

Mepal People

August / September 2018

MEPAL GARDENING CLUB.



Welcome everyone.

How are you coping with all this heat? We may be all right, but our poor gardens are suffering with the lack of rain and all our water butts are empty now, our grass looks all dried up but once we have some rain it will come back. A little tip if you want to use it, when I rinse dishes out or wash my hands in the sink I leave the bowl in and any water in it I water my pots with it you will be surprised at how many you can water, and it will save on your water bill.

We had a great day out when we went to Horseshoe Farm at Somersham the garden was just big enough and plenty to look at, our hosts were great nothing was too much for them and we all enjoyed our cream tea in the afternoon.

We took £60 at our plant sale so thank you to those of you who donated and bought our plants.

David White gave a great talk in June, we still had a good turn out even though the world cup was on.

We had our Afternoon Tea on the 14th July and the proceeds from that were donated to the Veterans Foundation who do a lot of good for the armed forces. August 10th our trip to Wisley, Surrey we still have a few spaces spare so if you would like to go please contact Jan on 777710 costs £25 including entrance non-members, £12-50 members, if you are an RHS member you can use your membership card for free entry.

We have our AGM meeting on August 20th, we are looking for people to join our committee, we need people to help including an event organiser, so if you can spare a few hours a month please come and join us. September 17th Nigel Start Self Sufficiency in your garden.

If you would like to come to one of our meetings we meet in the village hall the third Monday of the month at 7-30pm look out for our posters around the village, membership is £15-00p per year or £2-50p per meeting.

Pam White
Secretary

Dates For Your Diary

St Mary's Church		
August		
Sun 5 th	Holy Communion Safari Lunch at the Willows	08.00am
Sun 12 th	Parish Eucharist	10.30am
Sun 19 th	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sun 26 th	Parish Eucharist	10.30am
September		
Sun 2 nd	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sun 9 th	Patronal Festival Eucharist	10.30am
Sun 16 th	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sat 22 nd	Afternoon Tea at the Village Hall	3.00pm
Sun 23 rd	Parish Eucharist	10.30am
Sun 3 th	Joint Service tbc	

Friendship Club		
August		
1 st	Bingo Village Hall	10.00-12.00
8 th	Afternoon Tea Village Hall	2.30-4.00
15 th	Fish & Chips Villae Hall	11.00-1.00
22 nd	Trip to Springfields	
29 th	Village Hall	10.00-12.00
September		
5 th	Bingo Village Hall	10.00-12.00
12 th	Lunch out at Stonea	
19 th	Village Hall	10.00-12.00
26 th	Village Hall	10.00-12.00

Good Companions		
August		
7 th	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Village Hall
21 st	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Village Hall
September		
4 th	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Village Hall
18 th	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Village Hall

Union Chapel		
August		
8 th	Summer Fair	2.30pm
19 th	Family Service with Duncan Palmer	
September		
16 th	Messy Chapel	10.00am

DISCLAIMER

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

Adverts and Inserts
mepalparishcouncil@msn.com

The Deadline for the next issue of the Mepal People is Friday 14th September (earlier than usual due to Holiday dates)

If anyone would like to contribute to the Mepal People Diary dates or stories of interest then please contact us at

mepalpeople@gmail.com





Mepal's Christmas Celebrations and light switch on

We were amazed by the amount of people who attended our Christmas event last year and we hope you are all up for another one!!

We are looking for volunteers to join our Christmas team to help with the arranging and on the day. You can get involved as much as you are able to.

We are meeting on Thursday 23rd August at the Three Pickerels at 7.30pm to start the planning.

If you are unable to join us for the first meeting but would like to get involved please contact us.

Zoe Angier - zoefranklin1@hotmail.co.uk

Emma Harris - emmaharris11@btinternet.com

Mepal & District Camera Club

The club welcomes anyone interested in photography whatever their perceived skill level and whether they use a mobile phone, compact, bridge or DSLR camera

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month (unless we are out and about) at 7.30pm at Mepal Village Hall. There is no annual fee just a charge of £2 for each meeting.

Our forthcoming meetings are as follows:

1 August – Photographing flowers and plants

15 August – An evening at Wicken Fen

5 September – Creating images to personalise your coffee mug.

19 September – Bring along your (up to) 10 favourite holiday pictures.

For further information please contact Tony on 01353 777275

Message From The Editor

Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards this and previous editions. I get so many articles it is not always possible to include them all due to space restrictions.

The issues are getting bigger all the time but there has to be a limit. I apologise to everyone who has submitted articles which are not included here and promise it is nothing personal. Chris Catley – Editor.

MEPAL PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW 15TH SEPTEMBER 2018

IN MEPAL VILLAGE HALL

If you've never entered the show it's high time you did something about it. Study the schedule and you will see there is a class for everything - growing, snapping, cooking, sewing, knitting, and lots of classes for children of all ages. A Schedule can be picked up from Sandy Jackson 23 High Street, Tel: 778747 and Ernie Barlow 5 Laurel Close, Tel: 777020 or from Mepal Shop.

