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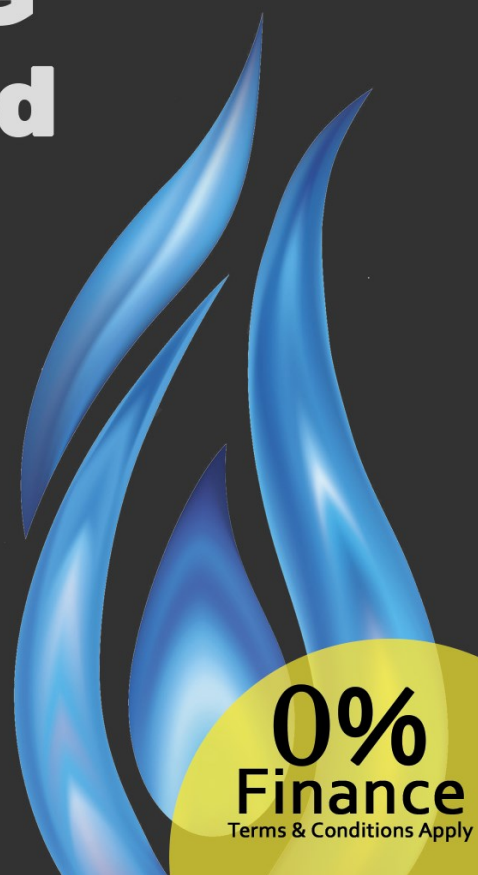
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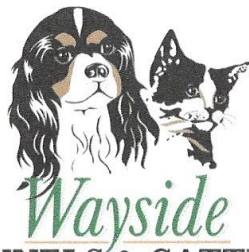
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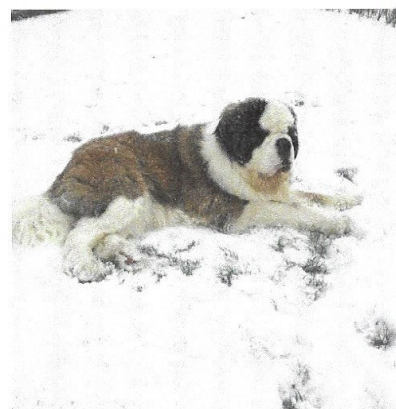


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## Editorial by Mick Ridley and James Read

This month's magazine is the perfect partner to the call that we put out last month to "keep it local" – with our shout-out for local businesses.

That's because this month's magazine is packed full of the same local spirit – but many of the people and things highlighted here are not traders and business people – they are volunteers.



Our cover photo shows Luke, Ryan and Lee on their monumental 100-mile run around the Polehanger Farm / Crackle Hill loop – completing 28 laps in all. Their sponsored event was part of the "Captain Tom's 100" national initiative and raised money for the Garden House Hospice. You can read about their terrific fundraising on page 15 and we wish them many congratulations. You can still show your support using their JustGiving link, also included on page 15.

Congratulations also to Sharon Tingey who completed her own sponsored event in March, walking 10,000 steps every day to raise money for NHS charities linked to the rare cancer affecting a loved one. See Sharon's letter on the next page.

At the village school, there's another fundraising initiative. Read more on page 16 – a good way to recycle clothes that you don't really need but don't really want to throw away either. We wish MAPTA lots of success with that. You can also read an update from the school itself on page 22 as it settles into its new life within the Poppy Hill Church of England Multi-Academy Trust. We wish Margaret and team every success.

Maybe these examples will inspire you to commit some time this summer to helping others, doing some fundraising or giving back to the community in some way. Many are already doing just that – and well done to them! There are some opportunities on your doorstep. If you have just one hour, why not spend it helping out in the churchyard on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June at the Churchyard Working party (page 27).

Or if you are looking for a bigger commitment, have you considered taking on a new role as a member of the Parish Council? Our Parish Councillors are a crucial part of the local government system – managing and representing village needs and issues here and in wider regional forums. Their work is greatly appreciated – and now you could bring your own insights, experience and skills to do your bit too. Female or male, young or old, whatever background you come from – your volunteering as a councillor could be just what the village needs. See page 8.

Finally, some things we can all do to help our friends and neighbours stay safe. Take regular COVID tests. Get vaccinated. Hands. Face. Space. Lockdown measures are being relaxed, and that means we need to be extra careful to make sure we aren't carrying the virus when we go out to enjoy being back together with other people. Page 14 has all the links and information to get the free tests that are there waiting for you. I've done several – its easy and it really gives you peace of mind when you are out and about. If we all do our bit, we can stay on track... getting back to normal.

## Letters to the Editors

### Dear Editors

I would like to let our residents know of the following.

Myself, Cllr Morgan, Ward Councillors Brown and Liddiard have all been working behind the scenes in order to obtain grants to enable the money to be available for road safety measures to be put in place.

A village walk-about took place where Cllr's Morgan, Brown and Liddiard in conjunction with an officer of Central Beds Council (CBC) Traffic Department walked the length of the village to see and understand the issues highlighted in the traffic petition forwarded to CBC. The CBC officer is currently preparing a report which will highlight the areas most in need of improvements to road safety. In addition she has been asked to provide an estimate of costs involved in order that we include these in any grant application.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has offered a grant scheme for improving road safety in Bedfordshire and I on behalf of the Parish Council have applied for such a grant.

In addition CBC have a Rural Matched Funding Scheme; as a Parish Council we can apply for this. It could provide funds for the road safety improvements. It is hoped by the time the next issue of the Messenger is published we will have positive news about our grant applications.

***Cllr Anthony Seaman***

### Dear Editors

I would like to say a massive thank you to all those who supported me and donated as I walked 10,000 steps a day mostly around the village throughout March. This was to raise funds for NHS charities who are treating my son's girlfriend Jess Goldsmith, aged just 25, for a rare form of cancer. I say mostly round the village, as I had pneumonia during March and had to do a lot of my steps on my treadmill in very short bursts, I simply didn't want to let Jess or the NHS down! With your amazing support you helped me raise £400 and I am pleased to report that Jess is now almost cancer free.

Thank you all so very much, you helped make it so worthwhile.

**Sharon Tingey**





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## Parish Council

A Statutory Meeting of Meppershall Parish Council (MPC) took place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman** - At the meeting, Councillor John Thompson was elected Chairman and Councillor John Parsons was elected as Vice-Chairman.

