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MEPAL GARDENING CLUB

Mepal Gardening Club.

The meeting in June was very interesting with a talk and slide show by Jane Frost on Willow and its uses and we only wished there had been time for a demonstration, but never mind perhaps we can call on her again.

Our club BBQ is on the 23rd July and I am sure will have been enjoyed by a large majority of the club members and their friends.

15th August is the club AGM to which we hope all members will attend to elect the new committee for the next year. This will also signify the beginning of the new year for the club and we are pleased to announce that the programme has been arranged right up to the Xmas Party in December. If anyone would like to

come along and join us a programme will be given out so you can plan your next six months.

Bird Seed still available at the very good prices just phone Allen on 775302.



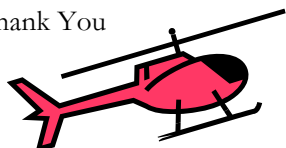
Club programme up to December will be available at AGM

Air Ambulance

Mrs J Freeman would like to thank all the helpers and the few people who came to the coffee Morning in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Despite poor attendance we still managed to raise

£241.00

Thank You



LINE DANCING IN MEPAL

On Friday 15th July we held a charity Line Dance and BBQ. It was a highly successful event and well attended with visitors from both the Chatteris and Somersham line dancing groups. I'm pleased to say we raised £156.00 which was shared between the MacMillan Cancer Support and Parkinson's UK charities.

If you want to see us in

action we will be strutting our stuff on the recreation field at the 'Olympic Tastes' event on Saturday 13th August 2011 where we will be demonstrating a series of dances. Everybody is welcome to join in and, who knows, you might find you enjoy yourself enough to join our line dancing club. If you are interested, give me (Allan Sallis) a call on 775302 for more details.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

2 nd	2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
2 nd	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
6 th	3.30pm	Afternoon tea with Reverend Mary Hancock	Village Hall
7 th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
7 th	10.30am	Service with Communion	Union Chapel
10 th		Friendship Club - Ramsey Museum & lunch at The George Hotel	Meet Village Hall
12 th	7.30pm	Monthly Tombola	Village Hall
13 th	3.30pm	Olympic Taster – U.S.A. theme	Recreation Ground
14 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's
14 th	4 – 6pm	Party for Lil's 99 th birthday	Village Hall
15 th	7.30pm	Gardening Club – Annual General Meeting	Village Hall
16 th	2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
16 th	4.00pm	Evening Service	St. Mary's
21 st	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
21 st	10.30am	Family Service	Union Chapel
21 st	3 – 5.50pm	Cream Teas	Grove House
24 th	10.00am	Friendship Club – Bingo	Pavilion
28 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's
31 st	10.00am	Friendship Club – Coffee morning	Pavilion

SEPTEMBER

3 rd	1.45pm	Village Produce and Craft Show	Village Hall
4 th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
4 th	10.30am	Service with Communion	Union Chapel
6 th	2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
6 th	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
7 th	10.00am	Friendship Club – Games morning	Pavilion
11 th	10.30am	Patronal Eucharist	St. Mary's
11 th	1.00pm	Safari Lunch – Venues to be advised	
12 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
14 th	10.00am	Friendship Club – Coffee & Bring & Buy	Pavilion
16 th	7.30pm	Monthly Tombola	Village Hall
18 th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
18 th	10.30am	Family Service	Union Chapel
18 th	3.30pm	2 nd Olympic Tastes – United Kingdom	Recreation Ground
19 th	7.30pm	Gardening Club – Hyacinths	Village Hall
21 st	tba	Friendship Club – Lunch at The George, Chatteris	
25 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's
28 th	10.00am	Friendship Club – Coffee & chat	Pavilion
30 th		Talk by Billy Baxter	Village Hall

Olympic Tastes

MeSsAGe Mepal Sports Action Group

We are pleased to announce that we have secured a grant from The Big Lottery to help Mepal celebrate the London 2012 Olympics.

