

Storm “Ciara” visits Meppershall...

And it could have been a LOT worse

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Editorial by Mick Ridley and James Read

Talk about unwelcome visitors. Ciara and Dennis did their worst across the country last month and left their mark on our village. On the morning of Sunday 9th February, the churchyard was taking the brunt of the winds sweeping across Bedfordshire. At over 85m above sea level, the church sits at one of the highest locations in the village. Luckily churchgoers had headed home after the 8.30am communion and nobody had arrived for the 11am service.



So, when Ciara snapped the trunk of one of the mature lime trees adjacent to the church clean in half, its remaining height of well over 50 feet fell safely straight down the top of Church Road. It took a chunk of churchyard wall with it and blocked the access to the manor house.

We heard first-hand about the immediate teamwork and community spirit that kicked in to restore the road access. The church and the community as a whole owe its thanks to churchwarden Chris Valentine for some quick action and to Patrick Sinclair who spent hours with his chainsaw clearing the fallen tree. Inspections to similar neighbouring trees meant churchyard pathway access was closed for a time but they have been confirmed as safe, although with some significant pruning required.

Elsewhere in the village garden furniture toppled and tumbled, fence panels were flattened, trampolines and barbecues were knocked over. A telephone cable was ripped from its pole to be left flapping in the gale. Thanks to Wendy and Meral for sharing pictures with us on Facebook (Meppershall Noticeboard).

The heavy rain of Storm Dennis, during the very next weekend in February, also took its toll. We can only commiserate with some other parts of the UK which sustained terrible damage. Locally, Andrew Foster shared information about the banks of the River Hit which border Polehanger Wood. Further rapid erosion of those banks has impacted the footpath alongside. Walkers and their dogs are asked to take special care and observe the guidance kindly put in place there.

The River Hit is some 40 to 50 metres lower than the top of our village – so although it is marked at a high risk of flooding on the government's flood warning maps (flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk), we needn't worry. Meppershall itself is generally marked at the lowest risk of flooding although naturally there are narrow bands shown on flood risk maps along the course of larger drainage ditches – for instance at the bottom of the allotments. Bandlands Nursery is shown at a low risk of flooding in an area extending down to Hoo Road. Parts of this area were indeed seen to accumulate surface water during the Storm Dennis rainfall.

We are not short of soggy ground in winter – strangely it often seems soggiest in some of the highest ground around the church and manor house. Some say those conditions are linked to springs in that area. Meppershall is one of a series of significant water sources linked to the geological boundary of our underlying 'gault clay' and 'Woburn sands.' The Bedfordshire Records Office holds documents which suggest that ponds at Monks Pool are the remains of a moat fed by a natural spring (referenced to the Victoria County History).

With any luck the recent rainfall will have replenished those water resources and we won't be writing about a drought in our summer issue!

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

...to you both, and all who work to publish our village magazine.

The Messenger is a wonderful read. I have just loved reading the Editorial - informational, thought provoking and witty.

Mick Trundle's tributes are fantastic and I particularly loved reading about taking an interest in other people in our village.

Jeremy's article about coins was super interesting!

A great read. Lots of info and we have just booked for the panto! We will also be attending the second Sunday stroll.

Just wanted to let you and everyone in the Messenger know how much it's appreciated. Probably not said enough. Well done and thank you.

Let the serotonin flow!

Alli Roberts and family.

#spreadtheloveyoullfeelgreat

#whatsnottolove

Central Bedfordshire Council Charges for Adult Social Care

CBC is currently consulting on its proposed changes to adult social care charges. Everyone will have a reason to be interested in this. We have until 20 April 2020 to submit comments and complete a survey of local opinions – and it is well worth being informed about the current and possible future arrangements. To have your say visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations or pick up a paper copy of the consultation summary and questionnaire at council offices in Dunstable and Chicksands or at a local library.

For the last ten years, what and how people pay has been set out in CBC's Adult Social Care Charging Policy. CBC believes it needs a "fundamental review." Cllr Carole Hegley, Executive Member for Adults, Social Care, Housing Operations (HRA) and Customer Services, has said "As more people are living longer and often with complex needs, the demand is increasing along with the cost of providing these services. So, these are tough decisions but we believe the proposals we've put forward are fair and we'd really like to hear people's thoughts on them."

CBC has provided reassurance on some things. Direct services to carers to meet their identified needs will continue without charge. People in jobs will not have wages taken into account during financial assessments (benefits are taken into account); and those who have served in the armed forces will not have war pensions taken into account.

Why not take time to find out more, if you feel social care may be important to you now or in the future?



JOIN MEPPERSHALL'S SPRING CLEAN

Let's bin the litter together!

Saturday 4th April 2020

Start time 10am at Meppershall Village Hall

Sign up to help by emailing

lovemeppershall@meppershall.org

be a volunteer



Parish Council – Centenary Field Update

Over the last month the Parish Council has seen posts on the Meppershall Noticeboard concerning Centenary Field (behind village hall). We hope this article resolves some of the questions raised.

- **Who currently owns Centenary Field?** The field and all within it is currently under the ownership and responsibility of Croudace Homes. As the current legal owners of Centenary Field, Croudace Homes are under no obligation to allow access to the field.
- **When will the Parish Council take over ownership of Centenary Field?** 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.
- **Why is it taking so long to transfer ownership?** Surveyors working on behalf of the Parish Council have identified issues with the field that need resolving prior to handover taking place. The principal concern is that field drainage is inadequate (despite the wet winter), and water is pooling to the rear of the village hall.
- **So that the public can make use of Centenary Field, why can't the Parish Council accept transfer of ownership and sort out the problems after?** If the Parish Council accepts ownership, then it accepts that there are no issues and the contract has been fulfilled. After handover the Parish Council would have to pay to resolve any future maintenance and legal issues from its own funds (your council tax). The Parish Council do not believe residents should have to pay for this.
- **Are the Parish Council still planning enhancement of facilities on Centenary Field?** Yes, we are planning to install additional play equipment, an outdoor gym and signage in the coming 12 to 18 months. More to come on this.
- **So, when will Centenary Field be open for use?** As soon as we can get a resolution.



Still got a query? We welcome your questions, comments and concerns. If you can't make a Parish Council meeting, 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.

