

Mepal People

Mepal Says Goodbye

A farewell party was held at the Village Hall on 6 Sept, for Phil Harris who has run the Mepal Stores and Post Office for the past decade.

Appreciation of Phil's hard work and determination to save the Mepal post office was voiced by Rod Shipley in his address. Our appreciation was also shown by the generous donations for Phil, collected in the shop in the run-up to the party, and presented to him along with a bottle of his favourite brandy.

Phil gave flowers and thanks to his daughter Diane and to Glynis who have supported him during his recent difficult times and ill-health. The new owners of the shop, Gurdip and Pal, were also at the party.—*Fiona Abbot*



Phil presents Thank You flowers to his daughter Diane and to Glynis

Phil & Dianw with new owners Gurdip & Pal



Glynis & Fiona presenting the Thank You donation from the village



Mepal Archive Group

The Archive Group is grateful to Mary and Steve Bramble for all the hard work they put into the Archive recording photos and information about Mepal, and wish them all the best in their new life in Devon. The Archive group will continue their good work and making this available to all who are interested.

We will be in the Village Hall on **21st October** and **25th November** from 6 – 7 pm. If anyone finds these times inconvenient but has information or would like to view the the Archive, please **call Jane Edmenson on 777621 or Jenny Sparrow on 778895** and we will try to arrange a more suitable time for you. Thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to your continued support for the benefit of future generations.



EMAIL FRAUD ALERT!

If you received an email from mepalpeople@hotmail.co.uk asking for money please ignore it! It is a fraudulent email from someone who has hacked into our old email account.

DO NOT RESPOND TO IT.

Mepal People Deliveries
Thank you, Volunteers!



In our last issue, we put out a plea for volunteers to help with the delivery of Mepal People and we were delighted to get a great response. We now are able to have a "reserve" list of volunteers who can fill in when others are on holiday etc. Thank you very much for all your offers of help. - Mepal People Editors

Fund-raising success!

Helen Cox would like to thank everyone who supported the Macmillan fund raising day on 7th August. Special thank to people who donated and in particular all the help received on the day! The total amount raised to date is £700! Well done Mepal!

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



“Only another thousand miles, Charlie, and we'll be home.”
- vintage cartoon from the Mepal Archive

Dates for your Diary

OCTOBER

1 st 7.30pm	Michael Petty on The Fens in the '40's	Village Hall
3 rd 8.00 am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
3 rd 10.30am	Harvest Festival	Union Chapel
4 th 6.30pm	Chapel Harvest Supper	School Room
5 th 2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
5 th 4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
10 th 10.30am	Harvest Festival Eucharist	St. Mary's
10 th 6.00pm	St. Mary's Harvest Supper	Village Hall
11 th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
13 th 10.00am	Friendship Club – Bingo	Pavilion
15 th 7.30pm	Monthly Tombola	Village Hall
17 th 10.30am	Family Service	Union Chapel
18 th 7.30pm	Gardening Club – Birds in our Gardens	Village Hall
19 th 2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
19 th 4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
21 st 6.00pm	Archive Group	Village Hall
24 th 10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's
27 th 12.30pm	Friendship Club – Lunch @ Fen Drayton	Meet at Village Hall 11.30am
29 th 8.00pm	Line Dancing Party	Village Hall
30 th 2.00pm	Litter Pick	Meet at Village Hall
31 st 10.30am	Joint service with Witcham	St. Martins Church

Tell us all about it!

Mepal People is distributed *free* to every household in Mepal, so if you have a message, story, picture, or even just a good doodle for the good people of Mepal, then send it to us. Mepal People is completely run by volunteers.

To make the next issue, get your stuff to us by **17 November 2010.**

New Email!

mepalpeople@gmail.com
(preferred option)
For other options see below

Other ways to send us your articles:

By phone
Mary Fuller 01353 777147

By post/hand
c/o Sandy, 23 High Street;
or
c/c Rae, 7 Rectory Fields;
or
c/o Barbara, 18 Laurel Close

(Space restrictions may mean contributions can't be used immediately. We reserve the right to edit.)