**Public Session** - CBC Ward Councillor Mark Liddiard provided an update on Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) activities as follows:

- A walk of the village road was carried out by CBC Principal Highways Officer Lisa Wright, Cllr Liddiard and MPC Cllr Morgan. Subsequent to the visit a specific 'master plan' for Shefford Road is to be created to ensure that potential traffic calming measures are installed in the correct locations (the use of traffic islands is being considered). Issues raised concerning traffic outside the Post Office / Village Stores will be harder to tackle. Bollards outside the Village Stores are probably not viable however a double raised kerb may be and investigations into this are ongoing. It is suggested that speeding issues on Fildyke Road are monitored but there is little support for increasing parking restrictions there.
- Road improvements come at a cost. Ms Wright will look into CBC funding options. The Shillington Road vehicle activated sign is to be replaced by the developer of 15 Shillington Road. The 2 x raised tables on Shefford Road will be installed by the developer of 32 Shefford Road (Bovis). MPC has submitted an OPCC Grant Application and will look to take advantage of match funding available from the Rural Match Fund when it becomes available and once CBC agreed projects are costed.
- CBC has advertised additional business support grants that are also now available to public houses.
- A meeting was held with MPC Cllr Morgan regarding a rat issue on Fildyke Road.
- The 40 Shefford Road planning appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspector on the grounds of harm to the landscape.

**Questions / comments from the public** - Thanks were offered to members of MPC, Ward Councillors, CPRE and Meppershall residents who has all contributed to the 40 Shefford Road appeal hearing.

**Delegation Arrangements** - MPC confirmed appointments to its Personnel Committee and Working Groups which can be found <https://www.meppershall.org/index.php/parish-council/councillors>

**Finance** - MPC reviewed its assets register and proposed to extend the register to include photographs of all MPC Assets.

MPC received its internal audit report. Sally King from Auditing Solutions Limited reported: *“No issues have been identified in relation to the verification of detail in the Statement of Accounts and AGAR this year [2020 – 2021]. On the basis of our detailed work during the course of the Council’s systems of financial control and content of the detailed Statement of Accounts and that set out in the AGAR, we have signed off the Internal Audit Report of the AGAR assigning positive assurances in each relevant area.”* The Clerk was thanked for producing a “no issues” result to the audit for 2020-2021.

MPC approved its Annual Governance and Accounting Statements 2020-2021 for submission to the External Auditor, along with confirming the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights to Inspect MPC Accounts (18th May 2020 to 16th July 2020).

**Planning and Housing** - MPC considered planning applications relevant Meppershall as follows:

- i. CB/21/01409/FULL – Polehanger Farm – Alterations to existing buildings - *No Objections*
- ii. CB/21/01410/LB – Polehanger Farm – Alterations to existing buildings and repairs to Grade 2 barns - *No Objections*
- iii. CB/21/00887/LB – Polehanger Farm Grade 2 listed building repairs - *No Objections*
- iv. CB/21/01207/FULL – Meppershall Airfield – two 3-bedroomed semi-detached staff dwellings - *Objections raised include: 1) loss of best and versatile agricultural land; and 2) immediacy of need for staff dwellings on site at the Airfield.*
- v. CB/21/01531/FULL – 47 Orchard Close – Erection of outbuilding and change of use of garden - *No Objections*
- vi. CB/21/00785/FULL – Ansell Village Stores – Revised description of development - *Objections on grounds of noise and traffic issues previously submitted to CBC reaffirmed*
- vii. CB/21/01596/FULL – 40 Fildyke Road – Front Porch, rear loft conversion and rear conservatory conversion - *No Objections*

The Planning Inspectorate heard an appeal against planning permission being refused for 40 Shefford Road, by CBC on Tuesday 13 April 2021. The appeal decision, released on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021, was to dismiss the appeal citing reasons of erosion of rural character of the site, urbanisation would be discordant with the existing pattern of the settlement and the identity of its countryside setting, conflicting with the Landscape Strategy of conserving and strengthening the distinctive pattern of hilltop settlements and unsettled hill slopes of the Upper Gravenhurst-Meppershall Clay Hills Landscape Character Area and urbanising impact that would erode the distinctive open rural character of the setting of the village. As CBC is close to delivering its Local Plan and our own Meppershall Neighbourhood Plan is close to



completion, this will go further to remove the ability of developers to claim the presumption of sustainable development when making future planning applications.

CB/21/00053/Full – 1 Shefford Road -The development of 5 new homes to the rear of the existing bungalow was granted by CBC, but with a total of 21 conditions attached to the development.

CB/TRE/21/00041 – Works to the oak tree located outside 84 Shefford Road. The proposed removal resulted in considerable local discussion and responses submitted to the Planning Team at CBC, with the vast majority raising objections to the proposal to remove the very substantial and highly visible tree from the local landscape in Meppershall. As a result of the conflicting information supplied by the applicant, the CBC felt it could not be clearly shown that the oak tree was the prime cause of damage to the nearby property and as such at present consent to fell the tree has been refused. Since 2014, Meppershall has seen upwards of 20+ hectares of best and versatile agricultural land developed in the village removing countless trees and many other aspects of the rural character of the village. MPC are delighted that the Planning Authority have on this occasion enforced the Tree Preservation Order and refused permission for the tree to be removed.

**Neighbourhood Plan** - The Clerk updated MPC on progress of the Neighbourhood Plan for Meppershall. The Steering Group hope to commenced Regulation 14 consultations with the community very soon. The Steering Group are still looking for volunteers to assist in the final stages of creating the Neighbourhood plan and anyone wishing to help should contact the Clerk [clerk@meppershall.org](mailto:clerk@meppershall.org).

**Highways and Transport** - MPC reversed its decision made at the last Council meeting to object to the request from the Department of Transport for the proposed stopping of the highway at land opposite 34 – 42 Shefford Road. The Clerk advised that upon investigation MPC had misunderstood the request. In short ‘stopping up of the highway’ means a section of highway being removed from Highways control and hence removing public access to it. The proposal is actually a request for the developers of land opposite 34-42 Shefford Road to take control of this section of land abutting the road for inclusion in their development (long section of hedgerow).

**Environment and Leisure** - The Clerk provided an update on the new grass cutting contractor. There had been a delay in starting cutting this year due to the unexpected appointment of the new contractor and teething issues were to be expected. What appeared to be unfinished grass-cutting works at the end of day 1 cutting were dealt with by the contractor on their return on day 2-3.

The Clerk provided an update on Centenary Field. Following many hours of discussions with Croudace Homes, the Clerk was pleased to report that a settlement

letter was being prepared on behalf of MPC and the Village Hall Trustees to finalise the handover of land from Croudace in the very near future. MPC hope to begin remedial works to bring Centenary Field and the pitches as soon as reasonably possible after the land is transferred to MPC and MVHT ownership once again.

The Clerk reported on discussion with residents whose properties abut the Fildyke Road end of Old Road Meadow. MPC will seek to enter into agreements with those residents whose properties are on the boundary with Old Road Meadow as necessary.

The Clerk reported on discussions with Village Hall Trustees on the future use of the changing rooms and their use in connection with the football pitch. MPC advised that at present they are unable to provide any specific requirements from the use of the football pitch in the future until its ownership has been fully transferred to MPC and Council have debated its potential uses going forward.