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

By the time you are reading this, I imagine that you will have had your fill of delicious pancakes and we will be well into Lent.

Lent is a rather curious time - both incredibly out of date with its "sackcloth and ashes" reputation and incredibly contemporary with its focus on being "the best me I can be" and "changing the world".

Often the Church couches the transformation we are hoping for in Lent in the language of sin and repentance - and not everyone today is comfortable with that. However, most of us know that at times in our thoughts and words and actions we fall short of what we hope and expect of ourselves - whether intentionally or unintentionally. We feel that we have let ourselves down and we therefore resolve to be - and to do - better in future.

Lent can be just that sort of "pick yourself up, brush yourself down, and start all over again" time - whether we are trying to improve our own strength, or whether we choose to invite the power and the grace of God to help us along the way.

There are two resources that you might wish to have a look at even though Lent has already begun.

'#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation' is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the world that God has created. This year's #LiveLent challenge offers 40 short reflections and suggested actions to help us all live-in greater harmony with God, our neighbours and nature. Just google '#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation' to have it delivered free by email to your phone or computer.

Alternatively, you might like to join Stewardship's '40 Acts - The Generosity Challenge'. For ten years now, 40acts has asked the question: what if Lent could be about more than just giving stuff up? What if it could be a time of radical generosity as well as spiritual discipline? Over the years, 40acts has become a movement of over 100,000 people on a mission to impact their communities with generosity. To find out more and

join in, google '40acts.org.uk.' Also, it isn't too late to join our 'Downton the Movie' lent group – Thursday evenings, 7pm at 3b Fildyke Road. Contact Keith Callard on 815482 for more information.

Lent is an invitation to us all to approach Easter already partly renewed, refreshed and transformed by our challenge to ourselves and our renewed openness to God and his power at work in our lives. And there is nothing sackcloth and ashes about that!

With best wishes, Rector Roni

Junior Church at St Mary's, Meppershall



**Junior Church is back on
Sunday 1st March**

11am at St Mary's Church

(ages 3 to 12)

Churchyard News

It is great to see the end of the recent scaffolding around the church and as spring begins to arrive the churchyard is a beautiful spot to sit and listen to the birds or enjoy the peace and quiet.

The church community wants to say a big thank you once again to Patrick Sinclair Garden Services for the exceptional response Patrick gave us in response to the Storm Ciara damage sustained on the north west corner of the churchyard. The large mature lime tree that fell during the storm was a substantial task for everyone concerned but Patrick's hard work saw the removal of the tree from the roadway and restoration of the access to the Manor House within hours. Thank you, Patrick.

Several times each year, we hold a 'Churchyard Working Party' and the next one is this month on Saturday 28th March. The church is reliant on volunteering to keep the churchyard in order. It is always a fun day and it includes a free lunch. People work at whatever pace suits them, for as little or as much time as they wish. Bring your own tools anytime between 9am and 4pm to help get ready for Easter – pruning, raking, clearing, chatting... we would love to see you there and have your company.

Church Services and Events – March 2020

At St Mary's unless stated below

Date	Time	Service / Event
Sunday 1 st March 1 st of Lent	11.00am	Holy Communion, plus Junior Church
Wednesday 4 th March	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th March 2 nd of Lent	8.30am 11.00am 2.15pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship Second Sunday Stroll – rescheduling our local loop from the church gate to Cow Bridge and on the banks of the River Hit into Lower Gravenhurst, Shillington and Lordship Farm (for tea). Around 3.5 miles. More info, tel. 857836.
Monday 9 th March	7.15pm for 7.30 start	Bible Society: “Go – Into The World” (Mark 16). With Jenny Dann at St Michael's, Shefford.
Tuesday 10 th March	2-4pm	Rectory Tea - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Wednesday 11 th March	10.00am	Holy Communion
Friday 13 th March	9pm	Silent Together Enjoy the presence of God in the tranquillity of the church - 30 mins.
Sunday 15 th March 3 rd of Lent	8.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion Morning Worship – all welcome!
Wednesday 18 th March	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd March 4 th of Lent	11.00am	Mothering Sunday - Holy Communion
Tuesday 24 th March	2-4pm	Rectory Tea - Chat and a cuppa, all welcome
Wednesday 25 th March	10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 28 th March	9.00am From 9.00am (come antime!)	Celtic Morning Prayer (breakfast from 8ish) Churchyard Working Party. Volunteer to eat cake and drink tea, with short breaks for clearing up in the churchyard for spring. Bring your own tools (raking, pruning, trimming) – free lunch, lots of community spirit and fun. More info, tel 857836. All welcome.
Sunday 29 th March 5 th of Lent	11.00am	United Benefice Service - Holy Communion at St Mary's Meppershall with our friends from St Michael's Shefford – a united 5 th Sunday service.
Other events: Come and join our 'Downton the Movie' lent group – each Thursday evening through lent, 7pm at 3b Fildyke Road (more info from Keith on 815482). Palm Sunday: 5 th April. Easter Sunday: 12 th April. Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Thursday 23 rd April.		



Meppershall VE Day Street Party & Fireworks – Friday 8th May

The Meppershall Events team have volunteered to coordinate the village celebrations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

The event, on Friday 8th May, will be held in the grounds of the Village Hall and will incorporate a 'street party' set around the Village Hall late afternoon followed by a firework display at Sun Set (around 8.30pm).

The team have started planning the event but would love to hear from as many people and organisations from the village for ideas and volunteers on the day.

So far, we are planning:

- **Street Party** around the Village Hall with **Best Themed Table** - We will be looking for a 'winner' so why not theme your table with 40s style food, decorations and even dress up in 40's clothing?
- **Bake Off – 40's style.** Yes, our lovely Alli has her thinking hat on and is planning another 'Bake Off' competition - 40's style.
- **Evacuee competition** – Children can dress up as Evacuees, we already have some 'real life' evacuees lined up to judge the competition.
- **Display of memorabilia** including Evacuee memoirs.
- **Sun Set Fireworks**
- **40's' disco'**

Can you help ? In particular we are seeking the following:

- Music & Dancing - 40s style of course!
Would you like to join in with these? Are you able to help? Let us know.
- Games - such as Marbles, Five stones or Jacks? Could you run a game or two on 8th May?
- Do you have a flare for 40's style makeup and hair dos etc. – Could you share this with our visitors?

