

# Mepal People

## August 2019



### Hello from your new Editor

On your behalf, I would like to thank outgoing editor Chris Catley for her excellent work as your previous editor of Mepal people. Having read her announcement in the previous issue that the newsletter would have to cease as she was no longer able to edit and produce the publication due to ill health, I felt compelled to offer to take on the role. Having lived in the village for over 22 years, I couldn't let this popular publication disappear. With my daughter, Rebecca, we currently produce the newsletter for a National Trade Association, so with the valuable contributions from the regular contributors, this publication can continue and hopefully go from strength to strength. I am still getting familiar with the regular and occasional contributors, so apologies if you have been missed from this issue. If you would like to send content in future, please drop me an email so that I can add you to my list and will email a reminder a couple of weeks before each deadline date. We will try to incorporate all articles submitted but may have to use some editorial license for larger pieces if space is tight! Copy deadlines for each issue will be given on page 2, with the other dates for your diary.

Please email articles for consideration to me, Lorna Williams at [mepalpeople@gmail.com](mailto:mepalpeople@gmail.com)

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### Good Companions

The Good Companions Group was formed in 1969! Our meetings take the form of a game or two with refreshments and a good catch up with friends.

Why not pop along or contact Jane Edmenson for more information; 01353 777621 or [jane.edmenson@gmail.com](mailto:jane.edmenson@gmail.com)



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### Environment Agency Ouse Washes Surgeries

We will be hosting weekly surgery events during construction between 15 July 2019 - 31 October 2019. These events are designed to provide community support during construction and to address any questions or concerns anyone may have. Come along for a chat, a cuppa and a biscuit.

These will be held:

**Wednesdays at:**

**Earith - Rectors Hall, Colne Road**

**10.00am - 12.00pm**

**Thursdays at:**

**RSPB Reserve - Welches Dam, Manea**

**10.00 - 12.00pm**

**Welney - Lamb & Flag**

**3.00pm - 5.00pm**

Ouse Washes Section 10 Works on behalf of the Environment Agency  
Tel - 07534 457348 Email - [OuseWashesProjectEA@gmail.com](mailto:OuseWashesProjectEA@gmail.com)

## August 2019

- 4th **St Mary's Church** Holy Communion - 8am  
4th **St Mary's Church** Safari Lunch at The Willows - 1pm  
6th **Good Companions** - 2.30 - 4.30pm Village Hall  
7th **Friendship Club** Bingo  
7th **Camera Club**  
7th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Rectors Hall, Colne Road, Earith 10:00 – 12:00  
8th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** RSPB Reserve, Welches Dam, Manea 10:00 - 12:00  
8th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Lamb & Flag, Welney 15:00 – 17:00  
11th **St Mary's Church** Parish Eucharist - 10.30am  
14th **Friendship Club** Outing  
14th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Rectors Hall, Colne Road, Earith 10:00 – 12:00  
15th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** RSPB Reserve, Welches Dam, Manea 10:00 - 12:00  
15th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Lamb & Flag, Welney 15:00 – 17:00  
18th **St Mary's Church** Holy Communion - 8am  
19th **Gardening Club** A.G.M  
20th **Good Companions** - 2.30 - 4.30pm Village Hall  
21st **Friendship Club** Pink Bags  
21st **Camera Club**  
21st **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Rectors Hall, Colne Road, Earith 10:00 – 12:00  
22nd **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** RSPB Reserve, Welches Dam, Manea 10:00 - 12:00  
22nd **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Lamb & Flag, Welney 15:00 – 17:00  
25th **St Mary's Church** Parish Eucharist - 10.30am  
28th **Friendship Club** Lunch at Jenyns Arms  
28th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Rectors Hall, Colne Road, Earith 10:00 – 12:00  
29th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** RSPB Reserve, Welches Dam, Manea 10:00 - 12:00  
29th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Lamb & Flag, Welney 15:00 – 17:00