Over the next 12 months there will be a series of events with a theme of
'A Past Olympic Host'

starting with **The U.S.A.** on

SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 3.30pm onwards

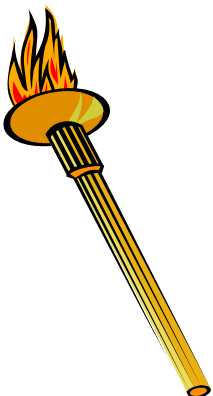
at the MEPAL RECREATION FIELD

Come and join the fun and ride 'The Bucking Bronco, watch Mepal's very own Line Dancers perform this popular 'Western' style dance, learn about American Football or have a go at Beach Volleyball (sadly, without the beach!). Many of the village groups will be getting into the spirit and running side-shows and stalls with an American theme. You will be able to buy sausages, burgers and beans, American style bakes, teas and coffees. The MeSsAGe Committee will also be running a bar so please come along — American fancy dress optional!

The next in the Olympic Tastes series will take place on Sunday 18 September when we will celebrate 'England' with Archery, Quick Cricket, Cream Teas and Fish 'n' Chips.

If you would like to know more about the Olympic Tastes project, have any ideas or can help in any way, please contact our Secretary on 777112

**Mepal Sports Action Group (charity no. 1095391)
Secretary, Georgina King, 5 Brick Lane, Mepal 01353 777112**



Staying independent, safe and well in Cambridgeshire

Information about adult social care in Cambridgeshire is now available on a new, easy-to-navigate website, developed by the County Council, called 'Your Life, Your Choice'.

The aim is to ensure that everyone in Cambridgeshire who is: looking for information about adult social care; already receiving support; or caring for a friend or family member; has access to information at a time and in a format that suits them. In addition to the website a set of Your Life, Your Choice branded leaflets, providing information about adult social care in the county, will be available from libraries. Access to the Your Life, Your Choice website is also available in libraries together with help on hand for anyone requiring assistance with sourcing information.

For more information, look out for the Your Life, Your Choice logo in libraries and CAB AdviceHubs or access information and advice directly at www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk

MEPAL PRODUCE & CRAFT SHOW SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2011

Entry Forms and Schedules will be in the Village Shop from 1st August for anyone who would like to enter this year's Show. If you have never entered before, do please have a go and make this a Show to remember.



St Mary's Church Events

The Reverend Mary Hancock

The Reverend Mrs Mary Hancock was licensed as Priest in Charge for Mepal, Sutton and Witcham at St Andrew's Church, Sutton on July 25th.

St Mary's PCC will welcome Reverend Hancock to Mepal with an 'afternoon tea' event at the Village Hall on Saturday August 6th between 3.30 – 5pm. We would like to invite as many people as possible to take the opportunity to come along and meet her. We hope that meeting local residents and hearing about our community and life in the village will be of great help to Reverend Hancock as she begins her work in the parish.

Safari Lunches

On Sunday September 11th we will once again be offering our 'Safari Lunch' - four courses, each at a different venue in the village, starting off at 1pm.

For more information and to book tickets, price £10, contact Jo Hamilton on 01353 778871

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We are sorry that the computer training sessions at the Hall have been in suspense for some time. A new volunteer has been found to conduct the training, but we haven't yet been able to settle the details including the timing of the sessions.

Some of our members have been serving on the Village Hall Committee for a long time, especially Jenny Sparrow who has been Treasurer for 16 years. For some years she has been appealing for someone else to take on the job, and now our new member Ruth Pitcher has nobly agreed to take over. Jenny is willing to continue as Bookings Clerk.

Although we have a healthy financial balance at present, we need to carry on with our programme of improvements to the Hall, and costs such as insurance, water, gas and electricity continue to rise, as we all know from our personal experience. We have reluctantly decided to increase the charges for hire of the Hall. The new rates per hour are shown below.

Bookings not accepted for 18th, 21st or 25th birthday parties.

We hope soon to embark on improvements to the kitchen. We have obtained a quotation for replacing the window with a new UPVC double-glazed unit, and we have cleared our plans for new kitchen equipment with the District Council's Food Hygiene Officer.

As well as improvements to the Hall's facilities, like any other building, it needs constant work to keep it in good repair.

Wherever possible we do this work ourselves to keep the cost down. The latest working party renewed the wood preservative on the boundary fence to School Lane and carried out repairs on the roof above the former toilets now used for storage.

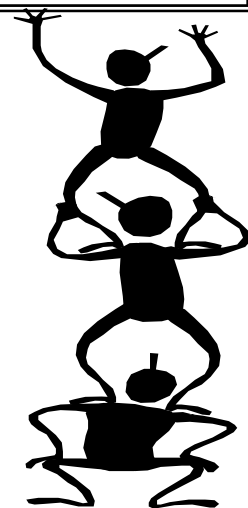
On Saturday 13th August we are delighted to join in the "Olympic Tastes" celebration organised by MeSsAGe. We shall be there with a variety of USA- based attractions.