Please get thinking –let us know what you would like to do to make this Bank Holiday one to remember! Email meppershallevnts@gmail.com or call 07590 68575673

Running For Sarcoma – Michelle Hare

So, you have probably seen a very sweaty, red faced, struggling to breath, tall ginger lady running around the village and nearby, well that's me. As you have witnessed, I am not a natural runner and only started this journey back in October, when I could barely run for 30 seconds.

You may be asking yourself, "Why is she putting herself through this punishment?" And my answer is easy, 'Sarcoma' and now you are asking "What is Sarcoma?"

Sarcoma is known as the silent cancer, as it has no obvious symptoms in the early stages.

It is a bone and soft tissue cancer; it can develop anywhere in the body.

15 people are diagnosed with Sarcoma every day in the UK.

My wonderful friend Alison died from Sarcoma last summer, she was diagnosed 7 years previous. She had a number of Sarcoma tumours over those 7 years, some were removed, others responded to radiation treatment but the tumours in her abdomen were untreatable and finally took her life. I watched a fantastic, outgoing, head strong woman deteriorate rapidly over 6 months, it was so upsetting to see. She was only 53 when she died. I miss her every day.



Alison always spoke so fondly of the charity Sarcoma UK, and the great work they do, so I decided that I would run the London Marathon for Alison and raise money to help stop this disease.

Sarcoma UK is a national charity that funds vital research, offers support for anyone affected by Sarcoma cancer and campaigns for better treatments. It is the only cancer charity in the UK focusing on all types of sarcoma.

What they do:

- Drive awareness of sarcoma cancer
- Find answers through funding sarcoma research
- Provide information and support to anyone affected by sarcoma cancer
- Campaign for better treatments and to improve standards of care

Since I started my campaign, so many people have said how their loved ones have been affected by Sarcoma, so I am running this for you too.

I am part of the Sarcoma UK 2020 London Marathon team with Alison's daughter and I have to raise £3000, so this is where I need your help.

If you would like to support me and view my updates, please scan the QR code below and you will be taken to my Justgiving page or use url link <https://www.justgiving.com/Michelle-Hare2>.



When I get to £2000 I will be dying my hair blue, something you will all want to bare witness too. You will certainly be able to spot me!!

I am also hosting a Quiz Night on Friday 27th March at Shefford Football club, all profits will be going to Sarcoma UK. There will be a raffle and other competitions on the night. Please see the flyer for more details.

Michelle Hare presents

Charity Quiz Night

Friday 27th March
2020
Shefford Football Club

Bar opens at 6:00PM
Quiz starts at 7:30PM



**Teams of up to 6 people
£5 per person**

All profits going to SarcomaUK as part of Michelle's
London Marathon 2020 fundraising campaign.

Please call or email Michelle to reserve your table:
Mobile: 07984532758
Email: mrsnichellehare@gmail.com

Bar | BYO Snacks | Raffle

Shefford Football Club, Hitchin Road, Shefford SG17 5JB



SarcomaUK
The bone & soft tissue
cancer charity




Made with PosterMyWall.com



We are delighted to announce Ofsted came to inspect us at the beginning of term and we got a 'GOOD' rating which we are all extremely proud of. We will continue to strive for outstanding and offer the children the best care and attention to detail to enhance their experience with us.

We have now been in our fantastic new setting for just over a year and after introducing 'In the moment planning' in September 2019, our children all seem very settled and happy. We are still able to plan activities around their individual needs and interests, but we get them more involved in this process and give them more freedom to develop their own ideas. Each day there are less adult lead activities and more opportunities for the children to explore and develop their skills and imagination without interruption. However, this does not mean we engage with them less, we actually have more time to interact with the children with less emphasis on paperwork. This ensures the children are safe and feel empowered to learn following their unique interests, but with our support and encouragement. Indoors we have created a calmer environment, and our outside space encourages more physical activity and noise. Most of our musical instruments are now outside.

So far this term some of the children have enjoyed being fire fighters using the yellow hoses, or builders with toy tools and construction materials. We have now ordered real tools and a tool bench with vices. Watch this space. They have also had the instruments out most days and are keen to explore different sounds. Some children requested listening to particular songs or music, which often lead to lots of singing and dancing. We also enjoyed chasing bubbles and twirling ribbons outside especially on the windy days. Many of the children like observing and talking about the weather. Mark making is also very popular. The children can use lots of different mediums or just sticks in the big sand pit, or muddy digging area. One day we stuck a huge sheet of paper to the floor inside and lots of children made a work of art together at the same time. We have some fabulous bakers too, who are delighted when we suggest they can make some real jams tarts if they want to, or are equally happy making cakes out of playdoh in the home corner. We have also cut up cabbages, sprouts and green beans, manipulated noodles, stuck down pasta shapes to make pictures, and made fantastic dens.

If you are thinking of moving and decide to use Satchells in Shefford, we are very excited to announce they have offered us £100 on completion of every sale from this branch on this being mentioned. Please spread this information far and wide, because every penny makes a difference. Thank you Satchells!

'NEWSFLASH'

We are now almost full during our summer term and already have limited spaces for September. Please do not delay to request information if you are interested in joining our waiting list.

The highly qualified diverse 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.

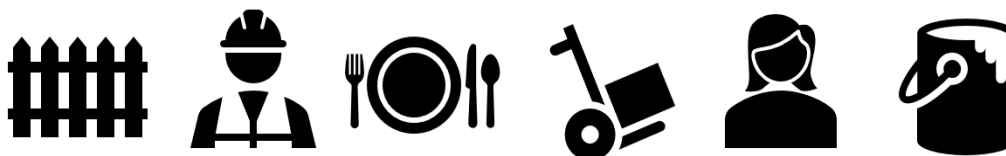
We are currently open every weekday from 9am till 3pm and welcome all children from in and around the surrounding areas. (term time only)

Our sessions are nearly full. Please ring Tamsin on 07816 357159, or email meppershallps@gmail.com.

OFSTED URN EY551988

Registered Charity: 1031913

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.



BARN DANCE

28 MARCH 2020 -

9.30 TO 23.15

IVEL VALLEY BAND MEPPERSHALL VILLAGE HALL

Fund raising for Barnardos Tickets: £12.50 with Ploughman's Supper

Contact: Janet Thomas 01462 625258 / or 07952 785643

Meppershall Craft Club – One Year On!