Adverts & Inserts
Sally Shipley
01353 774994
mepalparishcouncil@msn.com

NOVEMBER

2 nd 2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
2 nd 4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
5 th 6.30pm	Bonfire Night & Firework Display	School Field
7 th 8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
7 th 10.30am	Service with Communion	Union Chapel
8 th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
10 th 10.30am	Friendship Club – A.G.M.	Pavilion
12 th 7.30pm	Monthly Tombola	Village Hall
13 th 12 – 2.00pm	Christmas Craft Fayre	School Hall & Classrooms
14 th 10.45am	Act of Remembrance starting @New Zealand Memorial War. Followed by Memorial and service in Union Chapel.	
15 th 7.30pm	Gardening Club – Allotments	Village Hall
16 th 2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
16 th 4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
21 st 10.30am	Joint Anglican Communion	Union Chapel
24 th 12.30pm	Friendship Club – Lunch (to be arranged)	Meet at Village Hall
25 th 6.00pm	Archive Group	Village Hall
27 th 12 – 3.00pm	St. Mary's Christmas Fayre	Village Hall
28 th 10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's

Want a chance to win £25?

Join the St. Mary's Church 49 Club! We have some spare places, if interested please contact Jane Edmenson on 01353 777621 to become a member. The 49 Club is based on the bonus ball of the lottery. The principle is 49 people each "buys" a ball at £1.00 a week, and each person is allocated a number from 1-49. The bonus ball that is picked Saturday evening's Lotto is the winning number for that week and the person with that number wins £25.00.

Recycle with Fenland Freegle!

It's a group and online noticeboard for anyone in our area who wants to "recycle" items they no longer need, rather than throw them away. Whether it's a chair, a fax machine, piano or an old door, you can offer it to our group. Or maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself! Just search for "fenlandfreegle", click on groups.yahoo.com/group/fenlandfreegle/ and it will take you to the home page of fenland group where there will be instructions on how to join.

Mepal Gardening Club



The Gardening Club AGM held in August was better attended this year and we had nominations for two new committee members who were duly elected. Many thanks to those of you who returned the completed forms.

Our September speaker, Peter Jackson from Scotsdales, was excellent and the talk on shrubs very informative. Plants were also on sale.



Christine Glade / Istock

Birds in our gardens and nesting boxes

Our speaker for October is Ed Frear and he will be talking about birds in our gardens and nesting boxes. I am sure you will all find this talk most interesting as we are lucky enough to get a fair variety of birds in Mepal.

Witchford Village College Community Education

Places Still Available

- Aromatherapy
Starts 2nd November
CLAIT
- Starts 13th October
Pilates
- Starts 5th October
Update Your Computer Skills
Starts 13th October

Day Schools

- Saturday 27th November**
- Christmas Floral Arrangements
- Emergency First Aid
- Glass Jewellery Making
- Introduction to SAGE
- Level 2 Award in Food Safety

For further information visit
www.witchfordcollege.co.uk
Telephone: 01353 664468
email: scook2@witchfordvillage.cambs.sch.uk

Allotments by Mike Thurlow

November sees a talk on allotments by Mike Thurlow, the head gardener at Audley End. Since many people are now growing their own fruit and vegetables, I am sure this talk will be of interest to many wishing to save some money.

Christmas Party

December is the Gardening Club Christmas Party with dancing to Leigh Murfet. Tickets are £7 for members and £8 for non-members and food is included in the price. Tickets are now on sale from the Sallises (tel: 775302) or Paul Driver (tel: 777692).

Get your bird seed!

Bird seed is still available from Allen Sallis, please just ring him on 775302 and he will deliver.

Mrs Kathleen Robinson

Older residents of Mepal may well remember when Miss Fuller from Haddenham was the head teacher at the local school (for many years now it has been the Village Hall) and Miss Game from Chatteris was her assistant. Kathleen married a farmer from Sutton and taught there for several years, living on the High Street until three years ago. Poor health and age necessitated her taking up residence in Swan House at Chatteris where she died peacefully in September, at the age of 97.