**Community Safety and Risk Management** – The Clerk, MPC Cllr Seaman, Mr Walker (MVHT) and Mr Cordes (MVHT) met with PCSO's Lee and Beddall and Ms Beard (CBC) on 21st April 2021. They discussed issues of anti-social behaviour (vandalism, potential drug dealing / taking etc.) in Meppershall and in particular near to the village hall area and green spaces. They discussed measures such as anti-climb paint to stop youths accessing the roofs of storage containers and the village hall roof, spikes to prevent access etc. Bedfordshire Police are aware of the youths in Shefford and that they may potentially be coming into Meppershall. Both the Police and CBC Community Safety Officers are and will patrol the areas around the Village Hall, Old Road Meadow and the Rights Of Way footpaths to Polehanger Farm. ***It was agreed that MPC would appeal to residents for their help (it is no good reporting issues on Facebook), they must be reported to the Police on 101, 999 or Crime Stoppers if wanting to remain anonymous.*** Incidents involving more than groups of 6 youths causing issues (or the potential to cause issues) should be reported to the Clerk. The CBC Community Safety team will speak to Youth Services and the Community Engagement Team to see if they can provide more assistance. Speeding, especially excessive speeding on Shefford Road was discussed and it was proposed that Beds Police carry out speed enforcement work on Shefford Road. Finally, Dog Fouling was discussed and the Clerk will provide CBC with list of hotspot areas so that they can be added to the dog patrol list.

**The next meeting of Meppershall Parish Council will take place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at Meppershall Village Hall at 7.45pm.**

John Thompson  
Chairman - Meppershall Parish Council



PS: In future issues of The Meppershall Messenger we will provide information on our Committees and Working Groups and how residents can get more involved with the work of the Parish Council.

## **Your Chance to Become a Local Councillor**

**Meppershall Parish Council needs new team members; if you think you would like to join the team contact the Clerk on 07930 813808 or email [clerk@meppershall.org](mailto:clerk@meppershall.org)**

### **What is a councillor?**

Councillors are elected to represent an individual geographical ward or parish, in Meppershall it is the entire parish. They are generally elected by the public every four years, but there are Co-option spaces available on the Parish Council at the moment as Councillors Karslake, Austin and Thomason have given their resignations to the Parish Council.

### **What do councillors do?**

Councillors have three main components to their work:

1. Decision making - Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
2. Monitoring - Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
3. Getting involved locally - As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:
  - Going to meetings of local organisations such as the Beds Police Priority Setting Meetings
  - Reviewing planning applications
  - Participating in litter picks
  - Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public

### **How much time does it take up?**

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about an hour a week. Obviously there are some councillors who spend more time than this - and some less, but in the main, being a parish councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to village life, and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

As a councillor representing the parish you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.

If after reading this notice you are interested in applying please visit our website <https://www.meppershall.org/index.php/parish-council/councillors> for more information and contact the Clerk to the Council on 07930 813808 or email [clerk@meppershall.org](mailto:clerk@meppershall.org)

**The closing date for applications to be considered at our June meeting is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.**

## CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



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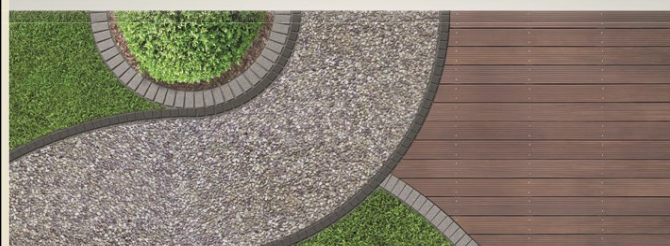
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## Do You Believe in the Dog Poo Fairy?



### What to do with dog poop bags?

"Owners should keep their dog waste bags with them until they can find a dog waste bin or regular litter bin, or should take it home with them to dispose of it properly."



**So why do some Meppershall dogwalkers hurl or hang poo bags on trees and hedges in our in and around the village or worse still not pick it up at all, and can they be fined?**

The short answer is, yes. As a dog owner you're expected to poop and scoop and discard in your own black bin or in dog waste bins provided by the council or local landowner. Anybody spotted hanging their dog mess from trees is risking a fine, even though the mess is bagged. It's classed as littering, as you're knowingly discarding bagged waste. And poo left lying around in a bag hangs around for even longer than poo that hasn't been bagged. As for those who don't pick up your dog poo at all, this is also an offence. And please don't think that dog mess only needs to be picked up if it's on a footpath. All dog poo should be picked up!

### What can I do if I see someone doing it?

People living near places where hurling or hanging bagged dog poo is a major problem should let their council know its happening, so officers can monitor and enforce the problem. The same goes for dog mess not picked up.

### Why do people do it?

There's no real answer to this. It could be passive aggressiveness, laziness or people thinking they are just being helpful by hanging it on a tree or leaving it on the ground. Other people think that dog waste bins are not emptied enough so there is no alternative. Worse still some think that because their dog has pooped somewhere adjacent to a footpath or near a bush it's out of the way and who cares



anyway. But let's face it, no-one who does it is likely to publicly admit it, let alone tell us why they are doing it.

### **What can be done about it?**

Dog fouling is a problem that councils actually take pretty seriously but sadly it is one that can be fairly difficult to actually stop. The Parish Council has discussed the matter with Central Bedfordshire Council so we hope to see the Dog Warden in the village and fining people who aren't pooping and scooping soon!

### **How can dog owners make sure they set a good example?**

A spokeswoman for the Kennel Club said: "Dog owners should always clean up after their dogs and dispose of the waste appropriately, and the vast majority do. However, a small minority who do not can give all dog owners a bad name.

A lack of bins in an area, particularly public footpaths through the countryside and woodland areas, can be frustrating but is not an excuse to hang dog waste bags in trees, leave them on the ground or not pick up as some people seem to do.

**In future please ...**



\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Safer Central Community Survey**



The Safer Central community survey is a chance to have your say about crime and community safety issues that are important to you and your community.

The survey is open to anybody who lives or works in Central Bedfordshire.



Responses are reviewed on a regular basis and findings from the survey inform the priorities of Safer Central, Central Bedfordshire's Community Safety Partnership and also inform the work of our community safety team.

Our survey runs annually, so even if you completed it last year we would like to hear from you again.

Do the survey here: <https://safercentral.org/community-safety-survey/>

## **What You Need to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccination**



The Covid-19 vaccination programme is the largest in the history of the NHS. The vaccine is being offered to more and more people in our area every week.

Vaccines can reduce or even eliminate some diseases, if enough people are vaccinated.

Since vaccines were introduced, diseases like smallpox and polio that used to kill or disable millions of people are gone from the UK.

### **How do vaccines work?**

Vaccines teach your immune system how to protect you from diseases. It's much safer for your immune system to learn this through vaccination than by catching the diseases and attempting to fight them.

### **Can I catch Covid-19 from the vaccine?**

No. You cannot catch Covid-19 from taking the vaccine but having the vaccine could stop you from becoming seriously ill if you catch the infection.