Lorraine, Diane and myself would very much like to thank everyone who has made The Meppershall Craft Club such a success! Firstly, a huge thank you to Viv and Karen who set up The Walnut Tree Café for kindly offering us an excellent venue for our meetings. Without this venue we would never have been able to start such a group.

Our members meet each Wednesday morning to share a coffee and their crafts. It has been amazing! Our youngest member is 19 and I am sure Phyllis will not mind me saying that as our oldest member she is in her 90s! We all have made so many friends, it is most definitely something that Meppershall wants.

Our crafts include watercolour painting, crochet, jewellery making, knitting, various needlepoint crafts including embroidery and black stitch, paper crafts including card making and book folding. There have been so many crafts we cannot list them all. People work on their own crafts, or, as we often do, share crafts with others. One of our latest activities is learning how to make crochet poppies ready for Armistice Day.

Between 25 and 30 people regularly attend - in fact due to our high numbers, in January this year we moved into the Village Hall itself. We wish to give a huge thank you to Meppershall Village Hall for making this possible. Also thank you to The Walnut Tree Café who continue to serve our refreshments by bringing them in on a trolley!

In addition to our crafting each week we share information on many interesting local events and activities. Often this leads to mini group outings! Indeed, many of us visited the Knit & Stitch Show at Alexander Palace; in the summer we attended an afternoon tea gathering and in December a Christmas lunch.

Due to the generosity of our members, we have been able make donations to charities close to our hearts. These have included Alzheimer's UK, Crisis at Christmas and Bedford Hospital Baby Unit.

Finally, a huge Thank You to every one of our members – you are all so kind and generous. You make The Meppershall Craft Club what it is xxx. We love our Wednesday mornings and very much look forward to our next year with you all.

Kim Tyler, Lorraine Jarvis & Diane Hughes.

Check out the pictures of the Craft Club in action in the colour pages of this issue!

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! Thanks, as always to The Sugar Loaf for hosting our monthly collating session to prepare the upcoming issue of The Meppershall Messenger!



We had two weeks with activities from the Frozen movie, we made frozen drinks which the girls loved, we had a snow ball fight, made Olaf treats with marshmallows and other sweet goodies, decorated stone trolls, which we hope to, when the nights get lighter, hide around the village for others to find and re-hide. We also played some other Frozen themed games. The girls also made Valentine's cards and we spent an evening learning about the Brownie Motto and Law.

Unfortunately, due to Storm Ciara our Thinking Day activity afternoon was postponed but we hope to be able to reorganise this for another day.

We also have a Brownie Adventure Day planned for June 2020 at Boyd Field where the brownies will have the chance to take part in lots of fun activities, including archery, climbing wall, low ropes, spiders web, bush craft, blind build etc.

We are also hoping to take the Brownies to Shepreth Wildlife Park for a sleepover with the animals in May where the Brownies will become Ringo Rangers for the weekend. The Brownies will be involved in projects, games and activities, learning and developing a sense of responsibility for the natural world around them. The girls and leaders will also have lots of fun, probably not a lot of sleep, and get a Ringo Ranger Badge.

Coming up over the next few weeks, we are doing the First Aid Skills Builder and will be learning how to do basic first aid. We are very lucky to have a Brownie parent who is a qualified paramedic and has very kindly said they will be able to come along and help us with this. We are also, due to great demand from the Brownies, having some magical Harry Potter theme evenings over the coming weeks.

If you are interested in your daughter joining Brownies (for girls 7-10 years) in Meppershall, or Rainbows (for girls 5-7 years) in Shillington or Lower Stondon, then please contact Snowy Owl (Suzanne) on 07817 392325 or you can register online at www.girlguiding.org.uk.



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



The Players are hosting "The Ultimate Decades Disco", the best sounds of the 60's, 70's & 80's on Saturday 14th March 2020 8pm at S.T.M.A Hall, 10 Hitchin Road Shefford SG17 5JA. Fashions of the decades optional (but fun). Prizes for best dressed. Doors open 7.30pm. Tickets all £5 on sale at ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers;

online ticket sales will cease 24 hours before the event starts. For non-Internet sales 01462 816336. Come and shake your booty, strut your stuff, get on down and twist the night away to the three greatest decades of dance music.

We are well into rehearsals for the V.E Production. The Players first commemorated the anniversary of the end of World War 2 in 1985, since then we have performed a show every 5 years. In keeping with the era, we encourage our audience to dress in forties style (optional); the tables are set out like a street party, food is included (not suitable for anyone with allergies), song books provided (singing optional), with flags to wave. Tickets are all £10 - on sale at ticketsource.co.uk/themeppershallplayers. Non-Internet sales 01462 816336. Performing on Friday 8th & Saturday 9th May 7.30pm at S.T.M.A. Hall, SG17 5JA.

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

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

- Sat 14th March 2020 - The Ultimate Decades Disco (60's, 70's & 80's) 8pm at S.T.M.A.
- Fri 8th May & Sat 9th May - V.E Musical Play 7.30pm at S.T.M.A.
- Sat 5th December - Aladdin Pantomime at S.T.M.A.
- Sat 12th December - Aladdin Pantomime at TBC

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

The Players meet Monday evenings 7.30pm-10pm at Shefford Town Memorial Hall. Membership is currently free we welcome people to indulge in all areas of theatrical performances, set building, costumes, directing, acting, make-up, song & dance, etc. Interested? We look forward to meeting you!

Karen Mitchell (Players' Secretary) 01462 816336

Meppershall Social Club

We would like to welcome all the new faces into the village. Everyone is welcome at the social club. NEW in 2020 - if you are interested in golf, we have a new society to join this year which has quite a few members already and you can join part way through the year if you haven't joined yet – see section below.

We are pleased to announce that **last year we raised £1,149.20 which will be split equally between our two nominated charities: 'Sparks' at St Mary's Church in Meppershall (local charity for 2019) and Parkinson's (national charity for 2019).**

We will be asking for your ideas for charities to support this year at our AGM later this month. We tend to raise between £800 - £1,200 each year and with your support we hope to raise even more in 2020.

