



MEPAL PEOPLE

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **New Priest in Charge**
- **Raptors visit school**
- **New classes at Village College**

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Have your say on the future of Mepal

Help to produce a 'Vision' for your village.....

East Cambridgeshire District Council is looking for your views on how your village/parish should change or improve in the future. What sort of place would you like Mepal to be? What are your priorities for the village and the wider parish? For example, do you want better local facilities, new homes or more employment opportunities?

The District Council wants to work in partnership with local people and the Parish Council to draw up a long-term Vision for Mepal. The Vision will set out how Mepal should develop/improve over the next 20 years. It will look at issues such as: local housing needs; employment opportunities; sites for development; the quality of the local environment infrastructure and facilities – whether to protect and/or improve.

The Vision will be used to guide decisions on future development and planning applications. It will also help ensure that key infrastructure and facilities are retained and enhanced. The Vision will be included in the statutory development plan for the East

Cambridgeshire - known as the 'Core Strategy'.

A questionnaire will be available for people's comments from **27th June 2011**. The questionnaire can be viewed on the District Council's website at www/eastcamb.gov.uk/core-strategy-review; or paper copies can be obtained by phoning the Forward Planning team on 01353 665555. The website will also have questionnaires for other settlements in East Cambridgeshire (which you are welcome to fill out), as well as other background documents.

Comments should be returned by **18th July 2011**. The District Council is keen to get your views, and would like as many people to get involved as possible. Your comments will help to shape a draft Vision for Mepal. The draft Vision will be published early next year, when there will be a further opportunity to make comments. The final Vision should be published in late 2012, and should hopefully reflect the needs and priorities of the local community.



MEPAL PRODUCE & CRAFT SHOW COFFEE MORNING & HOME-MADE CAKE STALL

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2011
10.00AM – 12 NOON IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Please come and enjoy a delicious bacon buttie, tea or coffee and help us raise funds for this year's Produce & Craft Show. There will be a "Children's Craft Corner" where children can produce a drawing or picture which we will then enter into this year's Show; we will provide all the materials for the children to use.

Diary Dates



JUNE

2 nd	7.30pm	Ascension Day Deanery Service	St. James, Stretham
3 rd	8.30am	Gardening Club – Coach trip to Hyde Hall & Beth Chatto Gardens	Village Hall
4 th	10am-12noon	Produce Show Coffee Morning	Village Hall
5 th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
5 th	10.30am	Service with Communion	Union Chapel
7 th	2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
7 th	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
10 th	7.30pm	Monthly Tombola	Village Hall
11 th	10.00am-noon	Coffee Morning in aid of Air Ambulance	Village Hall
12 th	10.30am	Eucharist for Pentecost	St. Mary's
13 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
15 th	10.00am	Friendship Club – Ely Riverside Trip	Village Hall
19 th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
19 th	10.30am	Family Service	Union Chapel
19 th	3 – 5.30pm	Cream Teas	Grove House
20 th	7.30pm	Gardening Club – Willow & its uses	Village Hall
21 st	2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
21 st	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
25 th	3 – 5pm	Garden Fete	Grove House
26 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's
29 th	9.30am	Friendship Club – Outing to Wisbech Rose Fayre	Village Hall

JULY

3 rd	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
3 rd	10.30am	Service with Communion	Union Chapel
5 th	2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
5 th	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
8 th	7.30pm	Monthly Tombola	Village Hall
10 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's
11 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
13 th	9.00am	Friendship Club – Outing to Bury St, Edmunds	Village Hall
17 th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
17 th	10.30am	Family Service	Union Chapel
17 th	3 – 5.30pm	Cream Teas	Grove House
19 th	2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
19 th	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
23 rd	3.00pm	Barbecue	67 Meadow Way
24 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's
25 th	7.30pm (tbc)	Licensing Service for new Priest	St. Andrews
27 th	10.00am	Friendship Club – Summer picnic & raffle	Village Hall
31 st	10.30am (tbc)	Joint service with Witcham	Union Chapel

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 21st June 2011.

By email

mepalpeople@gmail.com (preferred option)

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

St Mary's Church News and Events

The Bishop has announced that the new priest-in-charge for Mepal, Sutton and Witcham will be the Revd Mrs Mary Hancock. Mary is at present curate at Elm, Friday Bridge, Emneth and Marshland St James, and we expect that she will be licensed as priest for our churches at a celebratory service at Sutton in the latter part of July. Mary will live at the Vicarage in Sutton, but is keen to get to know people in Mepal, so we shall be arranging opportunities for everyone, not just church-goers, to meet her as soon as we can.

In the meantime anyone needing help or support, whether administrative or spiritual, or who has a question, should contact the churchwarden, Elizabeth Stazicker, in the first place (tel 01353 778129, email eliz.stazicker@gmail.com, (or envelope left at Mepal Stores). She will identify appropriate assistance for you.

