



Mepal People

February 2020



Editors News

Some of you may know that after I took on the production of the Mepal People Newsletter last year, I also decided to join the Parish Council. At the last Parish Council meeting, it was proposed that, to avoid a conflict of interest, and because the PC already fund the printing costs of this publication, that they would take over complete responsibility for the Newsletter in future.

We have noticed some word confusion with the Mepal People Community FaceBook group and this newsletter with the same name, so we have decided it is time for a facelift! You will (hopefully) have noticed that we are trialling a colour copy, but to complete the transformation we have also proposed renaming the newsletter. We have listed some favourites below – but please let me know what you think? Send thoughts to mepalpeople@gmail.com

Mepal Bulletin
Mepal Post
Mepal Messenger

Mepal Digest
The Mepal Buzz
The Mepal Rag

Mepal Memo
Mepal Connections
Mepal Voices

Editor: Lorna Williams

Healthy Living Group Consultation

Priors Field Surgery Saturday 15th February 2020
10am to 12noon

Kasia, a Diabetes Specialist Nurse, will be holding this first group consultation for up to 20 patients on the subject of healthy living. She will be helped by nurse Claire from Papworth surgery. Jane, the PPG's fitness expert, will be there to give a demo of her gentle exercise to music regime.

This event is open to you if you are diabetic, or have been diagnosed as pre-diabetic, or just think you may be at risk of developing diabetes.

As this will be on a first-come-first-served basis you will need to ring reception 01353 778208 to book early.

Talk to diabetes experts and get practical up-to-date information.

Learn how to maintain a healthy diet, exercise sensibly and become more confident in managing your own health and well-being.

Meet other people in the same boat.

Nextdoor Social Media App

We are aware that a number of people have received communication relating to a free private online network and we wanted to let you know that this is not related to any Parish activity and just to give you some background regarding the company.

For information the site Nextdoor in the UK took over streetlife.co.uk in 2017. Nextdoor is an US social media firm with operations in 10 other countries. It provides a platform very similar to Facebook, but instead of connecting friends, it connects neighbours, who may not know each

other at all and share only a neighbourhood. Based in San Francisco, California, the company Nextdoor was founded in 2008 and launched in the United States in October 2011 and is currently available in 11 countries. Users of Nextdoor submit their real names and addresses (or street without the exact number) to the website. Posts made to the website are available only to other Nextdoor members living in the same neighbourhood.

As with the use of any commercial social media app (free or not) - you should be aware that you are sharing your personal information and understand any consequences of this.

Dates for your diary

Copy deadline
for next issue:
**March 18th
2020**

February 2020

- 2nd St Marys Parish Church Holy Communion - 8am
- 4th Good Companions - Village Hall 2.30pm-4.30pm
- 5th Friendship Club Bingo
- 7th Parish Council Meeting - Mepal Community Pavilion - 7.30pm
- 9th St Marys Parish Church Parish Eucharist - 10.30am
- 12th Friendship Club Valentine related
- 13th Youth Club - KS2 (Yrs 3-6) 6.15pm to 7.15pm KS3/4 (Yrs 7-10) 7.30pm to 8.30pm
- 16th St Marys Parish Church Holy Communion - 8am
- 16th Union Chapel Service with Preacher D Palmer - 10.30am
- 18th Good Companions - Village Hall 2.30pm-4.30pm
- 19th Friendship Club The Red lion, Stretham trip
- 22nd St Marys Parish Church Coffee & pancakes at Village Hall - 10am - 12pm
- 23rd St Marys Parish Church Parish Eucharist - 10.30am
- 26th Friendship Club 50/50 sale
- 27th Youth Club - KS2 (Yrs 3-6) 6.15pm to 7.15pm KS3/4 (Yrs 7-10) 7.30pm to 8.30pm

