

# Mepal People

October/November 2011



## MeSsAGe - Mepal Sports Action Group

### *Olympic Tastes*

We would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who supported the first two Olympic Tastes events held on 13 August and 18 September. The 'U.S.A.' day was especially successful and our particular thanks go to the village groups who really got into the spirit of things by providing a taste of the States and dressing the part!

As Winter draws closer, we cannot undertake such big events so the next in the series will be an

### **'International Cake & Bake Stall'** **on Saturday 22 October**

**starting at 8am outside Mepal Post Office Stores**

Any donations of home baking using recipes from any part of the world will be gratefully received by Georgina King, Secretary, at 5 Brick Lane (01353 777112) by Friday 21 October

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 the above number.

**Mepal Sports Action Group (charity no. 1095391)**

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION WITCHFORD VILLAGE COLLEGE

### *Day Schools*

*Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011*

**Christmas Floral Arrangements**

**Batik**

**Calligraphy in a Day**

**Drawing Workshop**

**Emergency First Aid**

**Felting Fun for All**

**Introduction to Knitting**

**Introduction to SAGE**

**Italian Cookery**

**Level 2 Certificate in Food Safety in Catering**

**Telephone: 01353 664468**

**Email: [scook2@witchfordvillage.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:scook2@witchfordvillage.cambs.sch.uk)**

**[www.witchfordcollege.co.uk](http://www.witchfordcollege.co.uk)**



### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

Saturday 10th December, Mepal Village Hall

Christmas with Footlights

Music, competitions etc

**[www.footlightsquartet.co.uk](http://www.footlightsquartet.co.uk)**

## St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge; Revd. Mary Hancock tel. 01353 778722

Churchwarden: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker tel 01353 778129

Harvest Festival Service Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am at the church.

Harvest Supper at 6pm also on the 9th at the Village Hall.

For tickets, price £6 (under 12 yrs - £3) contact 01353 778871

Tickets must be purchased by 7<sup>th</sup> October, they will not be on sale at the door.

Christmas Flowers & Crafts Day 10am – 4pm at Grove House, Bridge Road

Get ready for Christmas with our tutor led sessions

Please book in advance as places are limited; for tickets price £7.50 (lunch included) contact Wendy Smith 01353 775308

Christmas Market Sat Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 12 noon - 3pm at the Village Hall

Gifts from the kitchen, crafts, cards & books

Tea, coffee & hot lunches served



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## OCTOBER

|                  |         |   |                 |
|------------------|---------|---|-----------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 8.00am  | Holy Communion                          | St. Mary's      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 10.30am | Harvest Festival                        | Union Chapel    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 6.30pm  | Harvest Supper                          | Union Chapel    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 2.30pm  | Good Companions                         | Village Hall    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00am | Friendship Club – Bingo                 | Pavilion        |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am | Harvest Festival Eucharist              | St. Mary's      |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 6.00pm  | Church Harvest Supper                   | Village Hall    |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | TBA     | Friendship Club Lunch                   | Lamb Hotel, Ely |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30am  | Monthly Tombola                         | Village Hall    |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | 8.00am  | Holy Communion                          | St. Mary's      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Family Service                          | Union Chapel    |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30pm  | Gardening Club                          | Village Hall    |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Friendship Club – Sit & Keep Fit        | Pavilion        |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 10.30am | Parish Eucharist                        | St. Mary's      |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Friendship Club – Coffee, Chat & Raffle | Pavilion        |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Joint Songs of Praise Service           | St. Mary's      |