We will be holding our AGM on Sunday 15th March 2020 at 7pm. We always welcome new ideas for future events, new members and people who are willing to help at our events. If you are interested please come along or leave us a message on our new page <https://www.facebook.com/meppershallsocialclub/>

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

We have lots of live sports events coming up on our screens: Premier, Europa & Champions League PLUS the Rugby - ask at the bar for further details.

The next live event organised by Helen Gudgin is "Red Mick" - a Simply Red tribute act on 18th April. Tickets are £10, proceeds go to Road Victims Trust, doors open at 7:30pm. Please contact Helen on 07989 914941 for more details of this and other events coming soon.

We have a number of regular events going on throughout the year which include Bingo on a Friday Night (eyes down at 7.30pm); Barbeques; Quiz Nights (3rd Sunday of the Month); Karaoke, Disco & Vinyl Nights.

We are fortunate to have a snooker table, a pool table and a dart board (available for use most evenings after 9pm). This year we hope to set up a series of friendly matches. We also have a number of crib and domino players and play in a local league.

And of course, we have a bar!

Everyone is welcome but membership is now open for the coming year. This is reasonably priced at £15 for a family, £7.50 for individuals over 16 and concessions for £5 per person. Membership forms can be collected from behind the bar. Membership offers reduced bar prices. We will be checking membership this year so make sure you bring your card.



<i>New for 2020</i>	
Starting March 2020:	10 matches - March through to December 2020
First Dates & Venue:	Sat 14 th March, Cainhoe Wood; Fri 10 th April (Good Friday), Panshanger (Deposit required).
Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable golf for patrons and nearby friends with an element of competition Minimum 16 players (ideally) Improve fitness & standard of golf Access to a variety of golf courses
Joining:	£30 Joining fee – then pay & play. If you join after 28 th Feb you may miss the first match.
Contact:	- gordon.cordes67@gmail.com

Meet the Artist – Meppershall Village Hall

AooX (“Art Out of Ten”) is having a Meet-the-Artist session at Meppershall Village Hall on Friday 27th March. We plan to be there from Friday afternoon into the evening with a lot more of our paintings, framed and unframed, on display. Please drop in and say ‘Hi.’ You’ll be able to put faces to the names on the pictures decorating the Village Hall’s walls. Here are details and photos of two of our members. We’ll introduce all ten of us over the next few months.



gilllongland@hotmail.co.uk

Gill Longland

I have always had an interest in art, craft and experimenting in various mediums. I began painting, having had an afternoon with a year-6 painting group and progressed to dabbling with colour and texture.

I then joined a weekly painting class which focused on watercolour. Later I was introduced to acrylics and later still, the plethora of goodies in the local art shop!

My work is usually based on interpretation and feeling for a subject.

I thoroughly enjoy working with mixed media, whether this is ink, pure pigment, household liquids, collage - the list is endless.

Gill is from Knebworth.

Sophie Patel

I am a self-taught artist from West London, currently living in Sandy with my husband and two small children. I have always drawn but only started to take it seriously a few years ago when I decided I wanted to make a career out of my passion.

After moving to Sandy, I became friends with Roxanne Smith. She introduced me to Sandy Art Club, a friendly group who are willing to share tips and experience. I was then asked to join "Art Out of Ten" and exhibit with them.

I work primarily in graphite and coloured pencil. I love the detail I can achieve with these mediums, although the group at AooX are pushing me to explore other mediums which is exciting if not a little scary!

You can follow me on Instagram and Facebook and I also have a store on Etsy and The British Craft House where you can see the art I have for sale including prints and greetings cards. I am available for commissions of portraits of pets, people and wildlife.



sophielouptart@gmail.com



GNOMES (Meppershall Good Neighbour Group)

The GNOMES coffee morning will be on Thursday 12th March 10:30 to 11:30 in the Walnut Tree Cafe. All are welcome to join us. Our volunteers are reminded that we shall be supporting the village 75 years VE celebrations on 9 May so any help or ideas for that event would be appreciated. A note for everyone's diary: our AGM 16th May.

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 our meetings,
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 gardening books,
whilst enjoying a nice cup of tea or coffee and biscuit.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: -	
Monday, 2nd March	Official talk on '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

Shefford Leisure Group by Enid Pamment

With signs of Springtime, bulbs appearing with vibrant colours of yellow and blue in people's gardens also in the hedgerows and very soon the daffodils will be waving their beautiful heads – let's hope the weather including the wind will be kind to allow nature's floral tribute to be admired by all.



During the winter months I have been trying to arrange a few outings which I hope will appeal to you, I do try to produce an assortment which hopefully will appeal to you. Tutankhamun is very popular and people did not want to miss the opportunity of seeing this wonderful exhibition before it is closed and exhibits returned to Egypt and home, back into the Pyramids. All these wonderful pieces were uncovered in the early 1920s.

I thought 'The Flicks' would prove a very interesting venue, again we leave at 8.30am and make our way to the City of London to meet our Blue Badge Guide. The British Cinema was born in London in 1896 when the first moving pictures were shown in Regents Street in 1914, the pictures were replacing Music Hall and Variety as a night out, the number one choice for millions of Londoners. We also visit the wonderful Cinema Museum in the old workhouse where a young Charlie Chaplin stayed. Also, on the agenda, the Mountbatten Festival of Music (Matinee) – on Saturday March 7th at the Royal Albert Hall, 'Creeks, Cockles & Cockneys' on Sunday 17th May, also with a Blue Badge Guide we will meet just outside Southend – this will be a fun day. 'The Strictly Tea Dance' on Wednesday 8th July, held at the Royal Docks in London's East End. We will be entertained by a professional ballroom and latin couple who will teach you to dance (even if you have two left feet!) Also included is an impressive afternoon tea plus a reasonably priced licenced bar! Leaving Shefford at 10am and should be back to Shefford by 6pm.

Also, at the same venue they are holding 'Voulez Vous - Aha!' with ABBA Chique on Wednesday 3rd June. An afternoon of seventies fun with tribute to the greatest pop band in the world. This is an all dancing sing-a-long, arm waving entertaining afternoon with a four-piece live Abba Tribute band. Serving a tasty chicken lunch, cheesecake dessert (*organised by Stevenage Travel Group*). Tickets have been purchased for the popular Great Choral Classics, a matinee performance held at the Royal Albert Hall, on Sunday 19th April. These are just a few of our day trips listed below. At the time of going to press a Warner's weekend break is being arranged in Norfolk. Please phone for more details.