Don't miss the tea party we are holding from 4 until 6 pm on **Sunday 14th August** to celebrate the 99th birthday of our former long-serving caretaker Lil Sadler. As we recorded in the last "Mepal People", Lil continues to be an active and valuable supporter of the Hall. She conducted the formal opening of the new extension in 2009 and among other things plays a vital part in the running of the monthly tombola evenings.

On Friday Sept 30th Billy Baxter will give us a talk on how he lost his sight while serving in Bosnia in 1997 and what he has accomplished since then. This will be in aid of St Dunstan's, which as many of you will know is a charity that has supported blind soldiers since World War 1.

Members of the Committee - Chairman – Allen Sallis – 775302
Vice-Chairman – Gordon Reid 775150 Treasurer – Ruth Pitcher – 775178
Secretary – David Stazicker – 778129
Members – Ernie Barlow, Monica Crane, Paul Driver, June Edwards, Roy Harknett, Ruth Pitcher, Louise Titmarsh and Rosemary Wells. **To hire the Hall** contact Jenny Sparrow 778895.

BOOKING TYPE	CHARGE
Registered Charity Fundraising Event	£5 per hour
Regular Bookings by Community Group	£8 per hour (daytime) £10 per hour (after 6pm)
Occasional Bookings by Community Groups	£10 per hour (any time)
Private Parties - Mepal Residents	£10 per hour (deposit £100)
Private Parties - non Mepal Residents	£10 per hour (£200 deposit)
Commercial Bookings - Regular	By Negotiation
Commercial Bookings - Occasional	£15 per hour



MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES TO 31ST JULY 2011

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

Correspondence to: Sally Shipley, Clerk, 50 Chestnut Way, Mepal, Ely, CB6 2YR
Tel: 01353 774994
Email: mepalparishcouncil@msn.com
Website: www.mepalparish.org.uk



Vacancy for Councillor: one application has been received for the vacant seat on the Parish Council following the local council elections in May. Mr Roy Harknett will be co-opted onto the Parish Council at the Full Council meeting in September.

Manor Farm: as you will see from the "Sold" sign, a bid has been accepted for the Manor Farm Yard site. Smiths Gore confirms that their solicitors are in the process of drawing up contracts and they hope the sale will be completed quickly. Those who attended the Open Afternoon on 29th June will know that the Parish Council worked hard to be in a position to consider purchase of this site as a community project but, unfortunately, were unable to undertake the necessary consultation, prepare and submit a bid within the very short time scale allowed. The Parish Council is, however, still concerned that any potential development of the site should be sympathetic and in keeping with this very important village focal point. We hope that the purchaser will be open to working with the Parish Council, to listen to the views of residents and possibly consider options for development of part of the site for community facilities.

Youth: following the successful enhancement of the children's play area, the Parish Council would now like to provide a permanent football goal or ball target wall on the recreation field for the youth of the village. The Council has agreed to apply for up to £1.5k of s106 monies from East Cambridgeshire District Council. For this to be possible, we need to show that there is a real need/desire for this. If you think this is a good idea and would like to support the project, then please contact Glenn Drew on 775176.

Buses: following a complaint from several residents regarding the No 9 bus service to Ely, the Parish Council has written to Stagecoach to highlight the issues of concern. A response has been received which the Parish Council does not feel addresses the issues sufficiently and therefore a further letter will be sent.

Consultations: over the last two months, the Parish Council has considered the following consultations; Communities & Local Government consultation on "Future of Local Public Audit; East Cambridgeshire District Council consultation on the draft Delegated Services Protocol; East Cambridgeshire District Council consultation on the draft Zoo Licencing Policy; Cambridgeshire County Council consultation regarding Application for Civil Parking Enforcement Powers; Cambridgeshire County Council Library Service Review. Copies of responses are available from the Clerk.

Planning: since the last report, no new planning applications have been considered.

Next Meeting: the next meeting of Mepal Parish Council will be on Monday 12th September 2011 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.

Write 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, contact us by 22nd September 2011.

By email

By phone

Mary Fuller 01353 777147

By post/hand

Sandy, 23 High Street; Rae, 7 Rectory Fields or 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