### **Should I be concerned about the speed the vaccine was made available?**

The speed in which the vaccines have been developed does not mean that they are unsafe. The technology used to develop the vaccine is not new. It's been tried and tested for decades. It is with this technology and massive global investment to develop a Covid-19 vaccine that has allowed it to be available so quickly.

Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through lots of clinical trials and safety checks, like all other licensed medicines, before it is approved. The Covid-19 vaccines used in the UK have been declared as effective by the UK's independent Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulator (MHRA) after extensive trials.

### **When will I be able to get vaccinated?**

The NHS will announce when different age groups can book their vaccination, you can check who is eligible at any time and book your appointment online at [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination). You can also book appointments by calling 119.

You may also receive an invitation to book your vaccination from your GP and you can book an appointment directly with them.

You can read more about the vaccination and common misconceptions at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/vaccinations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/vaccinations)

## **No Room for Complacency – Use Your Free COVID Tests at Home**

The Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council, Councillor Richard Wenham, recently urged everyone in our region to take extra care as the number of COVID-19 cases has continued to rise. His message is that we must not drop our guard, even though lockdown is being eased. “Hands, face, space” remain essential and meeting other people outside is the safest option. If meeting others indoors, use plenty of ventilation (open windows etc) and don’t spend too long inside with others.

Councillor Wenham informed local residents that cases of COVID-19 are increasing in the area including the new Variant of Concern that was first detected in India.

Across the UK, this variant has been doubling on a weekly basis including a significant number of new cases locally in Bedford. Health Secretary Matt Hancock recently said that up to three quarters of new cases are likely to be the Indian Variant. Every week, a handful of new COVID infections cases continue to be diagnosed in our local area (Shefford, Shillington, Meppershall, Stondon, Clifton)

Councillor Wenham said: "While infection levels in Central Bedfordshire are not at the same level as Bedford or other areas of the country there is absolutely no room for complacency. Evidence suggests that this variant might be more transmissible than previous variants, so I am urging everyone to take extra care now to control the spread and prevent a serious outbreak here in Central Bedfordshire."

He continued: "As well as being more transmissible, it looks like the variant is mostly affecting people under 40 years of age, including school children so this really does need everyone to be careful.

"There is no evidence that the new variant is resistant to the vaccine, so it’s even more important that you take up the offer of vaccination when it is available to you."

He also encouraged everyone to get tested before going somewhere where we will come into contact with others – for example doing a rapid test if you are going to the pub, a friend's house, a restaurant or the gym.

"Rapid tests are easy to do yourself and you can get them from our mobile testing sites, from local pharmacies or order them online to be delivered to you. They are free and easy to do, and you get a result in 30 minutes" he said.

Find out more about all the free home testing options you can use online: [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/135/coronavirus/919/rapid\\_tests](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/135/coronavirus/919/rapid_tests). You can order free tests to have at home here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

If you think you might have any symptoms of COVID-19 infection – such as a continuous cough, high temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell – use the government testing site at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.



## Local “Iron Men” Charity Effort Raises £2600



If you'd been out and about on Crackle Hill on May 1<sup>st</sup>, you may have spotted some runners pounding round and round the field and up the hill.

These were a local trio of triathletes and marathon runners – brothers Luke and Ryan Nicholl, and Lee Addington – who decided to take part in the “Captain Tom’s 100” fund raiser event

by running 100 miles around the field by Crackle Hill. That’s right – *100 miles*! Around a field. With a *really* steep hill. 28 times.

They divided the 100 miles between them, so they had to cover 33 miles each – what an amazing effort! It took a little over 5 hours, but we’d imagine it felt like a lifetime each time they started up the hill again...

We don’t know whose idea it actually was, but it was a magnificent thing to do. They have raised over £2600 so far for the Garden House Hospice, and we can still boost the amount.

Their Just Giving page is still open, at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Luke-Ryan-Lee-100>

So well done to you, gents. Terrific achievement...



Luke Nicholl, Ryan Nicholl, and Lee Addington climb Crackle Hill for the final time to complete the last of 28 laps. Still smiling!

## GNOMES (Meppershall Good Neighbours)



**Good  
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When the **GNOMES** held their 2020 Annual General Meeting last August via Zoom video conference, who thought we would be doing the same a year later ? We are a sociable group and always prefer a face-to-face event with tea or coffee and maybe some chocolate brownies, if possible. However, as we emerge cautiously from lockdown, our 2021 AGM will once again be via Zoom. Hopefully, future events will be

more personal and we will be able to return to our monthly coffee mornings. In the meantime, our 2021 AGM will take place via Zoom on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am.

Everyone is welcome to join us, so for the Zoom link and agenda, please email: [gnomes.secretary@meppershall.org](mailto:gnomes.secretary@meppershall.org)

We are always interested in hearing from potential volunteers and are also looking for new committee members. If you would like to know more about what's involved, then joining us at the AGM could be a good way of making contact and finding out a bit more.

Our Facebook page is regularly updated with useful information on help and resources available locally. Currently, we can undertake jobs that do not involve close contact but cannot undertake transport jobs or any which require entering a client's home. As guidance changes, we will be reviewing what help we can offer and our hope is that we can soon return to pre-pandemic services.

Whatever your need, call us on **07760 793921, Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm** and if we cannot help then we will try our best to find someone or some organization that can. Please keep an eye out for those around you and if you think they need help, but you are unable to give it, then please call the **GNOMES** on **07760 793921**.

## Meppershall Academy Parent Teacher Association (MAPTA) – Bags for School

Did you know, MAPTA are running a "Bags For School" initiative so that good quality clothes and shoes etc can be recycled while also raising money for the school in Meppershall? Please have a think about anything you could give to them.

If you would like a member of MAPTA to collect your bags, just email them at [Meppershallpta@gmail.com](mailto:Meppershallpta@gmail.com) – they will arrange to collect. Otherwise please just leave your bags at the school gate during the morning drop-off.

Meppershall Academy PTA

25th June 2021

Leave bags at the school gate during morning drop off

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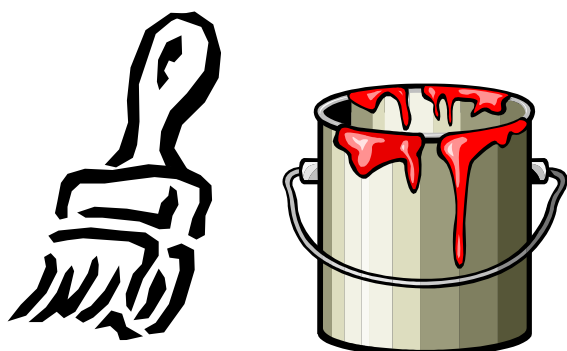
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## Meppershall Social Club

Well it's been a long time coming, but finally, MSC are open and extend a warm welcome to patrons old and new.