St Mary's Church



Harvest Supper

Sunday 10 October
6pm Village Hall
Tickets £6 - Under 12's £4
Phone 778871

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 27 November
12 - 3pm
Village Hall
Christmas gifts, Home Baking,
Christmas Hamper Draw
Home-made hot lunches



Liz
Churchwarden, St Mary's Mepal



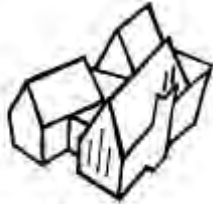
Line Dancing News

I'm pleased to say that the line dancing classes in the Village Hall on Tuesdays at 10am and Thursdays at 7pm are now attracting more members, not only from Mepal but also from Chatteris and Sutton. If you would like to come along and join in the fun then please call Allen on 775302 for more information.

On Wednesday 8th September, we were invited back to the Gables Residential Home in Chatteris to give another

display of line dancing. A great time was had by all and many of the residents joined in the fun.

Our next Line Dancing Party in aid of Alzheimer's and MacMillan charities will be held in Mepal Village Hall at 8pm on Friday 29th October. Tickets are £3 each. Either call Allen for advance tickets or pay on entry. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Our last party was a huge success and raised £126 for both charities. Everybody is welcome — seasoned performers or complete novices. For further information, please call Allen.



Mepal Village Hall

Registered charity No 297314

Goodbye & good luck, Phil!

Another familiar face is about to leave Mepal – Phil Harris, who has been of enormous help to the Hall during the 10 years that he has been at Mepal Stores, always willing to sell tickets for our events and to run a bar which has added greatly to the enjoyment of events at the Hall. We were very pleased that he and Diane were able to join us for an evening so that we could express our thanks on behalf of the village – and welcome Gurdip Singh and his family as they take on the responsibility for the Stores which is such a vital village facility.

A legendary Mike Petty lecture

Those of you who have previously heard Mike Petty talk about local history will need no persuading to come to his illustrated talk on “The Fens in the 1940s”, which would have taken place by the time you read this.

*What people said:
"I didn't realise how much I liked that kind of music until I heard this band."*

Coup de Grass Wednesday 17th November

Toe-tapping Bluegrass & folk comes to Mepal

Keith Pearson's Coup de Grass is an exciting mix of all that is great in Bluegrass and in folk. One of the most sought after acts currently playing the clubs and concert stages, the live show features virtuoso instrumental performances, exquisite vocal harmonies, superb original song-writing, and a great deal of eccentric humour. We will be applying to run a licensed bar so watch out for further details.

To hire the Hall

Contact Jenny Sparrow on 778895

Local Community Groups : Occasional Bookings £10/hour; Regular Bookings £6/hour daytime, £8/hour from 6pm. **Private Parties** : £75 plus cash deposit - Mepal Residents: £100, others £200. **Commercial Functions** - Regular: by arrangement. Occasional: £15/hour.

To contact the Village Hall

Email: mepalvillagehall@gmail.com

Chairman: Allen Sallis – 775302

Vice-Chairman: Gordon Reid – 775150

Treasurer: Jenny Sparrow – 77895

Secretary: David Stazicker – 778129



Disability Cambridgeshire (formerly Directions Plus) will hold its **Annual General Meeting on Thursday 28th October 11am- 1pm** at The Meadows Community Centre, St Catharines Rd, Cambridge CB4 3XJ.

The guest speaker is Steve McIntosh, Policy and Public Affairs Officer, Carers UK. For further information please phone Disability Cambridgeshire 01480 839192 or email info@disability-cambridgeshire.org.uk

Speedwatch Programme

Residents may have noticed that Mepal, together with its neighbouring villages, has embarked on a Speedwatch Programme in association with Cambridgeshire Constabulary. This programme, managed by volunteers, has been implemented in response to calls from residents to address the speeding issues in our village, particularly when children are travelling to and from school.

Our first operation in Mepal over a one and a half hour period on 27th July 2001 resulted in 27 vehicles logged for exceeding the 30mph speed limit on Sutton Road by 5mph or more.

One driver complained to the team that a warning should be given that we were doing the check. The driver was reminded that there are 30mph speed signs as you enter the village. The response to this was 'I was only doing 37!'

Official letters have been sent to the registered owners of the offending vehicles by Cambridgeshire Constabulary advising them that the offence has been noted and the data recorded. Persistent offenders will ultimately receive a Fixed Penalty Notice with a statutory fine and an endorsement on their driving licence.