Shortly we will be able to let you know how our River Seine Cruise went – everything seems to have pounced on us very quickly. In the meantime, with the lighter evenings you won't have to pull the curtains quite so early and maybe, weather permitting, we will be able to spend a little time in our own gardens. Who knows!!

Take care,

Enid xx

THEATRES & EVENTS IN 2020 (Shefford Leisure Group)

TUTANKHAMUN: TREASURERS OF THE GOLDEN PHARAOH Tuesday 3rd March 2020. Leaving Shefford at 8.30am making our way to The National Army Museum, Chelsea to meet our Blue Badge Guide. We leave London at 4.30pm and anticipate arriving back to Shefford between 6 – 6.30pm depending on traffic.

THE KING & I – Saturday 7th March 2020 – Leaving Shefford at 1pm for 2.30pm performance. Back to Shefford by approximately 6pm. *(sold out)*

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

THE FLICKS – Monday 20th April 2020 – Leaving Shefford at 8.30am & making our way to London for a nostalgic day going back to Charlie Chaplin. – Fish & Chip lunch included. Anticipate arriving back to Shefford 6 – 6.30pm.

BRICK LANE MUSICAL HALL: - V.E.DAY Friday 8th May 2020 – The tradition of Brick Lane to keep the traditions alive, offering food and drink accompanied by entertainment

CREEKS COCKLES & COCKNEYS – Sunday 17th May 2020. **Leaving Shefford at 8.45am.** 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.

THE TOWER OF LONDON – Tuesday 2nd June - Leaving Shefford at 10am to meet our Blue Badge Guide. Tour finishes at 4.45pm – re-join our coach and onto the restaurant for fish & chip supper (included in the price) and will leave for home by 6.30pm and hopefully arrive back to Shefford by 8.30pm.

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 (if you want) 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.

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR – Sunday 15th November, leaving Shefford at 9am – anticipate arriving back to Shefford approximately 9pm.

THEATRES & EVENTS IN 2020 – (Stevenage Group Travel)

MOUNTBATTEN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC – Saturday 7th March - coach leaving from Shefford at 10.45am

BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL – Tuesday 17th March (St.Patrick's Day) including afternoon tea. Coach will leave Shefford at 10.30am

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT – A NEW MUSICAL – Thursday 19th March – leaving Shefford at 10.45am.

GREAT CHORAL CLASSICS SPECTACULAR (matinee) Royal Albert Hall – Sunday 19th April – Leaving Shefford at 11am.

BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL – V.E.Day Friday 8th May, including afternoon tea. Coach will leave Shefford at 10.30am.

HAIRSPRAY – Thursday 18th 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

PRETTY WOMAN - The Musical Showing at the Piccadilly Theatre. (*Tickets not available at the moment*)

Please telephone for further details – 01462 851397 or e-mail 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. Looking forward to meeting you!

What's the Best Exercise for Back Pain?

This year, **Shefford Osteopathic Clinic** is proud and excited to be celebrating our 20th anniversary! We hope to help local people to live life for another 20 years. Back pain is amongst the most common conditions that we've treated. Here are some of the best exercises for back pain:

1. Walking

Even a gentle walk is great for getting the back moving and keeping you healthy. 30 mins of walking three days a week is equally effective for pain reduction as a course of back specific exercises.

2. Strength or resistance training

Strength training is safe if you build up gradually and increase over time.

3. Pilates/ core stability

This safe and gentle type of exercising is great for back pain. In the short term it offers a greater reduction in pain than other forms of training.

4. Yoga

Yoga is great for flexibility and improving movement. It can help with feelings of stiffness and tight muscles as well as general relaxation.

5. Swimming

Swimming is very gentle and safe. Swimming has good benefits for the back and shoulder mobility, for building a strong heart and lungs and improving muscle.

The exercise that you enjoy doing and are likely to stick to over time will probably be the best for you.

Remember, the Shefford Osteopathic team is here to help you. If you do experience back pain, we can see you quickly – usually within 48 hours. Call us on 01462 811006 or visit www.SheffordOsteo.com - let's alleviate your pain.

Meppershall Academy Parent
Teacher Association
(MAPTA)



Annual General Meeting

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Stay informed and get involved.

A warm welcome awaits you!!!!

Wednesday 25th March 2020
6pm-7pm

AGM to be held in the school hall



Parentkind
Member Association

Financial Matters by Paul Savuto

University challenge of digs and tuition

In recent years it has become more widely accepted that university isn't the only route to satisfying and rewarding employment. Apprenticeships and vocational training are among the other paths available; and there are many instances of success in business by those who entered a workplace direct from school and worked their way to the top.

Equality of opportunity may still have some way to go but increasing numbers of able youngsters from what are classified as deprived areas of the UK are now applying for university places. Details of the extent of this trend emerged in the 2019 figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

UCAS said: "In England, the number of young people applying from the most deprived areas has increased 6% to 38,770. In Scotland, young applicants from the most deprived areas have grown by 3%. In Wales, applicants from the most deprived areas remained at 1,390*".

As for the situation across the spectrum, it was revealed that 39.5% of 18-year-olds in England made a UCAS application, a new record. In Northern Ireland the rate was 46.9%, Scotland 32.7% (not including Scottish further education college undergraduate applications) and Wales 32.9%.

Helping out with costs

With accommodation costs and tuition fees to be met by most students (assistance may be granted in some cases UK-wide and for eligible students from Scotland), planning ahead for university costs makes sense and can be more effective if it involves parents and wider family such as grandparents.

The sooner saving for university begins the better. Investing in a Junior ISA every year (2019–20 annual limit £4,368 per child) can produce a useful sum, accessible on reaching 18. We can advise on JISAs and other savings and investment products to enable family members to help with university and life beyond, whilst also providing for their own future needs.

*UCAS, July 2019

Tone up your finances in 2020

As we face the year ahead with great anticipation, thoughts of resolutions, often centred around lifestyle improvements and healthy living, usually feature high on our to-do lists. It's all too easy to overlook the resolution to take stock and refocus on your finances. A new year is the perfect opportunity to do this.

Whilst a financial overhaul may seem a duller prospect than taking on a new challenge or hobby, taking the time to do this now could really have a positive impact on your future wealth.