Pretty much anything goes, so please don't miss the chance to take home a prize in 2018. Never mind if it's a bit too late to start growing fruit or veg to bowl the judges over, cooking entries are much better done at the last minute, so no excuses please!

Each entry is just 10p, so go mad – 20 entries will still cost less than a posh cup of coffee.

All the Committee action is compressed into two days – preparation on Friday and the Show itself on Saturday so any help with setting up on the Friday night and all the other jobs on Saturday would be hugely appreciated.

Tradition IS important. The show is not there to make money. Donations to refreshments, sales of raffle tickets and entry fees all go towards covering our costs, and we just about manage it.

Please support this great annual village event!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PCSO

I am Police Community Support Officer Jamie Cole based at Ely Police station. Cambridgeshire Constabulary has recently undergone a reshift of staff and areas which are covered by PCSO's. I am the point of contact for your area and If there is anything you feel I may be able to assist with please get in touch using 101 or my email address jamie.cole@cambs.pnn.police.uk.

Please only report crimes to the Police non-emergency number 101 or 999 in the event of an emergency.

Priors Field Surgery Patient Participation Group

As previously reported in local village magazines the PPG had a successful presence at the recent Sutton Gault Day, where the Tombola raised £90. We are grateful for the support and encouragement on what was a glorious sunny day. The Open Gardens event organized by the Sutton Garden Club was also very successful and we are extremely grateful for the generous donation of £425 from the Club, which brings our current funds to £1156.

After a recent meeting with Dr Dave Cargill and Helen Retallick (Practice Manager) we now have some ideas for items which will enhance the extended surgery.

We plan to attend the forthcoming Sutton Feast Committee's "Picnic in the Park" event, and we again welcome & appreciate your continued interest and support. Along with Health related literature the proposed plans of the extended Surgery will be available for the public to view.

We are pleased to announce that Waitrose in Ely have kindly made Sutton Surgery PPG one of their three charitable causes during the next few weeks. So please, if you and your neighbours shop in Waitrose in Ely, don't forget to take your green token and deposit it in the right slot! Thank you & Waitrose.

Rosie Trollope (retiring chairman)

St Mary's Parish Church

Rector: Reverend Mary Hancock tel. 01353 778722

Churchwarden: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker tel. 01353 778129

Sunday August 5th Safari Lunch at 1pm at 'The Willows' Low Bank, Mepal.

Tickets for our annual Safari Lunch are now on sale, price £12 adults, £6 children. Admission is by ticket booked in advance; please contact Elizabeth Stazicker on 01353 778129 or Jo Hamilton on 01353 778871 by Friday 3rd August please.

Saturday 22nd September Afternoon Tea

Come and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea at the Village Hall from 3pm – 5pm at the Village Hall.

Details of all our church services & events can be found on the Diary Page and on the noticeboards at the church and at Mepal P.O. and Stores.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The breakfast morning on 7th July was again popular and evidently enjoyed by a goodly number of people. We are especially grateful to Lynne Read, who joined the Committee in April, for taking charge of the cooking, and to Morrison's who generously contributed some of the food and gave us a substantial discount on the rest. Watch out for the date of the next breakfast.

It's good to see new groups using the Hall, and we welcome not least the revived youth club for which taster sessions have been taking place over the summer. One thing for other Hall users to note is that the youth club organisers have acquired a new table tennis table which is stored in the former disabled toilet; that means that we have to find somewhere else to store the long tables. The most convenient place is the entrance area to the former ladies' toilet. However, there is all sorts of stuff already stored there, and we don't know who most of it belongs to. We shall be contacting Hall user groups to see who claims these items, but if anyone who reads this thinks some of it is theirs, please don't wait to be contacted but let us know.

When we had the car park resurfaced we left the entrance driveway in front of 2a School Lane alone, because the surface there was in perfectly good condition. Unfortunately a contractor working for Anglian Water brought a very large heavy lorry on to the car park without our permission. This broke up a large section of the driveway surface. The firm has accepted responsibility and promised to repair the damage. We are chasing them to speed this up.

The Parish Council have received complaints about parking in front of the pedestrian entrance to the Hall and are considering putting a sign on the fence asking drivers not to park or wait there. It's undeniable that stationary vehicles at that point are dangerous, causing others to pull out into the path of traffic coming the other way round the bend in School Lane. However, we completely understand that many of our Hall users are no longer very mobile and need to be brought as close as possible to the Hall entrance. We are looking at ways to resolve this, possibly by marking off a space in the car park as a dropping-off and picking-up point for people with impaired mobility. If this is located in front of the fire exit doors at the northern end of the site it will only be about the same distance to walk.

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 – Ernie Barlow, Lynne Read, Gordon Reid, Rosemary Wells.

Union Chapel

Summer Fair

Saturday 18th August at 2.30pm – Come along and join us for our Summer Fair
Cake and Bric-a-brac stalls
Light refreshments

Messy Chapel

Sunday 16th September 10.00am everyone s welcome to join us for a morning fun and mess!
Light Refreshments

Mepal & Witcham pre-school



Mepal & Witcham Pre-School are pleased to announce that from September 2018 they will be offering an increase in hours.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-3pm

Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm

On the longer days (M, W & F) there are several options; 9-3pm, 9-12pm, 9-1pm or 12-3pm with lunch club being 12-1pm.