Garden Fete at Grove House

(Bridge Road, Mepal)

Saturday June 25th 3 – 5pm

Visit us for Afternoon Teas,
cakes, produce, bric-a-brac, books,
plants
& other items on sale

Cream Teas at Grove House

Sun 19th June & Sun 17th July
3 – 5.30pm



Village Hall News

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 28th April. The Hall has continued to be well used and our finances are in good order, but we need to raise more money to meet the rising costs of fuel and other necessities, and to help pay for the further improvements that are needed to make it a first-rate facility in all respects.

All the serving members of the Committee were re-appointed or re-elected, and in addition June Edwards was elected, and Ruth Pitcher was appointed to represent the Produce Show Committee – a position which Steve Bramble had held with distinction for several years before he and Mary moved to Devon last year.

The return visit on Monday 2nd May by Country singer and songwriter Hank Wangford, this time with his fellow-artist Brad Breath, again by courtesy of Arts in Cambs on Tour, was greatly enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. The atmosphere of the evening was again much enhanced by a licensed bar, thanks to the hard work of Jenny Sparrow.

In August our former long-serving caretaker Lil Sadler celebrates her 99th birthday. As many of you will know, 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. To express our thanks to Lil we are holding a tea party from 4 until 6 pm on **Sunday 14th August**.

Other Dates for Your Diary

Tombola Evenings for the rest of 2011 – 10th June, 8th July, 12th August, 16th September, 14th October, 11th November, Grand Christmas session 21st December: Eyes Down 7.30 pm.

**To hire the Hall contact
Jenny Sparrow 778895**

Local Community Groups:
Occasional Bookings £10 p.h.
Reg Bookings £6 p.h. daytime,
£8 p.h. from 6 pm onwards.

Private Parties:
£75 plus cash deposit –
Mepal residents £100, others
£200.

Bookings by Commercial
Organisations:
regular - by arrangement
occasional - £15 ph

Chairman
Allen Sallis 775302
Vice-Chairman
Gordon Reid 775150
Treasurer
Jenny Sparrow 778895
Secretary
David Stazicker 778129
Members
Ernie Barlow, Monica Crane,
Paul Driver, June Edwards,
Roy Harknett, Ruth Pitcher,
Louise Titmarsh, Rosemary
Wells.

MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES TO 31st May 2011



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

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

Local Council Elections 2011: at the local council elections in May, six seats on the Parish Council were filled following an uncontested election. I welcome all of the above Councillors back and look forward to working with them over the next four-year period. Due to work commitments, Mark Newstead did not stand for election again and I would like to thank him for the time and effort that he has given over the last few years.

As a result of the election, the Parish Council has one vacancy which will be advertised and, should a poll not be requested by ten electors, filled by co-option. Posters will be displayed on the noticeboard in the High Street and on the website. If you are interested in finding out about becoming Parish Councillor then information is available from the Clerk.

Manor Farm: the Parish Council is aware of the very strong feeling within the village that any potential development of the Manor Farm site should be sympathetic and in keeping with this very important village focal point. To ensure that these views are taken seriously, the Parish Council submitted an application into the Trailblazer Scheme being run by Cambridgeshire ACRE. ACRE was looking for four Cambridgeshire communities to lead the way in taking on the Big Society Challenge and investigating how they can use the new powers that will become available as a result of the localism agenda. Our project was accepted into the scheme and we will now work with ACRE and other local agencies to see how best to ensure the views of our residents are taken into account and whether there is any potential for a community-led project to develop the Manor Farm site and provide further facilities for the village.

It is essential that the Parish Council hears and understands the views of as many residents as possible so to kick-start the project a Community Event will be held on **Wednesday 29th June 2011 15:00-20:00 in Mepal Village Hall**. Please do come along and chat to the representatives of the various bodies present and tell them your views.

This is an immensely important project and help from residents who are interested and willing to be involved would be most welcome. If you would like to join the Working Party then please contact the Clerk.

Consultations: over the last two months, the Parish Council has not considered any new consultations but has worked to respond fully to Cambridgeshire County Council on the review of Library Services and to the Home Office consultation on "More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour."

Planning: since the last report, the Parish Council has considered the following planning applications: proposed outdoor classroom to rear of main school building at Mepal & Witcham Primary School. First periodic review of mineral permission F/01467/89 and F/00781/91 (as amended) for Block Fen Quarry, Block Fen Drove, Chatteris. Further details can be obtained from the Clerk.

Next Meeting: the next meeting of Mepal Parish Council will be on Monday 13th June 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.

MEPAL GARDENING CLUB

Another excellent talk to the Garden Club on Monday 16th May from Sandy Reid on Bonsai for Beginners was enjoyed by all those attending.