Reconnect with your goals

Whatever life stage you've reached, you'll no doubt have some short and long-term financial goals you want to achieve, such as moving to a new home, saving for a child's education, travelling the globe, providing financial support to family or retirement planning. Reviewing these goals and determining the amount of money required to fulfil them is a good discipline and helps you connect to your aspirations, standing you in better stead of ultimately achieving them.

Prioritising your pension

The earlier you start saving into your pension, the more you can contribute and the longer your money has time to grow. With tax relief available on contributions (within limits), pension saving is one of the best ways to ensure you stay on track for a comfortable retirement. No matter what age you are, your pension should be regarded as an essential part of your financial plan

Tax-efficient saving opportunities

As the tax year end approaches, you still have time to use your annual ISA allowance, giving you even more opportunity to build up your savings tax-efficiently. Don't forget about the Junior ISA too, for your children or grandchildren, which can form the basis of a great financial foundation for your loved ones.

Revisit your mortgage

If it's been a while since you took out your existing mortgage, there could be a more suitable deal for you. Usually a family's biggest monthly outgoing, considering your mortgage options is essential in being nimble with your hard-earned money. Being savvy here could potentially enable you to deflect money into your pension or savings.

Review protection policies

Life insurance and other types of protection, such as income protection or critical illness cover, should form a vital part of your financial plan. It's worth reviewing these policies as your circumstances change, to ensure you have the right type and level of cover in place.

Keep talking

When it comes to reviewing and planning your finances, it's important that you keep us in the picture if your circumstances alter. You may have moved home and have a larger mortgage, inherited a sum of money, changed jobs, divorced or extended your family. If you keep us in the loop, that will enable us to ensure that your plans are perfectly tailored to your circumstances and attitude to risk.

Make 2020 shape up to be the year you prioritise your finances, an invigorating prospect.

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.

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Birthday Greetings

The Messenger Team sends March birthday wishes to:

Tony Edwards who will be 81

Barbara Horwood and Richard Ivory who will be 86

Ron Mitchell who will be 87

Joan Kimber who will be 91

And early April birthday wishes to:

Peter Lambley who will be 87

Doreen Lawrence who will be 95



With sadness and sympathy, we remember:

Gary Brightman, who passed away on the 2nd January.

Condolences to Janet.

Sylvia Mumford, who passed away on the 21st January.

Condolences to John and the family.



Clophill Heritage Trust Update

We have kicked off our 2020 events with a fantastic Introduction to Herbal Remedies workshop. New for this year these workshops are led by a local expert and include a basic introduction to herbal remedies, a foraging walk, lunch and a workshop where at least three remedies will be made and everyone takes a jar of each home plus recipe cards. Spaces are limited to ten per workshop so if you would like to join us on one of these, or our Spring Foraging workshops, book soon to avoid disappointment!

Our FREE Animal Encounter event is taking place as usual in the Easter Holidays on 19th April – run in partnership with Teaching Talons children can come and meet a variety of animals, insects and reptiles and even have their picture taken with an owl! Our café is open all afternoon as well, no need to book but please note that parking is very limited on site – please contact us if you would like to request a blue badge space.

All event tickets are available online, so book now at 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 know more about us and what we do, or volunteer to be a helper please contact either Emily or Louise on 07935 911207 or email info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk

NEXT EVENTS:

April

12th Easter Sunrise Service
19th Animal Encounter
25th Earth Day Open Day

May

2nd Spring Foraging Workshop
15th Prosecco & Pamper Evening
17th Spring Foraging Workshop
25th Countryside Crafts Café
23rd Spring Foraging Family Workshop
28th Teddy Bear Hunt

mark.liddiard@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Meppershall Parish Council

Parish Council Clerk Alessandro Marabese clerk@meppershall.org

Member of Parliament

Nadine Dorries dorriesn@parliament.uk

St Marys Church

Rev. Veronica Goodman, The Rectory, Church Road 01462 339962
(see the church section of The Meppershall Messenger for full details)

Library

High St, Shefford 0300 300 8067
Opening times: Tues - Fri 9am – 6pm, Sat 9am – 4pm, closed Mon & Sun

Whitbread Wanderbus Service

Stephanie Kirby thewanderbus@gmail.com

Shops

Village Stores, newspapers, Post Office, High Street 01462 811252
Rogers Bakery, High Street 01462 813398
Mobile Fish & Chips, Tuesdays 3.30 -7.00, Sugar Loaf car park

Schools

Meppershall Academy, High Street 01462 813293
Meppershall Pre School (Village Hall) Tamsin Osborn 07816 357159
meppershallps@gmail.com
Robert Bloomfield Academy, Shefford 01462 628800
Samuel Whitbread Academy, Shefford 01462 629900
Etonbury Academy, Stotfold 01462 730391
Henlow Academy 01462 813733
Redborne Upper School, Ampthill 01525 404462

Organisations

Meppershall Players (Secretary - Karen Mitchell) 01462 816366
Meppershall Good Neighbours (GNOMES) 07760 793921
Meppershall Brownies, Suzanne 07817 392325
Shefford Guides, Angie Griffiths 07957 462519
Shefford Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)
Kathy Georgiou 01462 629313



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

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

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

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

4th 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)

2nd & 4th 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

Web: 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)

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, sda 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



ST NEOTS – TIME CHANGES

Please note the following time changes for pick-ups for St Neots
(2nd Thursday of the month) as of **Thursday 13th February 2020**

W9 ST NEOTS	OUT	RETURN
2ND Thursday of each Month	RR = Return Stop on Request	
Shillington, Bury Rd, opp Woodmer End	09.10	RR
Shillington, Hillfoot Rd	09.11	RR
Shillington, Marquis Hill	09.13	RR
Meppershall, Rectory Rd	09.16	RR
Meppershall, High St, all stops	09.17	RR
Meppershall, Shefford Rd, all stops	09.18	RR
Shefford, Ivel Rd	09.21	RR
Clifton, Shefford Rd, opp Post Office	09.26	RR
Clifton, Newis Crescent	09.28	RR
Clifton, Stockbridge Rd	09.29	RR
Henlow, Langford Rd, Newtown	09.31	RR
Langford, o/s Riverside Grdns	09.34	RR
Langford, Station Rd, all stops	09.35	RR
Langford, Church St, all stops	09.37	RR
Broom, High St, opp Village Hall	09.42	RR
Southill, Stanford Rd, opp Memorial	09.45	RR
Stanford, o/s Green Man PH	09.46	RR
Upper Caldecote, opp G&M Growers	09.49	RR
Upper Caldecote, o/s Post Office	09.50	RR
Roxton Garden Centre – On Request	10.00 OR	12.20 OR
St Neots, Market Square.	10.10	12.10