More information will be available on our website.

The children have had a very active summer term including practising for sports day and 4 days of forest school sessions which has been great fun.

We have 11 of our children start school in September so we have been busy supporting them in their transition to Reception class and wish them lots of luck at school.

Please get in touch if you would like to arrange to have a look around our friendly setting. This can be arranged for any day with prior notice.

Mepal and Witcham Pre-School is a charity and run by a committee. In September we will be looking for new members. You do not have to be a parent to be a member so if you are interested in getting involved please contact the Chair evelynwoodward@tiscali.co.uk

Mepal and Witcham Preschool is a small friendly setting in the village of Mepal with an Ofsted rating of Good. For more information www.mepalandwitchampreschool.org.uk or mepalpreschool@aol.co.uk or 07510 173818.

Ofsted registration number 221729 | Registered charity number 1057125



MEPAL WI

Why not come along to one of our meetings to find out more about the WI and what we do? We meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm at Mepal Village Hall

Thursday 2nd August Craft Evening

Thursday 6th September A speaker from the Emmaus Charity

There is a £3 charge for non-members.

For more information please contact Ruth Pitcher on 01353 775178

MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL



Councillors: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker (Chairman), Mr Alan Catley,
Mrs Diana Bray, Mr Brian Rollason, Mr Stephen Green
Mr Mal Peters and Mr Mark Brill

Clerk: Mrs Emma Harris. Tel: 07842 499377

Email: mepalparishcouncil@msn.com Website: www.mepalparish.org.uk

- We welcome our new Parish Councillor, Mr Mark Brill.
- Due to the really hot weather the work on the recreation field to correct the sinking drainage lines has been postponed until the Autumn.
- You will see a few changes at the play area soon; some more seating areas, updated equipment, revamp of some current equipment and removal of old equipment. The Parish Council are including a question in the Community Led Plan about how you want the play area to look in the future so please make sure you think about it and let us know.
- The Parish Council Grant application process opens 1st September 2018 to all village groups for the 2019-20 financial year. The Clerk will contact all village groups and the application form with guidance will be available on the website or at request.
- The Highways Team will start work on the A142 at the junction to Mepal soon. It is thought that it will include double white lining, islands, road studs and signage.
- The no-entry signs at the Bridge Road end of the High Street will be moved close to the junction with New Road, to reduce the number of drivers driving the wrong way up the street.
- The Parish Council noticeboard on the High Street has been removed temporarily because of the demolition of the barns at the Pond Farm development. Agendas and important paperwork will be displayed on the noticeboard at the shop and everything is available on the website. If you would like a paper copy of anything please contact the Clerk. The noticeboard will return to the site as soon as possible.
- The next two Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 10th September 2018 and Monday 8th October 2018 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Mepal Community-Led Plan

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the recent Traffic Survey. We had 65% of the village respond and the results have been put together into graphs which we hope you will find interesting.

The results and the individual comments received have been passed to the Parish Council for them to consider.

The next part of our project is to compile the main questionnaire which will be delivered to all in the Autumn. If you would like to join the Steering Group or help with delivering or collecting of the questionnaire, please contact our Secretary on 01353 778141.

www.mepalparish.org.uk/mepal-community-led-plan.html

Mepal and Witcham Primary School

We have reached the end of an exciting year at Mepal and Witcham Primary School. This academic year has seen the school achieve a 'Good' grade from Ofsted as a result of the hard work that has been put into the school since the last Ofsted.

We were winners of the small school athletics held at Witchford Village College and went on to support this area in the county finals. Our sporting successes continued with us reaching the semi finals of a football tournament in Chatteris but, like England, lost in extra time! Sports day this year was a success with every child in the school active for 40 mins, it was good to see so many parents supporting their children. Our sporting success was topped off at the weekend with the school becoming Junior team winners at the Pea Shoot World Championships! These and many other sporting events have enabled us to achieve the bronze School Sports award.

During the summer term we held a book week and welcomed a children's author into the school. The children all produced their own story book and are very proud to say that they are authors now! Their stories were shared at a reading café. The children had produced healthy dishes for people to taste as they read their stories, thank you to all who supported.

This year has also seen us establish a vegetable garden and the children sold the first of their produce, some herbs, last week at school. Four hundred trees were planted in the spring term but, they are suffering a bit in this hot weather, hopefully some will survive. The children in Owls and Robins have also enjoyed a trip to South Angle farm in Soham where they met a variety of creatures and planted sweetcorn. All of these things are supporting us in achieving the Bronze Food for Life award.

We have also been successful academically with the school being above national average in the Key Stage2 SATs. Well done to staff and pupils, your hard work has paid off.

Mrs Stazicker is stepping down from being Chair of Governors at the school after supporting the school for many years. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the community to thank her for her dedication and support to the school.

Premier Sport will be at the school for summer camps during the summer holiday, this is open to all children and places can be booked through their website.

Thank you for your support throughout the Year, especially at our Summer Fete and the Duck Race.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Louise Lomax

Headteacher at Mepal and Witcham Primary School



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

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