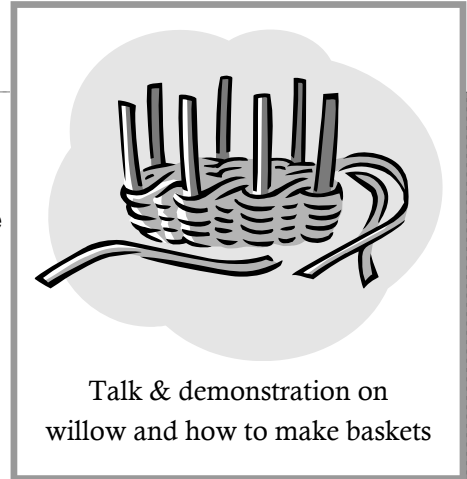
The trip to Hyde Hall and Beth Chatto's on the 3rd June has now only 4 seats left so if you are interested in joining us on the coach do please phone 775302.

Our last meeting before the summer season is on June 20th and will be a talk and demonstration by Jane Frost on Willow and how to make baskets, things for the garden etc. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy this talk.

On 23rd July we shall be holding our usual summer BBQ which once again will be held at Paul Driver's, 67 Meadow Way. Tickets will be £6.50 for non members and £6.00 for members and this includes food and a welcome glass of wine or fruit juice. Contacts for tickets are Paul Driver on 777692 and Allen Sallis on 775302.

The Club will be holding its AGM at the village hall on August 15th and after business there will be a quiz with cheese and wine.

Bird seed for sale as usual - just phone Allen and he will deliver.



Talk & demonstration on willow and how to make baskets

Mepal and Witcham School's News

Our Summer Term has barely started and yet already we have been incredibly busy! We opened with our version of The Royal Wedding which our younger children organised for the older pupils who came as guests. We held the wedding service in the School Hall and photographs were taken on the field before the children enjoyed a High Tea.



The highlight of the week just gone was a visit from Ye Old Redtail Falconry. Ray, the owner entertained us all with his knowledge and enthusiasm for his birds of prey and, as can be seen, his beautiful birds were not afraid of human contact!



A visit from Redtail Falconry and a Chipnic lunch

Our week ended with a Chipnic Lunch, organised by our Friends of Mepal and Witcham School Committee. Our delicious lunch was donated by Petrou Brothers of Ely and Chatteris.

The weather stayed fine for us and it was lovely to all sit outside and share lunch together.

DAY TRIP TO SPRINGFIELDS, SPALDING

Our Village Friendship Club enjoyed a lovely day out on Wed May 11th 2011 when 33 members & friends went by coach to Springfields at Spalding. The weather was good and the trip took less than an hour.

For people who are not sure what Springfields entails, I will tell you. It has peaceful gardens for a wander around with plenty of seats if a rest is needed, a large Garden Centre complete with restaurant and over 50 shopping outlets all selling merchandise at bargain prices (RETAIL THERAPY GIRLS). There are also another two or three places to have lunch and coffee bars. We were back in Mepal by 4.30pm after a good time was enjoyed by all. We have a couple of future outings arranged during June and July and all you have to do to partake in these and other activities is to JOIN US. (See Mepal People diary page for details of the trips). We meet twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesdays and other activities include lunches out at local pubs etc. and various activities at the Pavilion, Witcham Road. Any questions please 'phone MARY FULLER 01353 777147 or CRISTINA HOLDEN 01354 694615



Line Dancing - good fun,
good exercise!

Mepal Line Dancing

Line dancing continues to grow apace and on 25th March we held a joint charity dance with clubs from Chatteris and Somersham. It was a highly enjoyable evening and over £300.00 was raised for the chosen charities. It's good fun, good exercise and we are bringing a little enjoyment to the community by giving demonstrations to various nursing/residential homes in the area. Why not come along and join us on a Tuesday morning or Thursday evening? For further details please contact Allen Sallis on 01353 775302

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

at

WITCHFORD VILLAGE COLLEGE

Do you have a Saturday to spare?

Saturday 11th June

Wedding Flowers

Level 2 Award in

Food Safety

Italian Cookery



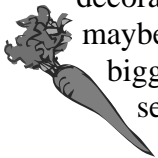
Telephone 01353 664468 to book your place.

scook2@witchfordvillage.cambs.sch.uk

www.witchfordcollege.co.uk

EARLY WARNING !

It's high time you started thinking about what your entry is going to be for this year's Produce and Craft Show. Will it be edible, artistic, decorative, delicious-tasting or maybe the longest carrot or the biggest tomato we have ever seen?



The Schedule listing all the different categories and the entry forms will be distributed (and will be available in the Village Shop) towards the end of July.

Go on, have a go! Let's make the 2011 show one to remember!



Over to You!

We still want more ideas from you, dear reader! While we wait for your literary juices to start flowing, we wondered if you would like us to include dedications or congratulations from you to your nearest and dearest? Maybe someone has a big birthday coming up, or has had a baby or passed an exam, or you just want to tell them how generally great they are?

You'll need to think ahead a bit - our next newsletter deadline is 21st July, so we'll be looking for birthdays or anniversaries coming up in August or September.

Of course we will always be limited by space, so it will be a case of first come, first served. We'll do our best to include everyone, but some occasions may attract lots of submissions (Valentines, Mother's or Father's Day etc) and we might have to limit entries.