W10 ST NEOTS	OUT	RETURN
2ND Thursday of Each Month	RR = Return Stop on Request	
Lower Stondon, Station Rd, o/s Village Hall	09.29	RR
Lower Stondon, Station Rd, all stops	09.31	RR
Clifton Park	09.36	RR
Stotfold, Hitchin Rd, opp Borton Ave	09.41	RR
Stotfold, Hitchin Rd, opp Recreation Ground	09.42	RR
Stotfold, Hitchin Rd, opp Hallworth Drive	09.43	RR
Stotfold, Regent St, all stops	09.44	RR
Astwick	09.46	RR
Roxton Garden Centre – On Request	10.05 OR	12.30 OR
St Neots, Market Square	10.15	12.20



WANDERBUS - 2020 EXCURSIONS – 4th THURSDAY OF MONTH!

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

We do require a deposit of £5.00 p.p. for any excursion. A cheque to Wanderbus, 5 The Pastures, Upper Stondon, Beds SG16 6QB or a bank transfer to : CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code 40-52-40, Acc No. 00013118 Name: Wanderbus Ltd (Use your name in Reference)

	DESTINATIONS	Bus Fare Per Person
23rd April	Coton Manor Botanical Gardens, Northants	£12.00
	<i>Entrance Fee £12.00. Bluebell Woods & Water Garden</i>	
28th May	Audley End House & Gardens, Essex	£12.00
	<i>Entrance Fee £16.70 for over 65's. Jacobean House & extensive gardens</i>	
25th June	Castle Ashby Gardens, Plant Shop & Menagerie, Northants	£10.00
	<i>Entrance Fee £12.00. Extensive gardens, Italian garden, Orangery and Arboretum.</i>	
23rd July	Cottenbrooke Hall & Gardens, Northants	£12.00
	<i>Entrance Fee £10.00 includes tour of Queen Anne House. Award winning gardens.</i>	
27th August	Boughton House & Gardens, Kettering.	£12.00
	<i>Entrance Fee £11.00 incl ground floor house tour. Baroque state rooms with finest artworks and extensive gardens</i>	
24th Sept.	Wimpole Hall, Cambs.	£10.00
	<i>National Trust. Entrance Fee £18.95 House & Gardens / £12.50 Gardens & Farm only.</i>	
22nd Oct.	Stockwood Discovery Centre & Gardens, Luton	£10.00
	<i>Free entry. Museum & Classical Gardens. Also sensory garden, world garden & medicinal garden</i>	
26th Nov.	Christmas Market	
	Destination to be advised.	



Please ask our Drivers for a detailed leaflet.



**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 March 2020

4 April 2020

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

Bedford Model Engineering Society Summerfield Miniature Railway

Off the A600 just past Haynes Turn

Public Running Days in 2020 from 10.30.AM to 4 PM.

MARCH	Sunday 29 th	AUGUST	Wednesday 5 th *	
APRIL	Wednesday 8 th (half term) *		Wednesday 12 th *	
	Sunday 12 th		Sunday 30 th	
	Monday 13 th (Bank Holiday)		Monday 31 st (Bank Holiday)	
MAY	Sunday 3 rd	SEPTEMBER	Sunday 6 th	
	Sunday 24 th		Sunday 27 th	
	Monday 25 th (Charity Day)	OCTOBER	Sunday 11 th	
	Wednesday 27 th (half term) *		Sunday 25 th	
JUNE	Sunday 7 th	DECEMBER	Wednesday 28 th (half term) *	
	Sunday 28 th		SANTA SPECIALS	
JULY	Sunday 12 th		PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL:	
	Wednesday 22 nd *		Saturday & Sunday 5 th & 6 th	
	Sunday 26 th		NB	
	Wednesday 29 th *			
		Booking for Santa Specials opens on Sept 1 st and places sell out very quickly		
		For further information on any event, see our website: www.bedfordmes.co.uk		
*On our Wednesday openings, only limited catering will be available.				

Did you know...? The Bedford Model Engineering Society in its present form dates from 1948. It promotes model engineering of all kinds. In 1971 the society took up a permanent site in Wilstead (adjacent to 'The Rose' public house, now closed) where an extensive elevated track was built. In 1986 the Society doubled the length of its track to over 1800 feet and it was further expanded in 1990. But in 1992, The Rose pub closed and, after negotiations with Whitbread Estates, the Society moved to what was then Summerfields Fruit Farm – its present site. Summerfields was a pick-your-own fruit farm and the Society ran a train service from the car park up to where the fruit was being picked during the strawberry season. This meant running an up-and-back service on five or six consecutive weekends during June and July. In return for this the Society was offered a 3-acre triangular site, located some 900 feet from the car park, on which they could build an elevated track.

The Society, and the Summerfield Miniature Railway, are an amazing feature of local life here in rural Mid Bedfordshire and well worth a visit! Why not drop in and take a look on one of the dates above?

The Editors (taken from bedfordmes.co.uk/about).

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

Joint Editors	James Read & Mick Ridley	Email: mepp.messenger@gmail.com	
Assistant Editor	Vacancy		
Advertising	Andrew Pain	26 Fildyke Road andrewgpain@hotmail.com	07875 580069
Distribution	Colette House	90 Fildyke Road Email: colettehouse@gmail.com	07831 111062 / 815585
Production	Enid Pamment	112 High Street Email: enid.pamment@gmail.com	851397
Co-ordination			
Treasurer	John Thompson	16 Brookmead Email: meppershallmessenger@meppershall.org	812983

Collating Dates 2020			
April Issue	April 6 th	July Issue	June 29 th
May Issue	April 27 th	August-Sept Issue	July 27 th
June Issue	May 26 th (Tues)	October Issue	Sept 28 th

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. Thanks, as always to the Sugar Loaf for allowing us to meet and collate at the pub each month.

New collators always required! Contact Colette for more info if you can help.