March 2020

- 1st **Mepal Community Led Plan meeting - Mepal pavilion 2:30 – 4:30pm**
- 1st St Marys Parish Church Holy Communion - 8am
- 3rd Good Companions - Village Hall 2.30pm-4.30pm
- 8th St Marys Parish Church Parish Eucharist - 10.30am
- 11th Friendship Club Swaffham and Garden Center
- 12th Youth Club - KS2 (Yrs 3-6) 6.15pm to 7.15pm KS3/4 (Yrs 7-10) 7.30pm to 8.30pm
- 14th St Marys Parish Church Coffee morning at Village Hall - 10am - 12pm
- 15th St Marys Parish Church Holy Communion - 8am
- 15th Union Chapel Anniversary & Afternoon Tea - 2.30pm
- 17th Good Companions - Village Hall 2.30pm-4.30pm
- 18th Friendship Club Meal at Village Hall
- 22nd St Marys Parish Church Mothering Sunday service with Eucharist - 10.30am
- 25th Friendship Club Raffle
- 26th Youth Club - KS2 (Yrs 3-6) 6.15pm to 7.15pm KS3/4 (Yrs 7-10) 7.30pm to 8.30pm
- 29th St Marys Parish Church Joint service at St Martin's, Witcham - 10.30am

*Mepal Youth Club entry fee £1. Different activities every week... to include pool table, table tennis, board games, crafts, team games and Wii. Tuck shop available (30p an item) and squash provided.

!!!!Special Offer for New Advertisers!!!!

Six months free advertising in the Mepal Newsletter

Calling all potential advertisers – we would like to offer you the opportunity to submit an advert for your business in the bi-monthly Mepal Newsletter. Please send your high resolution images for inclusion in the next edition (April 2020) BEFORE 18th March 2020.

Don't lose out on this opportunity to promote your business to Mepal residents

INFORMATION FOR EXISTING ADVERTISERS

Don't worry – we are not leaving you out – all our current advertisers will be offered 6 months free at the end of their current option.

**Support your local newsletter and advertise or place inserts into this Newsletter contact:
mepalpeople@gmail.com**

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the Parish Council.

Mepal Sports Football Club

Further to our article in the last Mepal People, we reluctantly have to inform you that the Club has decided that it cannot continue at present and has left the Cambs. Football League. Playing away from our home base for the past three seasons has proved very difficult and rather than close the Club altogether, the Committee has decided to halt playing and freeze the bank account in the hope that Mepal Sports can be 'resurrected' in some form once the problems with the recreation field have been addressed.

Members of the Committee have been working

with our new Parish Council and now have confidence that the Councillors have the development of the recreation field at the top of their agenda and look forward helping them create an area for sports and recreation that the whole village can be proud of.

If you feel that you can help with football development at Mepal in the future, be it seniors, juniors or 'walking football' please contact me on 778141.

Georgina King, Secretary, Mepal Sports Seniors

Mepal Friendship Club

Welcome to our new club year! We are off and running organizing what we are going to do this year, if you have a look at the diary dates you can see what we have going on for the next few months.

We have our monthly Bingo and we are starting to look into what trips we are going to do. Our first organised trip is to Swaffham, then onto a garden

centre for afternoon tea. We are having meals at The Red Lion Stretham, then march the club is doing a meal in the village hall and lots of other things to come.

So why not come along and join us, we meet every Wednesday 10am-12pm and you can enjoy a cupper and chat and see what you think.

St Mary's Parish Church

Rector: Reverend Mary Hancock tel. 01353 778722 Churchwarden: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker tel. 01353 778129

Spring Events

Coffee & Pancakes, Saturday 22nd February, 10am – 12 at the Village Hall

Join us for an early 'Pancake Day' treat!

Coffee Morning, Saturday 14th March 10am – 12 at the Village Hall

St Mary's Easter cards will be on sale; or bring the children along to make Mothers Day cards.

For details of all our events and church services please see notice boards at the church and at Mepal PO & Stores.

Mepal Union Chapel

I would like to thank the two anonymous donors who so generously donated to the chapel over the Christmas period.

We will be able to maintain this historic building which has stood on the site for more than 190 years. See Diary Dates for our future events.

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MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors: Mr Brian Rollason (Chairman),
Ms Lorna Williams (Vice Chairman)
Mr Mark Brill & Ms Cassy Brown

Clerk: Karen Peck Tel: 07842 499377
Email: mepalparishcouncil@msn.com
Website: www.mepalparish.org.uk



Parish Council Vacancy

We would like to thank former Parish Councillors Alan Catley and Diana Bray for their work as Parish Councillors over the years, as both have resigned since the last meeting. The Parish Council are therefore looking for two new Parish Councillors, so anyone interested in finding out more about the role please contact the Parish Clerk.