## September 2019

- 1st **St Mary's Church** Holy Communion - 8am  
3rd **Good Companions** - 2.30 - 4.30pm Village Hall  
4th **Friendship Club** Bingo  
4th **Camera Club**  
7th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Rectors Hall, Colne Road, Earith 10:00 – 12:00  
8th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** RSPB Reserve, Welches Dam, Manea 10:00 - 12:00  
8th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Lamb & Flag, Welney 15:00 – 17:00  
8th **St Mary's Church** Patronal Festival Eucharist - 10.30am  
11th **Friendship Club** Trip to Bury st Edmunds  
11th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Rectors Hall, Colne Road, Earith 10:00 – 12:00  
12th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** RSPB Reserve, Welches Dam, Manea 10:00 - 12:00  
12th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Lamb & Flag, Welney 15:00 – 17:00  
12th **Youth Club** Mepal Village Hall, 18:15-19:15 (KS2) and 19:30-20:30 (KS3/4)  
15th **St Mary's Church** Holy Communion - 8am  
16th **Gardening Club** Speaker - David White, Orchids.  
17th **Good Companions** - 2.30 - 4.30pm Village Hall  
18th **Friendship Club** Speaker  
18th **Camera Club**  
18th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Rectors Hall, Colne Road, Earith 10:00 – 12:00  
19th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** RSPB Reserve, Welches Dam, Manea 10:00 - 12:00  
19th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Lamb & Flag, Welney 15:00 – 17:00  
22nd **St Mary's Church** Parish Eucharist - 10.30am  
25th **Friendship Club** Fish lunch, members only  
25th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Rectors Hall, Colne Road, Earith 10:00 – 12:00  
26th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** RSPB Reserve, Welches Dam, Manea 10:00 - 12:00  
26th **EA Ouse Wash Surgery** Lamb & Flag, Welney 15:00 – 17:00  
26th **Youth Club** Mepal Village Hall, 18:15-19:15 (KS2) and 19:30-20:30 (KS3/4)  
29th **St Mary's Church** United Service - 10.30am

## St Mary's Parish Church

Rector: Reverend Mary Hancock tel. 01353 778722

Churchwarden: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker tel. 01353 778129

### Patronal Festival

St Mary's Patronal Festival Service of Eucharist is on Sunday September 8th at 10.30am.

For all church services & events please see the Diary Dates page and our notice boards at the church and at Mepal PO & Stores.

### Safari Lunch

St Mary's Safari Lunch will be on Sunday 4th August 1pm at 'The Willows' Low Bank, Mepal. All are welcome – admittance is by ticket in advance from Elizabeth (01353 778129) or Jo (01353 778871) by 2nd August please. Cost is £12 for adults, £6 under 16s. Parking is limited so please car share wherever possible.

Dates for your Diary

### Wanted

#### Distributors for the Houses on Witcham Road – urgent request

If you are willing to join my existing team of volunteer distributors and deliver the 26 copies of Mepal People to the houses on Witcham Road, Mepal please contact me via [mepalpeople@gmail.com](mailto:mepalpeople@gmail.com)

Copy deadline for next issue: **18th September**

### 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.

To Advertise or Place Inserts into this Newsletter contact: [mepalparishcouncil@msn.com](mailto:mepalparishcouncil@msn.com)



## Mepal Friendship Club

The Mepal Friendship club is a friendly club that meets every Wednesday at the village hall at 10am, so if you feel like popping in, having a cup and chat and join in with what we do at the club which includes trips out, games bingo, pink bags (guessing what is in the bag), chats, speaker's, going out for lunch, and lots more, come along and see what you think and if you think it's for you join and become a member.

We had a day out at Horseshoe farm Sunday 14th, taking a look around the gardens that they created and sitting down to a nice cream scone and cup of tea, the sun came out and all had a very nice afternoon. We are looking ahead and we are having our Christmas lunch at the club and also we have a Christmas lunch out so have a look at what is going on in the Dates for your diary and you can see what we are doing for the next few months.

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## Mepal Gardening Club

We have been very lucky this year as we have had some good meetings, this is due to our committee, without them the club could not carry on, we are having our A.G.M meeting on August 19th and we need some new committee members who could spare a few hours a month to help run the club. We are looking for people to run the raffle, act as Secretary, make the tea's and help set the hall up. If we can't get a new committee together this could mean that the club would close at the end of the year, which would be such a shame as the people who have been this year has increased so do come along and to our meeting and put your name forward.



In June we had Peter Walker talking about Wildflower's and their Habitats in Cambridgeshire I hope that those who came enjoyed the evening. We had our Afternoon Tea July 20th, I hope those that came enjoyed the afternoon and had a catch up with friends while enjoying the food.

On September 16th David White will be our speaker on Orchids, we have had David a few times and he always gives a very good talk and he also has plants for sale so do come along. We meet 3rd Monday from March-October at the village hall and it costs £2-50 at the door, these events are a great way of meeting people if you are new to the village. See dates for your diary for our upcoming events.

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## Mepal & District Camera Club



We are a small, friendly, informal and sociable group of people who provide a supportive environment for photographers at all levels of ability that have an interest in improving their photographic skills. This is achieved through a varied programme of events organised by our committee which includes talks by visiting specialist speakers, practical workshops, field trips, and of course showing the results of our work for peer review and friendly judging by group members. The emphasis is on shared learning to create satisfying pictures, not winning points in competitions.