## NOVEMBER

|                  |            |  |                                |
|------------------|------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 2.30pm     | Good Companions  | Village Hall                   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 10.30pm    | Friendship Club – Quiz                                   | Pavilion                       |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 10am-4pm   | Christmas Flowers & Craft Day                            | Grove House                    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 8.00am     | Holy Communion   | St. Mary's                     |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am    | Service with Communion                                   | Union Chapel                   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 7.30pm     | Parish Council Meeting                                   | Village Hall                   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00am    | Friendship Club AGM                                      | Pavilion                       |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30am     | Monthly Tombola  | Village Hall                   |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | 10.45am    | Act of Remembrance<br>followed by Service of Remembrance | New Zealand Memorial<br>Chapel |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | 2.30pm     | Good Companions  | Village Hall                   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | TBA        | Friendship Club Lunch                                    | Bridge Hotel, Clayhithe        |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am    | Parish Eucharist   | St. Mary's                     |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | 7.30pm     | Gardening Club plants for the Home                       | Village Hall                   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 10.00am    | Friendship Club – Beetle Drive                           | Pavilion                       |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am    | Parish Eucharist   | St. Mary's                     |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | 12noon-3pm | Christmas Market   | Village Hall                   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am    | Friendship Club – Coffee & Chat                          | Pavilion                       |



### Line Dancing

Since the last edition of Mepal People the Line Dancing group has given another dancing exhibition to the residents of Salem Court in Chatteris.

Residents were invited to join in and many of them did so, much to the enjoyment of themselves and the amusement of the on-lookers. We were also asked to perform a few numbers at the USA Olympic tastes event in August and I hope that those who saw us enjoyed the spectacle.

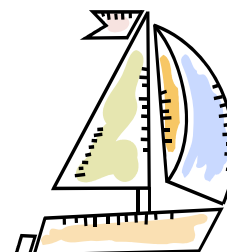
Now that some of us are getting a little more proficient at this line dancing lark we are also getting a bit more adventurous and attending line dances in the region. It's amazing just how many dances are held - at least one a week, all with live bands. If you'd like to join in the fun then just give me a call on 01353 775302 and I'll give you all the information on how to get the ball rolling.

Allen Sallis

### Adventure - and it's right on our doorstep!

Ever been stuck for something to do at weekends or in the school holidays? The **Mepal Outdoor Centre** is right on our doorstep. It's open all the year round and it offers activities for the whole family. Want to walk on water? Then try the Zorb (water bubble) but if your interests are more traditional then the centre can offer instruction in canoeing, sailing and kayaking. Fully qualified instructors on site at all times. For the really serious enthusiast the Centre can offer white water canoe and kayak training sessions in mid-Wales.

Not willing to get your feet wet? Then why not consider pedal karting, Archery, Air-rifle shooting, indoor rock climbing or the adventure playground for the kids. Talking of which, if you want to throw a children's birthday party with a difference then why not hold it at the Centre? Activity parties arranged to suit - call the Centre to see what's on offer!



Telephone 01354 692251 or e-mail [info@mepal.co.uk](mailto:info@mepal.co.uk)

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We hope soon to obtain the release of the "Section 106" money from the District Council and start work on re-equipping the kitchen. This will be a big improvement, enabling Hall users to provide a full range of catering when they wish, and also giving the potential to let the Hall for a wider range of social and other functions, bringing in valuable extra income. Meanwhile the kitchen window has been replaced with double glazing, which should improve comfort as winter sets in. While we have been making strides in refurbishing the inside of the Hall, we are aware that much of the outside has not had a lot of attention for some years and is beginning to look distinctly tired. This is another task we aim to tackle soon, perhaps introducing some brighter colours.

Sadly we have to report that Louise Titmarsh has resigned from our Committee because of ill health. Louise joined the Committee in 2004 and was for a long time a very active member, making a valuable contribution to our discussions and the running of events. As many of you will know, our longest-standing member Ernie Barlow is in Addenbrooke's Hospital after being taken seriously ill while on holiday in Canada, but it is good to hear that he is gradually improving.

Congratulations to MeSSAGe for organising a most enjoyable "Olympic Tastes" day on 13<sup>th</sup> August. We had good fun dressing up as gangsters and Native Americans and plenty of people sampled our pies and took part in our competitions.

Many friends came to the tea party on 14<sup>th</sup> August to celebrate Lil Sadler's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Lil enjoyed circulating and chatting with everybody. Lil is an example to us all, continuing to be a strong practical supporter of the Hall and helping with the monthly tombola evenings.

There has been bad news for us but good news for Billy Baxter, who has now moved to take up a job with St Dunstan's in Llandudno and so regretfully won't be able to give us his planned talk on 30<sup>th</sup> September. However, all is not lost as Peter Carter, the last eel-catcher in Ely, will be coming on that evening to give an illustrated talk about his life and times. If this newsletter reaches you in time and you haven't already put this in your diary, don't miss this fascinating account of traditional fenland skills. Entrance £3, licensed bar.