As we are currently down to only four councillors this means that we are restricted in terms of what projects we are able to handle, in addition to the day to day activities. At the January meeting it was decided that we would focus on one project – and that is to resolve the problems with the drainage on the recreation field. This is a complex issue, but we are determined to reach a conclusion in 2020; this may not mean that the problem is sorted, but that we will have an agreed plan and targets to be able to resume use of the pitch. We want to make sure that communication is improved so that residents understand what is being carried out, but as a Parish Council we have to follow a legal process, which can sometimes delay action.

Recreation Field

It was decided at the January Council meeting that we needed a community consultation with residents to determine the preferred course of action for the wider use of the Recreation Field. It is a great facility that is currently underused, for a number of reasons, and so it is important that remedial and improvement work has the support of Mepal residents. We have the results of the previous Community Led Plan (available to view on the Parish Council website), and also some recent

ideas from Councillors and the public to implement some of the ideas, but before we spend your money we want to make sure that the Community shape and support any plans.

Please read the feature on the Community drop-in being organised on 1st March 2020 at the Pavilion on page 5 and come along and help us to provide new facilities for residents. We also have a follow up questionnaire to clarify some of the ideas resulting from the CLP, which form the back two pages of this newsletter. Please fill this in, tear off the back page and drop your reply into the collection box located in the Village Post Office Stores.

Don't forget, the Mepal Community Sports Pavilion function room is NOW available to local groups, parties and sporting clubs with access to the kitchen, toilets and outside space. More information is on the Mepal Parish website. Please contact the mepalparishcouncil@msn.com if you are interested in using the venue.

Please remember anyone can contact the Parish Council by email or phone if they need any information, have any queries or want to provide any feedback about anything the Parish Council is dealing with.

The next two Full Council Meetings will be held on Friday 7th February 2020 and Tuesday 10th March 2020 at the Mepal Pavilion, both starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend with public participation in the open forum session.



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Mepal Community Led Plan – help us with the next stage of the plan! March 1st 2020 Mepal pavilion 2:30 – 4:30pm

As you may be aware, the Mepal Community Led Plan (CLP) was developed by a Steering Group of volunteer residents

who were keen to understand the needs of the community, this was fully supported and funded by Mepal Parish Council last year and the Steering Group identified several areas of concerns to residents including traffic concerns, future housing developments, village maintenance, village facilities, recreation, dog walking, new and existing social groups and opportunities at bringing the community closer together.

Regarding the questions relating to health and well-being, a number of activities were popular suggestions:

- Open air gym equipment on recreation field
- Fitness Sessions for different age groups
- Taster sessions for different sports on the recreation field
- Skatepark on the recreation field
- Indoor sports

Contained in this issue of the Mepal People Newsletter is a short additional survey to look at some of the ideas and judge interest, as the key to many of these ideas involves us moving forward with the plans to resolve the drainage line issues on the recreation field. It is going to involve some work, and some expenditure, but we are confident



that if we work together, we can resolve these issues. In order to try to move forward with some of the other ideas, it has been

suggested that we hold a drop-in session in the Mepal Pavilion in March and we would like to encourage people in the village to pop in, have a look at the possibilities and the results from the survey and help us improve the facilities in the village for all residents. Maybe you can spare a few hours to help with some of the plans? Perhaps you have an interest or ability in some specific activities that you can help organise for the community. Perhaps you would like to help us research any grant finding that can help with the plans? Whatever your interest, we would love for you to drop in and join us on 1st March 2020.

The Community-Led Plan ‘Village Get-Together’!
On Sunday 1 March 2020
any time between 2.30pm and 4.30pm
at Mepal Pavilion
FREE REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE!

Please complete the survey on pages 7 to 8 of this newsletter and return either by email or by dropping off at the Mepal Post Office (a ballot box has been provided to receive replies). Surveys should be returned before 28 February.

