Greenwich where our coach was waiting to drive us back to Shefford. Everyone commented what a lovely day they had experienced.

Reports on Ely Cathedral, Thursford and the Classical Spectacular will have to wait until 2020. We have lots of new ideas to look forward to. If there is anywhere you particularly would like to go, please let me know and I will see what can be done.

Don't dismiss our 7 night 4\* inclusive river cruise holiday to explore the many delights of Paris, Normandy and the River Seine, leaving Shefford 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. I still have a few leaflets if you would like to receive one.

This leaves me, on behalf of Shefford Leisure Group to wish all our readers, good health, safe travelling and a very happy Christmas and let us hope we have an exciting 2020.

Enid xx

### **THEATRES & EVENTS IN 2019 – 2020 – (Stevenage Group Travel)**

**JOHN RUTTER'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION – (Matinee)** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Royal Albert Hall - Leaving Shefford approx. 11am.

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

**& JULIET** – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (Matinee) a fun-loving new West End Musical at Shaftesbury Theatre. - Royal Circle Seats – Leaving Shefford at 10.15am.

**MOUNTBATTEN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC** – Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>- Coach leaves Shefford at 10.45am.

**BRICK LANE – ST. PATRICK’S DAY** – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Show including afternoon tea – Coach leaving Shefford at 10.45am.

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

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

### **THEATRES & EVENTS IN 2019 – 2020 (Shefford Leisure Group)**

*(Please Note: It is with sincere regret our Christmas Cockney Matinee due to take place on Tuesday 10th December, then altered to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December has now been cancelled due to lack of numbers now unable to attend. Any payments made will be refunded in full. Please accept my sincere apologies.*

**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.

**PARIS, NORMANDY & THE RIVER SEINE** - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, travelling by Eurostar and staying on the AMADEUS (Diamond River Cruises).

**THE FLICKS** – British Cinema born in London 1896 - **Monday** 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Leaving Shefford at 8.30am

**CREEKS COCKLES & COCKNEYS** – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020. **Leaving Shefford at 8.30am.** Meeting our Blue Badge Guide in Hadleigh Farm for coffee and a muffin, just outside Southend. See the cockle boats and cockle sheds In Leigh on Sea. Lunch included.

**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.

**THE STRICTLY TEA DANCE** – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 telephone for further details – 01462 851397 or e-mail [enid.pamment@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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](mailto:enid.pamment@gmail.com).

Looking forward to meeting you,

Enid x

### **Name That Church Competition (from last month's edition)**

The winners of last month's competition to name the locations of 10 local churches – as wonderfully photographed by Ian Hampton – were Beccy & Peter Clark.

The correct answers were as follows – to find last month's edition online and view the photos in colour please go to [bit.ly/MessengerIssues](http://bit.ly/MessengerIssues):

- |             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 1) Campton  | 6) Shillington       |
| 2) Clophill | 7) Higham Gobion     |
| 3) Shefford | 8) Lower Gravenhurst |
| 4) Clifton  | 9) Stondon           |
| 5) Henlow   | 10) Meppershall      |





**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 monthly meetings on the first Saturday, 11am -1pm, Village Hall, Walnut Tree Way, Meppershall, SG17 5AB.**

**7 December 2019  
4 January 2020  
1 February 2020**

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*

**Walnut Tree Cafe**

**Under new management and opening on  
Monday 6th January 2020  
New Opening times are  
Mon - Friday. 9 a.m till 3 p.m  
Sat - Sun 9 a.m till Midday**

New menu to include breakfast, lunch, afternoon teas, cookies, pastries and much more.

We will be doing take -away

Come along and try it for yourself.

Bring this advert with you to get 10% off your first order.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in the New Year



**New to Meppershall? If you have recently moved into Meppershall then welcome!**

For your information the **Wanderbus** operates regular routes and is a normal bus operation open to all passengers whether you pay for a **cash fare** or have a **concessionary travel pass**.

The difference is that we are run entirely by volunteers and offer **direct services** to a variety of destinations where we wait and return after approx. 1.5-2.5 hours stay.

We stop at all stops along Shefford Rd / High St / Rectory Rd – or if you signal/wave to the driver he/she will stop for you along the route!

**Every Monday - W3** – d. 09.27/09.29 to **A1 Retail Park** and central **Biggleswade** (Asda superstore)

**Every Tuesday – W12** - d. 09.18 /09.20 to **Hitchin** centre (via Barton Le Clay)

**Every Wednesday – W2** – d. 09.00/09.03 to **Bedford** Town Centre

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month – W14** – d. 09.14/09.17 to **Welwyn Garden City**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month – W10** – d. 09.15/09.18 to **St Neots** (Market day)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month – W11** – d. 09.08/09.10 to **Milton Keynes**

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month** - excursion to a variety of destinations. See The Messenger or contact us.

**Every Friday – W6** – d. 09.18/09.20 to **Shefford** (including on request - Shefford Health Centre)

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month – W5** – d. 13.38/13.40 to **A1 Retail Park** (via Biggleswade Town Centre). Why not have lunch at The Walnut Tree Café and join the bus right outside at 13.38!

For more information and timetables please contact us:

**Tel: 0300-123-3023**    **E: [thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:thewanderbus@gmail.com)**    **Web: [www.wanderbus.org.uk](http://www.wanderbus.org.uk)**

Or pick up a timetable from The Walnut Tree Café.