We are very fortunate once more to have two shows coming to the Hall thanks to Arts in Cambs on Tour. On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October "Back to the Land Girls" is a comedy inspired by the wartime Women's Land Army. On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November there is a return visit by Mervyn Stutter whose previous performance here in 2007 had the audience rolling in the aisles. "Curtain up" 7.30 pm for each show, tickets £6, concessions £5, under-16s £4 from Mepal Stores or phone (01353) 778129 in advance, 50p extra on the door, licensed bar.

**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, Jenny Sparrow and Rosemary Wells.

**To hire the Hall** contact Jenny Sparrow 778895. Local community groups and private parties £10 per hour, reduced to £8 for local community groups before 6 pm. Registered charity fundraising events £5 per hour.

## Your Neighbourhood Panel

Neighbourhood Panels are your opportunity to tell agencies working in your area what you would like to see improved and will ultimately make your locality a better place to live. The West area Neighbourhood Panel meeting was held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July and amongst other things, agreed that the policing priorities for the 3 months to the end of September should be: tackling speeding offences and addressing illegal parking across the Panel area. The Panel also agreed that another priority should be supporting the creation of a cyclepath along the A142.

If you would like to raise an issue of concern, but are unable to come to the next Panel meeting, please contact your local Neighbourhood Panel representative (details can be obtained from your Parish Council) or contact Julie Cornwell, Partnerships Officer, on 01353 665555.

Next Panel meeting: **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 – 9.00pm at Witchford Village Hall**

## BLOOMING MARVELLOUS EXHIBITS WOW JUDGES!

### Congratulations to all our winners at this year's Show!

There was a wonderful creativity on show this year, particularly in the children's sections (for a change there were more than two entrants!). Overall, the show was a great success with veggie monsters and eggy heroes and villains jostling with some superb displays from the adults. The judges were very impressed by the high standards, and there some very tough calls had to be made. A big thank you to all of you who took the time to harvest, arrange, decorate, knit, sew, paint, bake, photograph and so much more! And an equally large thank you to all of you who came to the show and supported us. On our part, we really enjoyed curating all your works and look forward to doing it all again next year!

### Hot Tip from the Veg Patch

Harvest, harvest, harvest! Keep picking your beans, courgettes and cucumbers. You can prolong the harvest period until the first frost. If garlic is your game, November to January is the best time to plant them. Best to buy bulbs from seed merchants - check that they are certified virus-free and bred for growing locally. You may find that supermarket bulbs are not bred for growing in the English climate.

### Artist & Crafter Alert!

The Babylon Gallery in Ely is calling for entries for their Christmas selling exhibition "Art Unwrapped". They are looking for beautiful and original work made by local & regional artists & makers from paintings, prints, jewellery, to ceramics to sculpture and more. The closing date is 14 October 2011. Find out more and apply at [www.adec.org.uk](http://www.adec.org.uk).



## THANK YOU!

*Lil Sadler would like to say a very big thankyou to everyone from the village who helped make her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday so memorable with cards, flowers and presents, and especially for the wonderful party in her honour.*

## ..and another big THANK YOU

To Des, our postman for I don't know how long. Des is transferring to work in Ely and I am sure you will all want to join me in thanking him for his tireless, cheerful, helpful, friendly service, come rain or shine, wind and snow, often going over and above his duties to make sure we get our mail. I'm sure our new postman will be just fine, but we'll miss you Des - Good Luck and Au Revoir!

Ken Green

# MEPAL & WITCHAM CE SCHOOL NEWS

It is now a year since I joined Mepal and Witcham Primary School - the year has really flown by and we have had many successes through the course of the year. I was keen to celebrate the Christian nature of our School and this display now features prominently in the main entrance to our School. Everyone involved in our School was involved in selecting the values from the Christian Wheel of Values above that were most important in the life of our School. The Values that were selected were: Friendship, Patience, Creativity, Responsibility and Trust. All of the Children in the School work hard to display these values in their day to day work and play. Each Friday in our Celebration Assembly children are presented with Value stickers for showing these values and once a month all the children who have received an award join in with the Head's Tea Party!