Village Hall News

Midwinter has as usual been a fairly uneventful period for the Hall, with some seasonal events taking place but some of our regular bookings taking a brief hibernation. The next event we are organising ourselves is the Breakfast on Saturday 29th February. As usual there will be the opportunity to enjoy a Full English, or something lighter if you prefer. Leap Year Day has always been seen as a special occasion to propose marriage. A glass of fizz by candlelight may be OK for traditionalists, but what’s wrong with popping the

question over a plate of bacon, egg, sausage and the rest?

To hire the Hall contact Bookings Clerk Rowena Pleasance (01353) 777275. Local community groups and private parties £10 per hour, reduced to £8 for local community groups before 6 pm. Commercial bookings please enquire. Chairman: Allen Sallis, Treasurer: Tony Pleasance, Secretary: David Stazicker 778129 david.stazicker@gmail.com Other members – Lynne Read, Gordon Reid, Rosemary Wells.

Update on Mepal VE Day 75

Preparations are continuing for Mepal's VE day celebrations, 8th-10th May this year, with the main event on the recreation ground on Saturday 9th May. It will be 75 years since VE day, and commemorations will be held across the nation. On the Friday there will be formal remembrance, and toasts to commemorate VE day, centred on the pub; the Saturday will be a VE Day Ration Book picnic on the recreation ground – music, stalls, memorabilia, games and vintage vehicles; the Sunday will be service in the church.

Fund-raising has gone well, a very generous contribution from the Parish Council, and some equally kind donations from people within the village, but we have a little more to do to reach our target yet. We had a great quiz night, a table-top sale where we learned December is perhaps not the best month to run a new event, and by the time you read this we will have resurrected the Mepal Lancaster Shield Darts competition.

We will be distributing "Mepal Ration Books" for the picnic (suggested £1 donation for adults, free for kids under 16), where you can redeem ration coupons for lunch, for sweets and for drinks.

Between now and the big day we have some things

we need to achieve:

- We need a few business sponsors willing to contribute modest amounts (anywhere from £20 to £100) to sponsor some stalls, a keg of beer, or the vintage sweet shop. If you work for a local business, or use local businesses, please ask them to get in touch!

- We are also looking to add more stall holders and activities to the day

But mostly we could do with another few volunteers to help before the big day – that might be putting up posters, planning the layout of the field, answering questions of stall holders before the day, helping build things we need for the day, and bringing ideas. If you could spare at most an hour or two a week, or help on the day – then we need you!

The Mepal VE Day Volunteers

Contact: gjm@waferweb.co.uk



Use of Dog Waste Bin near Children's Play Area

Please can we ask all dog owners to use the dog waste bin located at the Laurel Close end of the entrance to the recreation field and not the general rubbish bin located in the actual playpark area. Whilst we thank you for picking up and

responsibly disposing of the doggy doo - for hygiene reasons we need to ask you to use the dog waste bin, which is located a short distance from the playpark entrance.

Many thanks for your co-operation on this.



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Questionnaire



I. What would you like to see the Recreation Field used for? More allotments, a communal garden, dog area hard-standing area, an outdoor Gym?

II. Would you like to see activities on the weekend i.e. fitness classes? If so, please state which ones you would be interested in.

III. Would you be happy for part of the Recreation Field to be turned into a hard-standing area for Football, netball, basketball and hockey or would you rather it all remained grass.

IV. Have you had an issue with Foul water flooding if so, please state your street name?



Questionnaire



MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

V. We want to turn the unused overgrown area of the Recreation Field into an enclosed area for dog walking so all dogs can enjoy being off the lead in a safe place, would you like to help?

VI. What would you like to see happen in your village please let us know your ideas?

VII. Would you like to be part of a working group to help the council help you if so please let us know what you would like to help with

Please return by the 28th February either scanning or taking a photo and emailing to: mepalparishcouncil@msn.com

Or return by post to: Mepal Community Pavilion, Witcham Road, Mepal, CB6 2AG.

There is also a box in the village shop you can pop it into.

An online version of this survey is available on the Parish Website: www.mepalparish.org under More/Community groups and clubs/ Mepal Community Led Plan