Until June 21st at the earliest every individual aged 16 & over must scan the track & trace QR code displayed or provide contact details to a member of staff. Face coverings must also be worn (over 16) upon entering, leaving & moving around the building inside. It will be table service only, the rule of 6 & two households only will apply & please observe 1 metre plus social distancing as much as possible, your co-operation is much appreciated for both your & staff safety.

**Friday 4th June** - BINGO will return with a new start time of 7pm sharp.

**Sunday 30th May** - The dulcet tones of MARKUS will entertain you on the patio.

**Saturday 17th July** - Full day of entertainment with MARKUS and the fabulous SHADOWPLAY

**Euros 21** (postponed from 2020) all matches will be shown as well as the uefa & champions league finals.

Please like & follow Meppershall Social Club Facebook page for full details of events

### MSC OPENING HOURS:

**Mon-Wed 6-11pm, Thurs 5-11pm, Fri 5-11.30pm, Sat 2-11pm, Sun 2-10.30pm**

(Subject to change to accommodate Euro 21 early kick off times)

Finally, please remember MSC is a family club and anti-social behaviour and foul language will not be tolerated.

***The MSC team look forward to seeing you soon.***

\*\*\*\*\*

## Financial Matters by Paul Savuto

### Dividing your finances on divorce

The past year has sadly put huge strain on many relationships, with couples locked down together for months on end whilst trying to work remotely and home school their children, bringing relationships to breaking point. This brings financial challenges.

#### Separating your finances

When a couple divorce, they need to decide how to fairly divide financial assets such as their home, money in current and savings accounts, investments and pensions.

For example, they may be entitled to a share in the sale of their property, or a portion of their ex-spouse's pension. They may also have to make decisions about the value of maintenance payments required to maintain their and their children's lifestyle. Currently, however, the heightened stress and reduced financial circumstances caused by the pandemic may make coming to an agreement more difficult. If a couple is unable to agree, they may still be able to settle out of court by hiring a trained mediator or collaborative lawyer. If not, they may have to ask a court to decide. Talk it through. We can help couples divide their assets tax-efficiently and guide individuals through how to best invest the proceeds of a settlement. We can also help set up comprehensive protection cover and help people manage their post-divorce expenditure.

### **Economic Review Update**

The UK economy returned to growth in February and survey evidence suggests a strong recovery is imminent, as lockdown restrictions ease and the vaccine rollout continues at pace. Data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed the economy grew by 0.4% in February, as businesses prepared for the lifting of the third national lockdown. Commenting on the figures, an ONS spokesperson said, "The economy showed some improvement in February after the large falls seen at the start of the year, but remains around 8% below its pre-pandemic level." While February's growth rate was below market expectations and the first quarter as a whole still looks on course for a modest contraction, the data does point to an improving situation. Survey evidence suggests economic activity has recovered further in recent months. April's IHS Markit/CIPS flash composite Purchasing Managers' Index, for instance, rose to 60.0 in April, up from 56.4 in March. This was the highest reading since November 2013 and suggests the economy is poised for a rapid recovery. As a result of the improving outlook, a number of organisations have recently upgraded their UK economic forecasts. The EY ITEM Club's new projections, for example, predict growth of 6.8% in 2021, a significant increase from its previous figure of 5.0%. The group's Chief Economic Adviser, Dr Howard Archer, said the forecast implies the economy will "emerge from the pandemic with much less long-term 'scarring' than was originally envisaged and looks set for a strong recovery over the rest of the year and beyond." Revised forecasts released by Goldman Sachs suggest the UK will now see faster growth than the US this year. In a note to clients, the bank said it expects the UK economy to expand by a "striking" 7.8% in 2021, compared to US growth of 7.2%

Labour market 'broadly stable': ONS has described the jobs market as 'broadly stable in recent months,' after its latest set of statistics revealed a small decline in the number of employees on company payrolls, alongside a dip in the rate of unemployment. According to the latest data, 56,000 fewer people were in payrolled employment in March than in February, the first monthly decline in this measure of employment in four months. Over the year to March, a total of 813,000 payroll jobs were lost across the UK, with younger age groups bearing the brunt of these cuts.



The country's latest unemployment rate, however, which covers the December to February period, unexpectedly fell for the second month in a row. The overall rate dipped to 4.9% across the three months to February, down from 5.0% in the previous three-month period. Government support measures have clearly been a key factor behind the suppressed rate of unemployment, with around five million people still employed but on furlough. In addition, ONS linked the recent fall to a large volume of men exiting the jobs market, with the inactivity rate rising by 0.2 percentage points in the latest three-month period. Commenting on the data, ONS Director of Economic Statistics Darren Morgan, said the labour market "remains subdued" although he also stressed there were positive signs particularly with respect to the easing of lockdown restrictions. Mr Morgan said, "With the prospect of businesses reopening, there was a marked rise in job vacancies in March, especially in sectors such as hospitality." Indeed, experimental data being trialled by ONS reported a 16% rise in vacancies during March, while online job advert estimates also point to further strengthening in the first two weeks of April. This echoes KPMG and REC research findings, which highlighted a recent significant improvement in recruitment activity.

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## **In Memoriam**

Mary Thompson of Bandland Nursery, Hoo Road, died in May aged 92. Our sincere condolences to to Dave, Lynette, Bernard and family.

On the loss of her mother at the end of May, we also send deepest sympathies and best wishes to Colette and family. Colette is a tireless supporter and team member for The Meppershall Messenger and the whole team send their love and thoughts at this time.

## **Birthdays**

In the coming month of June, we say a very happy birthday to...

Joyce D

Peter D

Wishing you many happy returns from everyone at The Meppershall Messenger.



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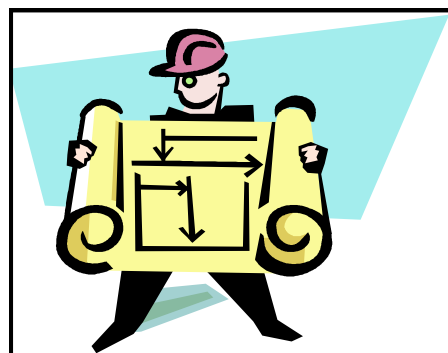
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Meppershall Church of England Academy is delighted to announce that they have entered into the newly formed Poppy Hill Church of England Multi-Academy Trust with Henlow Church of England Academy. This relationship will afford Meppershall pupils a wealth of opportunities and facilities as the school moves forward in this exciting new phase.

Meppershall Church of England Academy welcomes applications for reception September 2021 and in year applications for all other year groups.



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[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*

And so we arrive in June with the hope and the sense that everything is opening up... but still, with little idea about what exactly that will look like and how it will affect our plans.

Until we know details for certain, we will continue with our on line services: "9and9" daily, and 10.30 on Sunday, with a 9am Communion Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and a 10am Communion service on alternate Wednesdays. The Church is also open for Private Prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays 10.30am - 3pm. And why not listen and subscribe to our podcast on your chosen platform - listen-in-worship

It has been lovely to see the Church building gradually filling again - as far as social distancing will allow - and something of a sense of confidence and community returning.