The children really enjoy receiving an award and are keen to nominate their peers for these values. Mepal and Witcham CE Primary School certainly is a place where these values thrive and flourish and I am extremely proud to be the Head Teacher of such a welcoming, friendly hardworking School.

Nicola Jones



## Mepal Gardening Club

August saw the Garden Club AGM, which was well attended. Nominations had been received and a new committee was elected. Thank you to those members who returned completed forms.

The speaker for our September meeting was Alan Shipp from Waterbeach, who is the Keeper of the National Collection of Hyacinths. He gave an excellent talk illustrated by slides. Members were able to purchase hyacinth bulbs, so come the spring we should see lots of colour in their gardens.



The October meeting will have Mark ERkin from the College of Agriculture giving a presentation on house plants.

November will see a welcome return of Angela Whiting of D'Arcy Everest. She will be showing us how to get the most from growing vegetables in containers.

This year our party and dance will be on Friday 9th December at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. A glass of wine or soft drink will welcome you, music by Leigh Murfet and a buffet. All of this for £7 members, £8 guests. As there is no bar, please bring your own drinks for the evening. Tickets are available now from Paul Driver 01353 777692, Tony Pleasance 01353 777275, Sue Lunn 01353 777298 and from the Post Office. Do come along and join us for what will be a very enjoyable evening.

Don't forget bird seed is available from Alan Sallis, 01353 775302, who will deliver if necessary.

New members will be made very welcome and we have a varied programme of speakers and trips arranged during the year, so come along and join us.

# MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

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

**Correspondence to:** Sally Shipley, Clerk, 50 Chestnut Way, Mepal, Ely, CB6 2YR  
Tel: 01353 774994  
Email: [mepalparishcouncil@msn.com](mailto:mepalparishcouncil@msn.com)  
Website: [www.mepalparish.org.uk](http://www.mepalparish.org.uk)



**New Councillor:** We are pleased to welcome Mr Roy Harknett as our new councillor. Roy was co-opted onto the parish council at the full council meeting in September. We wish him all the best in his new role.

**Youth Services:** the parish council has entered into a contract with Community CARTS (a newly formed charity) for the provision of youth services until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. This partnership will ensure the continuance of the weekly youth clubs in the village hall on Tuesday evenings.

**Mepal Community Pavilion:** the premises licence for the Community Pavilion has been granted by the licencing authority. If anyone has any concerns in relation to this, please contact the Clerk.

**Trees:** the parish council has received a request from the Friendship Club to support them in the planting of a tree in the High Street in memory of past members. This request was approved by the parish council although responsibility for the maintenance of the tree will remain with the Friendship Club.

The parish council is looking into the possibility of securing funding to plant some further trees in the High Street in commemoration of next year's Diamond Jubilee. The trees would be planted to replace those that are nearing the end of their lifetime and may need to be removed over the next few years. The Clerk will make some initial enquiries and further information will follow.

**Mepal Woodland:** this project, to provide a community woodland on the land between Meadow Way and the A142, is progressing with the conveyance of the land from Construct Reason to the parish council well under way. It is hoped that a community planting day will be organised in November. Further details to follow but anyone interested in taking part should please contact the Clerk.

**Laurel Close Green:** the parish council has obtained quotations for the erection of a low fence around the edge of the Laurel Close green to prevent the parking of vehicles on the green. The fence will be erected over the next couple of months. Quotations are also being sought for works to the trees in and around the memorial garden and on the green itself. The specification for the works has been drawn by the Trees Officer from East Cambridgeshire District Council.

**Consultations:** over the last two months, the Parish Council has considered the following consultations; Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals & Waste Local Development Framework consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Document - RECAP (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Waste Partnership) Waste Management Design Guide; Fenland District Council consultation on the Fenland Communities Development Plan - Core Strategy (DPD) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). 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 10<sup>th</sup> October 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 **16th November 2011**. (Don't forget this will be the Christmas edition!)

#### By email

[mepalpeople@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mepalparishcouncil@msn.com)