**NB. Our 16-seater buses are also available for private hire to Clubs, Schools, Societies etc.**



**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)

## **Financial Matters by Paul Savuto**

### **FINANCIAL LESSONS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION**

Passing money from one generation to the next can be a difficult issue for parents, particularly when it comes to ensuring children are ready to take on the responsibility of handling family wealth. However, while discussions about money can be uncomfortable, the key to installing financial responsibility undoubtedly centres on education and communication.

#### **Sooner rather than later**

Although each individual family's dynamics and circumstances will be different, the best course of action is typically to begin the process at an early age. This involves talking about a variety of age-appropriate topics in order to initiate and simplify the financial education process.

During their school years, for example, discussions may focus on basic money management skills with reference to pocket money and introducing concepts such as 'saving'. When children are studying at university, the emphasis will shift to applying financial concepts such as budgeting and also introducing other ideas such as investment principles.

#### **Expanding the scope**

Once your children start their careers, they will require more in-depth knowledge and advice on specific issues such as investing, pensions and taxation. Other topics for discussion may include charitable-giving options, and a range of financial concepts such as mortgages, trusts and Wills.

The final phase usually takes place when your children are in their forties and involves preparing them for financial leadership. This is likely to include discussions about the wealth-transfer process and future plans relating to how family assets are to be divided.

#### **Increasing importance**

In many ways, today's youngsters face greater financial challenges than their parents or grandparents. And this increasing burden of financial responsibility inevitably heightens the need to make the transfer of family wealth as smooth and successful as possible.



## **WHAT IS THE INHERITANCE TAX RESIDENCE NIL RATE BAND?**

The Inheritance Tax residence nil-rate band (RNRB) came into effect on 6 April 2017. The RNRB is a transferable allowance for married couples and civil partners (per person) when their main residence is passed down to a direct descendent such as children or grandchildren after their death. The RNRB effectively increases your existing £325,000 inheritance tax nil-rate band.

The RNRB is being introduced in stages, the threshold is currently £150,000 and will increase to £175,000 in 2020-21. After this, the limit is set to increase in line with the Consumer Prices Index. Any unused portion of the RNRB can be transferred to a surviving spouse or partner in a similar way to the existing Nil Rate Band.

The allowance is available to the deceased person's children or grandchildren. Taken together with the current Inheritance Tax limit of £325,000 this means that by 2020-21, parents will be able to pass on property worth up to £1 million free of Inheritance Tax to their direct descendants.

There is a tapering of the RNRB for estates worth more than £2 million even where the family home is left to direct descendants. The additional threshold will be reduced by £1 for every £2 that the estate is worth more than the £2 million taper threshold. This can result in the full amount of the RNRB being tapered away.

### **Planning note**

If your estate exceeds these extended nil-rate band limits, you should consider a formal Inheritance Tax planning exercise. There are ways to mitigate liabilities and we can advise.

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.

## Birthday Greetings

The Messenger Team send birthday best wishes to:

### December

Joyce Smith will be 91

Pam Flint will be 90

Jean Holden will be 80

### January

Phyllis Corns will be 93

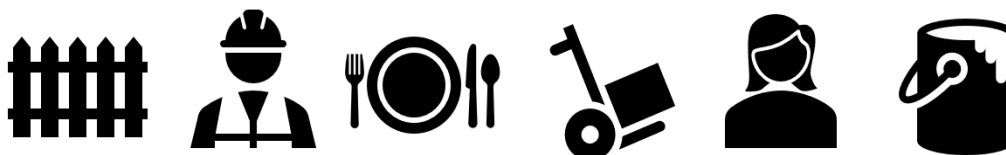
Brenda Wright will be 89

Maurice Horwood will be 89

Barbara Carne will be 84

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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.***



## Clophill Heritage Trust Update

Following a successful year of events, we have been busy planning for 2020 – we have more foraging workshops, introductions to herbal medicines, guided walks and countryside craft days as well as outdoor musical comedy, prosecco & pamper evenings and our regular wreath making and pumpkin festival.

Everyone can feel a little low after Christmas so why not book something to look forward to and come to our fundraising Cabaret evening on 25<sup>th</sup> January – we have a line-up guaranteed to entertain you with singing, dancing, magic, comedy and more! All money raised is going towards buying solar panels to make the Eco Lodges even more environmentally friendly. Tickets are £20 each which includes a glass of bubbles and canapes and you bring your own drinks for the rest of the evening. Tickets are selling quickly so book now at [www.clophillecolodges.co.uk/events](http://www.clophillecolodges.co.uk/events) or call us on 07935 911207.

Remember that The Eco Lodges and the ruins of old St Mary's church can be hired out for private events and photo shoots, 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.

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)

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The CHT Team

**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 <sup>st</sup>	AUGUST	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> *
APRIL	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>		SEPTEMBER
MAY	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> (Bank Holiday)	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	
	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	OCTOBER	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>
JUNE	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	DECEMBER	SANTA SPECIALS
	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>		PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL:
JULY	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>		NB
	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Booking for Santa Specials opened 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>	
	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> *		
	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> *		
* 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 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 2020			
February 2020	January 27th	May 2020	April 27th
March 2020	February 24th	June 2020	June 1st
April 2020	March 30th	July	June 29th

***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!***