We will keep a close eye on COVID advice for Churches, so please note that our plans may be subject to change at quite short notice. And I think we are all quite desperate to be allowed to sing, and stay for coffee and a chat, once again!

Sadly, we have decided that it is still not possible to run our Sparks Holiday Club this year - and we have decided that it is best to postpone our scarecrow festival until 2022 too. However - we are now able to book Marriages and Baptisms once again, and so to celebrate life events together (but note there are still overall restrictions on numbers).

The Rectory Teas meetings, organised by Ruth Callard will be starting up again. (It never really stopped... It just became the Tuesday doorstep visiting group!). If you would like to know what is planned - and to be included - please phone Ruth on 01462 815462 or email her [ruthcallard@sky.com](mailto:ruthcallard@sky.com). We are hoping in the first instance



to be arranging indoor visiting, afternoon teas at Ruth's home and maybe an occasional meal out.

Do you need prayers? We have a small group of intercessors who will continue to pray confidentially for those who ask for prayers. If being held in prayer in that way is something you would like, please talk to Roni (Tel. 339962 / 07533 376880) or Chris Valentine (Tel. 07701 039324).

If you would like a regular email to tell you what is going on in the Church then please do let me know and I will add you to the list ([ronigoodman@gmail.com](mailto:ronigoodman@gmail.com)).

We are once again allowed to mow our Churchyard ourselves - to support the mowing kindly provided by the Parish Council. Would you be interested to be involved? We would love to have some new volunteers to spend some time helping out – either by mowing regularly - or by coming to a “Churchyard Working Party Day” (our next one is 12th June 2021). Even just an hour or so at the Working Party is very useful – or come for as much spare time as you have! Your help will be very gratefully received and you would be helping to maintain an area much loved and visited by many in the village.

If coming to attend to your family graves, please do check “The Churchyard Regulations 2020 - St Albans Diocese” on [stmarysmeppershall.org.uk](http://stmarysmeppershall.org.uk) for information about the care and maintenance of graves and/or consult Roni before making changes to avoid disappointment. Our aim is to maintain the churchyard as a place that is safe and welcoming for all who wish to use it. We look to relatives to take care of individual graves and ask that they do so within the published Churchyard Regulations. We hope that our care, and the care of relatives for the churchyard and the graves, will maintain it as a place which honours the memory of all those buried and remembered here.

As summer approaches, I don't know about you, but I am hoping for some long sunny, carefree days... walking with bare feet on warm green grass... paddling chilly toes in river or sea... picnicking in dappled shade... enjoying the company and laughter of our grandchildren. My hope for you is for health and wellbeing, relaxation and refreshment, and that some of your hopes and dreams for this year come true.

God bless you, **Rector Roni**

## Church News and Events in June

We have returned to a limited number of face to face services - check the website/facebook or give us a call. As always, we would LOVE to see you.

We carefully observe COVID-safe practices. Please contact Reverend Roni (well in advance) if you intend to be at one of our Communion services so we can plan seating. Always remember to wear your mask and – if you have one - bring your red service book (or get one at the service as needed).

Our current services as are follows:

Alternate Wednesdays	<b>10.00am Holy Communion</b> in church (2 <sup>nd</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> )
Alternate Sundays	<b>9.00am Holy Communion</b> in church (6 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> ) The service is provided at St Michael's Shefford and St Mary's Meppershall alternately, week-by-week
Wednesdays and Sundays	<b>Private prayer and quiet time</b> – the church open for you to sit and visit during the day, 10.00-3.00pm
Online services:	<b>9.00am Morning Prayer</b> using 24-7's Lectio 365 App 7-days-a-week  <b>9.00pm Night Prayer/Compline</b> from the C. of E. Daily Prayer App, 7-days-a-week  <b>10.30 am Online Morning Worship (Sunday)</b> Service Sheets for this service can be delivered to those in the parish without computer access or obtained by email from Rector Roni (email address above)



Do you need prayers? We have a small group of intercessors who will continue to pray confidentially for those who ask for prayers. If being held in prayer in that way is something you would like, please talk to Roni (Tel. 339962 / 07533 376880) or Chris Valentine (telephone 07701 039324).

Why not try an online service? You can just watch and listen (we won't even know you're there!) – or add comments if you like. Bring your own morning or bedtime snack! On a Sunday morning you can also meet Froggy (pictured above).

**Find us on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmeppershall/>

**Find us on our website**

<https://www.stmarysmeppershall.org.uk/>

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This week's Sermon from Rev. Roni and a Hymn - just call this number (cost same as a normal call)

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Love From St Mary's Meppershall & St Michael's Shefford



## The Meppershall Players



The Players are hoping to be back to their usual Monday evenings at the STMA from the 21<sup>st</sup> June, if Boris' road to recovery goes as planned (fingers crossed)

Our A.G.M will be on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 7.45pm at the STMA hall Shefford. This is a great time to come and meet the Players and see what we're about if you fancy acting, directing, costumes, helping front of house, etc. etc. Hopefully we'll have more information in the July issue of what the Players are currently doing so until then we'll take a trip back to January 1984 where the Meppershall Players have met at the village hall for a read through of the three act play "The late Christopher Bean".

We sat and read through the play, I was not the only newcomer to the Players, John Nye who had recently moved into the village, also joined that evening, we were both cast in the play to be performed in the spring. I can still remember how nervous I felt on the opening night and was very relieved to discover that all the cast felt the same, yes even those who had been on stage lots of times had the same worries of remembering lines and cues (I've found the nerves increase with age) The music began, the lights dimmed, the audience hushed and the curtains opened we were up and running. The next two hours went by so quickly and when the curtain came down and the cast lined up to take their bow, the applause from the audience was very gratifying. We did three performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. I can still remember some of the lines twenty-seven years later (but don't ask me what I did last week)

On this production in charge of props was Jacqui Wilkinson (her Husband Trevor was stage manager along with Sean Phillips) It was Jacqui who suggested that instead of another play in November (as was the norm) that the Players' put on a Pantomime. And luckily the committee at the time agreed to give it a try.

**Jack & the Beanstalk** - a Pantomime performing Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Matinee 3pm, Evening 7.30pm. Tickets £5 Matinees, £8 & £10 Evenings. All performances at the S.T.M.A Shefford. Look out for our posters!

Find the Meppershall Players on Facebook (Meppershall Players Community) Instagram, Twitter. The Players meet every Monday evening at 7.30pm at the STMA, Hitchin Road, Shefford SG17 5JA. Membership is currently free and we welcome people from the age of 9 to 90+, 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**





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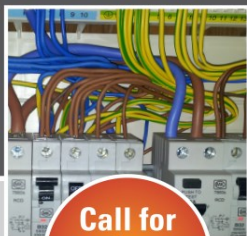
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## Bedford Model Engineering Society Summerfield Miniature Railway – 2021 Events

*We Are Open Again!*

### **With Covid-19 Secure Running at least until June 26th.**

Bedford Model Engineering Society is once again able to open its railway to the public - but for the time being we will have to operate in the same way as we did during 2020 (see the service description that follows). We hope to resume "normal" public running towards the end of June but that will depend upon the further relaxation or removal of the Covid restrictions.