It is hoped that residents will appreciate that the primary objective of Speedwatch is to deter drivers from driving irresponsibly within the boundaries of our villages. Further checks will be made which will hopefully improve safety on our roads, particularly for our children and the elderly.

Tombola! Dates for 2010 Fridays, Village

★	→	★ ★ ★	○ ○
★ ★	★	→	15 Oct
12 Nov	○	17 Dec	Eyes down 7.30pm



Report of Activities to 30th Sept 2010

Councillors: Mr Mike Stacey (Chairman), Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker (Vice Chairman), Mr Ron Slough, Mr Mark Newstead, Mr Glenn Drew, Mr Tony Pleasance, Mr Allen Sallis

Contact: Sally Shipley (Clerk) 50 Chestnut Way, Mepal, Ely, CB76 2YR. Tel: 01353 774994.

Email: mepalparishcouncil@msn.com

Website: www.mepalparish.org.uk



Mepal Recreation Field

Unfortunately, over recent weeks, there have been incidents of vandalism and graffiti at the play area on the recreation field. The Parish Council is aware of those who are responsible for this and any further abuse will be reported to the police as criminal damage. We would be most grateful to hear from residents who witness any further problems please.

A woodland for Mepal

The Parish Council is participating in a new project in partnership with East Cambridgeshire District Council and the Woodland Trust to create permanent woodlands across the district. The area identified within Mepal to be developed is the strip of unkept land between the A142 and the back of the Meadow Way development. The Woodland Trust has offered to plant the land with trees and shrubs to create a little wildlife oasis for the village. A bridleway runs along the side of this area, so it will be easy to see the wood developing and the wildlife moving in. It is also hoped that the new wood will provide protection from noise and pollution for those living alongside it.

Funding for the wood will be raised via grants, donations and sponsorship from local business - £10 is enough to create 25 square metres of woodland which will capture and store 1 tonne of carbon in its lifetime. Or £60 will see 20 trees or shrubs planted. Further details to follow.

Litter Pick Afternoon

There will be a Litter Pick Afternoon on Saturday 30th October to tidy up the village before the winter! If you are able to spare an hour or so to help then please meet at the Village Hall at 2pm. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Recycling

The latest instalment of credits from the recycling site has just been received from East Cambridgeshire District Council. For the last two quarters of 2009/10, we have received £569.39. We urge everyone to recycle as much rubbish as possible via the banks in Bridge Road please.

Consultations

Over the last two months, the Parish Council has responded to the following consultation; Department for Communities and Local Government Consultation on Local Referendums to veto excessive council tax increases. A copy of the response is available from the Clerk.

Planning

Since the last report, the Parish Council has considered the following planning application; the demolition of existing extension and shed and replacement with a single storey

extension at 36 Laurel Close, Mepal. No comment was made on this application.

The next meeting of Mepal Parish Council will be on Monday 11th October 2010 at 19:30 in Mepal Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and should you have any items of local concern then you may address the Council at the Open Forum.



On 26th July, Councillor Elizabeth Stazicker was elected as Chairman of the Panel for 2010/11 and Jenny Warren (from Wilburton) was elected as Vice Chairman.

There were several issues pertaining to Mepal which arose at the meeting including police speed check information and speeding by buses. If you would like more information, or have concerns but are unable to attend the next meeting, please contact Elizabeth Stazicker or Alan Williams (Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator): ian.williams@eastcamb.gov.uk or by phone on 01353 – 665555.

The next Neighbourhood Panel meeting will be in Sutton at The Glebe (High Street) on Monday, 25th October from 7.00 – 9.00pm. You will be very welcome!

mepal
PRODUCE
& CRAFT
show



We would like to say a very big thank you to all of you who entered this year's Show and to all of you who came along and gave your support on the day. As always, over the 38 years that the Mepal Show has been running, the number and the standard of entries was excellent. This year's Judges unaimously agreed that in all sections, Fruit, Flowers, Art & Crafts, Vegetables, Preserves and Cooking the quality and standard of entries was "outstanding".

We have already set the date and booked the Village Hall for next year's Show, which will be on Saturday 3rd September 2011, so you have a full year's notice to get ready! - *Mepal Produce & Craft Show Committee*

Mepal People Adverts

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