We meet at the Mepal Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month (except December) 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Annual Membership or small fee for the evening. New members welcome - come along to one of our meetings or for more information contact:

**Colin 01354 695569 [colingreen60@btinternet.com](mailto:colingreen60@btinternet.com),  
Tony 01353 777275, John 01354 691624 [jwpaul1@hotmail.com](mailto:jwpaul1@hotmail.com)**

## Village Hall News



The Village Hall Committee are delighted to announce that, with the help of a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund, which is celebrating its 25th year, we have been able to replace the old wooden fire doors with some lovely new steel ones. Thank you to all members of the Village Hall team who brought this project to completion, including Ernie Barlow who was always an enthusiastic and supportive member of our team. However, we would mostly like to say a huge THANK YOU to each and everyone of you who have supported our fund-raising efforts – we really could not have done it without YOUR support.

The National Lottery makes an incredible difference to communities across the UK with £30 million going to good causes across the UK each week, so to those of you who do play – we thank you.

The next priority is to replace the floors so that they are not only easier to keep clean but the Hall can be used for activities such as carpet bowls and there will be a more suitable surface for dancing. We are putting the final touches to an application for funding from the Tesco Groundwork scheme and if that goes ahead as we hope, we shall be looking for your support.

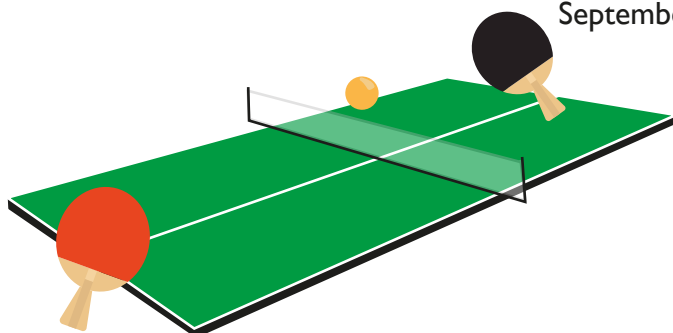
Summer probably isn't an ideal time to hold breakfast mornings, and the next of these will be on Saturday 19th October. Meanwhile, more seasonally, we shall serve cream teas in the Hall on Monday 26th August from 3 to 4.30 pm. Next May will be the 70th Anniversary of VE Day and there will be national celebrations to commemorate the achievement of peace in Europe. Meetings are taking place to arrange events in Mepal and we shall be pleased to host some of these.

You will recall our repeated appeals for younger people to join the Committee and help run the Hall. On average we are past – in many cases well past – retirement age and there are limits to the physical effort we can contribute. This underlines the fact that we can't provide a service of arranging furniture for hirers or putting it away afterwards. In fact most village halls, even if they have plenty of able-bodied helpers, require hirers to arrange their own furniture and put it away, leaving the hall clear. We fully understand that some of our regular user groups, like us, are no longer as young as they were, and don't have anyone fit enough to heave tables about. We are trying to find a workable solution to the problem. Is there anyone in the village who would be willing to help in this sort of practical way without taking on any other responsibility for the Hall? If you are able-bodied and recently retired or working flexible hours that would enable you to help when needed, please get in touch.

**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.

## Mepal Youth Club

Thank you to all of our members for an exciting first year rounded off with a self-funded trip to Play2Day. We have had a great time organising fun activities for the children and can't wait to welcome them back in September. The dates for the Autumn/Winter Term will be 2nd and 4th Thursday during term-time...



12 and 26 September  
10 October  
14 and 28 November  
12 December

**We hope you all have a great summer!**



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## Are you struggling to move on following a separation or divorce?

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Having experienced divorce personally, Gen understands the pain and distress that relationship breakdown can bring and is passionate about helping clients to move forwards with greater resilience and self-confidence.

For more information or to book a coaching session with Gen contact:



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[gen.loaker@mosaiclives.com](mailto:gen.loaker@mosaiclives.com)

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# MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors: Mr Brian Rollason (Chairman),  
Mr Alan Catley (Vice Chairman)  
Mrs Diana Bray, Mr Stephen Green and Mr Mark Brill

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



A very warm welcome to our new Parish Clerk, Karen Peck. Please get in touch with her if you have any requests or queries she will be happy to assist.

**The Parish Council Grant application process opens 1st September 2019 to all village groups for the 2020-21 financial year. The Clerk will contact all village groups and the application form guidance will be available on the website or at request.**

**VACANCIES** - The Parish Council are looking for two new Parish Councillors. Anyone interested in finding out more about the role please contact the Parish Clerk.

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 [mepalparishcouncil@msn.com](mailto:mepalparishcouncil@msn.com) if you are interested in using the venue. The pavilion also houses impressive changing rooms with showers which will be available to sports clubs from mid September 2019 when the playing field work is complete.

There are two vacant allotment plots in Mepal. They cost £20 per plot per year. Please get in contact by email if you are interested.

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.

**Reminder** – there will be no Full Council Meeting in August and the next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 9th September 2019 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. **EVERYONE WELCOME.**



## Youth Bus

in Mepal

at Community Pavilion Car park

for those in school years 7-11: **FREE** entry

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