With the current concerns regarding the "Indian Variant", particularly as it affects the Bedford area, and the subsequent uncertainty that "Step 4" will happen on June 21st, we have decided to add Sunday June 27th to the booking calendar. By so doing we should still be able to open for those who have booked should Step 4 not happen. If in the end, Covid restrictions are removed before the 27th we can still decide to revert to pre-Covid operating when booking was not required.

**"Covid" regulated service - there is a lot to tell you here, but please read through to the end.**

Unfortunately, we are not still going to be able to operate all of our railways with the Covid regulations as they currently are. So, we will continue as last year with the "new" ride combining the Summerfields Line (the 'main line') from Haynes End with the Springfield Line at Hammer Hill. This gives a journey time nearly twice that of the old main line run. The trains will not be stopping at Hammer Hill.

Trains will have only one carriage and the passengers on each train must all be from the same household or "Bubble". .

Our Buffet will open as a take-away service with tea, coffee, soft drinks and packaged snack items. Our picnic tables will be available outside - suitably distanced!

**Toilets** - as you may know the toilets do not belong to Bedford MES but are provided as a communal facility by our landlord for those on the Summerfields Barns site. Although they are not our responsibility, we will endeavour to check them on a regular basis. We will be providing hand sanitiser in a dispenser just outside the toilet block.

In common with other visitor attractions we have had to move to booking in advance in order to better manage passenger numbers on our site, and **all** payments will have to be made using contactless card.

We use your details to process your booking but we are also required to take contact details of visitors for Track and Trace purposes. No data will be retained beyond one month after your visit and will not be used for purposes other than those stated.

Therefore, we are asking that everybody who wants to ride our trains, first makes a booking online. Payment will still be taken at our Ticket Office but, again as other venues, **only** by contactless card.

**Our trains will carry a maximum of six passengers with a maximum of four adults.** Please do not attempt to book more than this on one train.

A round trip ticket will cost £4 **per person** . Children under the age of two still travel free. We hope that you will understand that the price increase this year was unavoidable. We have not increased prices for several years, and it was set to happen last year, but we deferred that increase. However, with our receipts last year only around 50% of the previous year a price rise this year was necessary if the railway was to survive for you to enjoy.

So, please pick a time and date on the booking form at the bottom of this page, complete with your details and submit. You will receive a confirmation email by return.

**Please ensure that you bring the confirmation email with you on the day as it is your E-ticket.**

In the event that you have to CANCEL we would **really** like you to let us know (before your day of travel if at all possible, please), by clicking the REPLY button to the confirmation email and dropping us a one-liner.

Since we started this new way of working we have always been fully booked. However we have found that between 15% and 20% of the folk who have booked simply do not bother to show up, thus denying others the chance for a ride (and us some much needed funds).

**We would rather not take payment at the time of booking but what we will do is reserve the right to offer the slot to anyone wanting another ride if you are not checked in at the car park entrance a minimum of TEN minutes before your train departure time. Please, please make sure that you are checked in with our car park staff at least ten minutes before your train is due to depart – if you are later than that, we will not be able to guarantee your ride.**

And lastly, it is a *railway* so, just like the "big" trains, departure times may slip a bit from your booked time due to operational circumstances. We will do our very best to be on schedule, but please be patient with us if we should be running late!

**Thank You** for your understanding and for supporting our railway - as always, we are looking forward to seeing you.

Please refer to **[www.bedfordmes.co.uk](http://www.bedfordmes.co.uk)**.

## Sheffield Leisure Group by Enid Pamment

'Flaming June' – and we are into our sixth month of 2021. Where has it gone? Days, weeks and months have just disappeared! At least our gardens can let us know what part of the year we are in, all the nice new shoots and flowers showing their pretty heads.



Unfortunately with our 'Leisure Group' there is not much change. Phone calls have been made to some of our members to find out how they were at present feeling about going out and about and visiting places. There has been a mixed response and some of our members have not gained the courage to venture far. With this in mind, and knowing that blue badge guides have to be booked well in advance, once again unfortunately I will have to cancel Lavenham, due to take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. At the moment we will keep The Tower of London on 28<sup>th</sup> July but we do need more bookings to make this viable. So those interested, please contact me as soon as possible.

Some of our suppliers have been in touch and have managed to put finishing touches to a few of the excursions. Regarding costs, it is difficult to be precise as it depends on the size coach and number of passengers allowed, However, this is changing and the rules may be entirely different by the time the events take place.

If you would like to join our party on any of the following outings, just give me a telephone call and I will write your names down. Please do not send any money at this stage, I will phone you when the full payment is required. This way it will save paperwork and postage!!

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July** – Day trip to The Tower of London leaving Sheffield at 10am to meet our Blue Badge Guide at 11.45am. There will be time to buy a snack lunch before joining our Guide once more for the tour which commences at 1.30pm. After the tour at about 4.45pm we will leave the Tower and join our coach taking us to the restaurant for a fish & chip supper (included in the price), We anticipate leaving London at about 6.30pm to arrive back to Sheffield by 8.30pm. The inclusive price is £60.00.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021** Warner's (Gunton Hall) – 5 days & 4 nights. The inclusive price is £289.00. Further details upon request.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021** – The ever popular Thursford Christmas Spectacular, Leaving Sheffield at 9am and arriving back between 8.30 and 9pm. Cost with coach £64.00.

The next letter will be September. Any problems or if you would like a chat regarding the outings, please let me know.

Many thanks to the Meppershall Messenger for including this report. Keep well and keep safe, Enid x



# The Countryside Code



## Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside

### Respect everyone

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- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

### Protect the environment

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- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- take care with BBQs and do not light fires
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance

### Enjoy the outdoors

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- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory



[www.gov.uk/countryside-code](http://www.gov.uk/countryside-code)



**Wanderbus – Resumption of Services**  
***RESUMPTION OF SERVICES***

**MONDAYS**

W3 – BIGGLESWADE - Campton-Gravenhurst-Shillington-Stondon-Meppershall – Clifton Park-Henlow  
 W3S – BIGGLESWADE – Stotfold - Astwick

**TUESDAYS**

W12 – HITCHIN – Meppershall – Shillington- Barton Le Clay  
 W12S – HITCHIN – Campton-Gravenhurst-Barton Le Clay

**WEDNESDAYS**

W1 – BEDFORD – Stotfold – Henlow – Langford – Broom – Southill – Stanford  
 W2 – BEDFORD – Clifton Park – Meppershall - Stondon - Shillington – Gravenhurst

**THURSDAYS**

WELWYN GARDEN CITY 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month :  
 W4 – Shefford- Clifton –Southill –Broom –Langford –Henlow -Stotfold.  
 W14 – Gravenhurst -Shillington- Stondon – Meppershall – Shefford

ST NEOTS 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month:

W9 - Shefford – Clifton – Henlow – Langford –Broom – Southill –Caldecote  
 W10 – Stondon – Clifton Park – Stotfold – Astwick

MILTON KEYNES 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month :


W11 - Meppershall –Stondon – Shillington – Gravenhurst – Clophill  
 W13 – Stanford – Southill – Broom – Langford – Henlow – Clifton – Shefford

**FRIDAYS**

W6 – SHEFFORD –Campton-Gravenhurst-Meppershall-Southill-Broom  
 W7 – LETCHWORTH – Shefford-Clifton-Henlow-Arlesey  
 W5 - A1 RETAIL PARK (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the Month) Meppershall-Shefford-Clifton Park- Clifton-Henlow-Langford-Biggleswade

**EXCURSIONS – The excursion programme will begin as of the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of July.**

*For any further information : Call 0300-123-3023 or email [thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:thewanderbus@gmail.com)*


WANDERBUS

# EXCURSIONS 2021

DATE:	DESTINATION: <i>(Subject to change should Government guidelines become restrictive again)</i>	ENTRANCE FEE: <i>(As per Current Website)</i>	BUS FARE:
Thursday 22nd JULY	<b>Cottesbrooke Hall and Gardens, Northants.</b> Cottesbrooke is a wonderful Queen Anne house dating from 1702, set in delightful award winning gardens in rural Northamptonshire.	<b>£10.00</b> guided tour of house & includes gardens.	<b>£10.00 - Pick Up:</b> 12.30/13.00 <b>Return/Depart:</b> 16.30
Thursday 26th AUGUST	<b>Boughton House Gardens - Kettering.</b> Its tranquil delights have been carefully restored over the last decade, and now there are wide sculptured lawns to survey, serene lakes, waterways, woods and avenues of trees to be strolled down. Boughton House (may not be open due to renovations) has some of the best-preserved baroque State Rooms in the British Isles. Here you can walk through grand apartments of contrasting character decorated in extravagant yet elegant taste with the finest artworks of the House's golden era.	<b>£6.00</b> for Gardens or <b>£12.00</b> for House as well, if open. (Incl. Ground Floor Tour)	<b>£10.00 - Pick Up:</b> 10.00/10.30 <b>Return/Depart:</b> 15.00/15.15
Thursday 23rd SEPTEMBER	<b>Wimpole Hall, Cambs.</b> The mansion, at the heart of this estate, is evidence of Elsie Bambridge's success in creating a home. Intimate rooms contrast with beautiful and unexpected Georgian interiors, including Soane's breath-taking Yellow Drawing Room and wonderful plunge bath. The fascinating basement corridor offers a glimpse into life below stairs. Stroll around the colourful parterre garden and wander through the Pleasure Grounds to the Walled Garden, abundant with fruit, vegetables and beautiful herbaceous borders. Free for National Trust members.	<b>£18.95</b> House & Gardens. <b>£10.00</b> Gardens only. <b>Free</b> to National Trust Members.	<b>£5.00 Pick Up:</b> 10.00/10.30 <b>Return/Depart:</b> 15.00/15.15
Thursday 28th OCTOBER	<b>Stockwood Discovery Centre &amp; Gardens, Luton.</b> The former Stockwood Park Museum was transformed in July 2008 into the Stockwood Discovery Centre - a spectacular visitor attraction and museum for the 21st century. A paradise for garden enthusiasts, Stockwood Discovery Centre is one of the few places in the country where the work of acclaimed artist Ian Hamilton Finlay can be seen on permanent display. His Improvement Garden is a classical garden in which the sculptures are an integral part of the landscape. Once part of the original Stockwood House walled areas, the Period Gardens reflect the changing styles of gardening in this country. New areas include a contemplative Sensory Garden, a colourful World Garden and a Medicinal Garden highlighting the usefulness of plants.	<b>Free</b>	<b>£5.00 Pick Up:</b> 10.00/10.30 : <b>Return/Depart:</b> 15.00/15.15
Thursday 25th NOVEMBER	<b>Christmas Market - Details To Be Confirmed.</b>		

To Book : Call 0300 123 3023 or email: [thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto:thewanderbus@gmail.com)

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)



## Useful Contact Details in Meppershall

### DEFIBRILLATORS – outside School and Post Office/Village Stores

### DOCTORS, DENTISTS, PHARMACIES

<b>NHS Direct</b>	<b>111</b>
Dr Griffiths & Ptrs	
Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive, Shefford SG17 5FS	
Appointments	01462 810034
General queries, prescriptions etc.	01462 818620
Drs. Collins, Garragher and Neal	
109 Station Rd Lower Stondon SG16 6JJ	01462 850305
Shefford Dental Practice, 34 High St Shefford	01462 814020
Shefford Dental Clinic, 99 Hitchin Road, SG17 5JB	01462 648465
Lloyds Chemists, 7 High St Shefford	01462 813283
Shefford Pharmacy	
Shefford Health Centre, Robert Lucas Drive	01462 818633

### Police Emergency 999, non-emergency 101

Report crime online at [www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report)

### Hospitals

Bedford Hospital	01234 355122
Lister Hospital, Stevenage	01438 314333

### Utilities

Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Anglian Water	03457 145145
Electrical (power cuts, overhead cable down etc)	0800 838838

### Central Beds Council 0300 300 8301

CBC councillors:

Tony Brown	<a href="mailto:anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">anthony.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Mark Liddiard	<a href="mailto:mark.liddiard@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">mark.liddiard@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>

**Meppershall Parish Council**

Parish Council Clerk Alessandro Marabese      [clerk@meppershall.org](mailto:clerk@meppershall.org)

**Member of Parliament**

Nadine Dorries MP      [dorriesn@parliament.uk](mailto: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  
Check times: Closed Mondays. Tuesday - Friday 9 - 6, Sat 9 - 4.  
Pre-order for collection.

**Whitbread Wanderbus Service**

Stephanie Kirby      [thewanderbus@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 Karen Mitchell      01462 816366  
Meppershall Good Neighbours (GNOMES)      07760 793921  
Meppershall Brownies, Suzanne Brightwell      07817 392325  
Shefford Guides, Angie Griffiths      07957 462519  
Shefford Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)  
Kathy Georgiou      01462 629313

## 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 2020-21			
July Issue	June 28 <sup>th</sup>	November Issue	October 25 <sup>th</sup>
Aug-Sept Double Issue	July 26 <sup>th</sup>	December-January Double Issue	TBC
October Issue	September 27 <sup>th</sup>	February 2022 Issue	TBC
Please contact Colette to confirm arrangements (contact information above).			

***Please note that dates in the above table USUALLY 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. However, during the coronavirus social distancing measures, our collation procedures have changed and we will review our plans for the printed magazine in line with government guidance.***