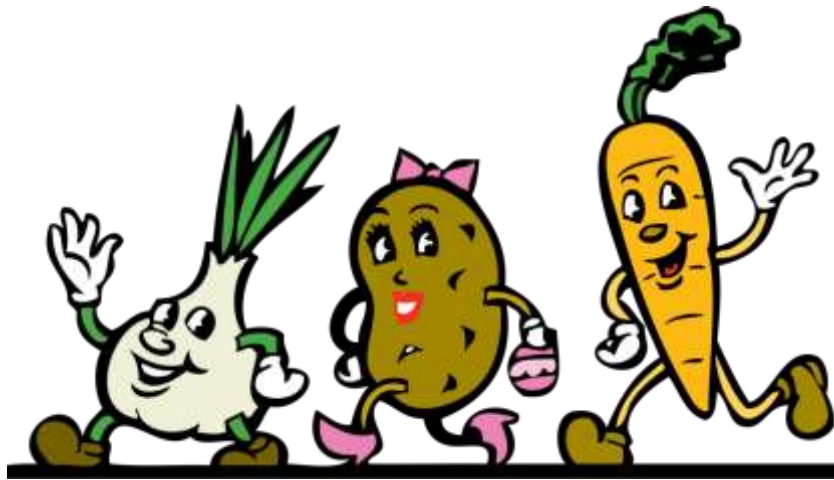


Mepal People

June / July 2018



ARE YOU GETTING READY FOR THE 46th MEPAL PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW??

SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2018

There's already a lot of planting, pruning, nurturing, knitting, sewing, snapping and painting going on, getting those special entries prepared for the show.

Have you ever entered? Have your children?

There are classes for absolutely everyone, and lots of prizes to be claimed!

It is a treat to share the pride on children's faces when they see their own entry on display, so please encourage them to have a go. Classes for all ages.

This year we can email your schedule to you if you like - just get in touch with Sandy (778747) or Ruth (775178) and it will be winging its way to your inbox.

Printed schedules will be available soon.

Let's make 2018 a year to remember!

Dates For Your Diary

St Mary's Church

June

Sun 3 rd	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sat 9 th	Garden Fete at Manor House	2.30pm
Sun 10 th	Parish Eucharist	10.30am
Sun 17 th	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sun 24 th	Parish Eucharist	10.30am

July

Sun 1 st	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sun 8 th	Parish Eucharist	10.30am
Sun 15 th	Holy Communion	8.00am
Sat 21 st	NZ Anniversary Lunch In Village Hall	
Sun 22 nd	Parish Eucharist	10.30am
Sun 29 th	Joint Service tbc	10.30am

Union Chapel

June

3 rd	Service with Communion	10.30am
17 th	Fathers day Messy Chapel	10.00am

July

1 st	Service	10.30am
15 th	Family Service with Duncan Palmer	10.30am

Good Companions

June

5 th	Village Hall	2.30pm
19 th	Village Hall	2.30pm

July

3 rd	Village Hall	2.30pm
17 th	Village Hall	2.30pm

Friendship Club

June

6 th	Village Hall	10am-12pm
13 th	Scotsdales Fordham	
20 th	Village Hall Games	10am-12pm
27 th	Village Hall Bring & Buy	10am-12pm

July

4 th	Trip to Bury	
11 th	Village Hall Bingo	10am-12pm
18 th	Village Hall Raffle	10am-12pm
25 th	Trip to Wroxam	

Gardening Club

June

3 rd	Trip to Horseshoe Farm
18 th	Talk by David White

July

14 th	Afternoon Tea - Village Hall	2.30pm
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For further details please see Gardening Club Article

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 Wednesday 18th July

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

mepalpeople@gmail.com

GARDENING CLUB

Hi Everyone,

We finally have some decent weather and it is all guns blazing to get our hanging baskets and tubs planted up for summer, so we can enjoy all our blooming gardens and home grown veg with a nice glass of our favourite wine.

We have had some great speakers so far this year and some more to come, June 3rd we have an afternoon outing to Horseshoe Farm, Chatteris Road Somersham, (those that are coming I will print directions,) June 18th David White, Propagation, Pest, Diseases, July 14th Afternoon Tea at the village hall starting at 2-30pm, August 10th our trip this year is to Wisley Gardens, Surrey, we will be collecting names for these at our meetings really looking forward to those.

I would like to thank those that donated plants to our plant sale and for the first time in many years we had a dry warm day for it.

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 poster's around the village and if you don't know a lot about gardening you will pick up ideas and soon learn what are plants and what are weeds, membership is £15-00p per year or £2-50p per meeting

Pam White
Secretary.

Mepal Friendship Club

Mepal Friendship Club has lots going on in the coming months, with lunches out, raffles, Trips out Bingo and plenty more. The ladies and gentlemen of the club are all very friendly and would welcome anyone who would like to come along and join us, so if you are free and in need of good company come along to The Friendship Club. See Dates for your Diary in the Mepal People, for times etc... Don't be shy.

Ann Frost Secretary

Plant Sale in aid of Addenbrooke's Hospital

Thank you to everyone who supported or made a donation to the recent Plant Sale in aid of Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust. A magnificent £415 was raised.

Steve & Georgina King

St Mary's Parish Church

Rector: Reverend Mary Hancock tel. 01353 778722

Churchwarden: Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker tel. 01353 778129

Saturday June 9th St Mary's Garden Fete at 2.30pm at Manor House, School Lane, Mepal, with Cream Teas & sales stalls. Manor House is across the road from Mepal Chapel; parking is available at the Village Hall car park. If the weather is wet the Fete will be held in the Village Hall. Funds raised from this event are in aid of St Mary's Church, Mepal.

Saturday 21st July Celebrating 75 x75!

In summer 1943, 75 years ago, the 75(NZ) Squadron RAF arrived at RAF Station Mepal. To celebrate this anniversary of help so bravely given, St Mary's is hosting a lunch for the Friends of the Squadron at the Village Hall on 21st July. We want to make this a whole parish celebration, so for all those in the village who would like to join us for lunch, or can help in any way, please contact Elizabeth Stazicker for information & tickets (price £6): tel. 01353 778129 eliz.stazicker@gmail.com.

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.

Mepal Community-Led Plan

Many thanks to everyone who completed the recent Traffic Survey – although, for various reasons, we haven't fully analysed the results yet, we do know that the return rate was about 65% so we should get a good idea of your concerns regarding traffic issues. Our thanks also go to the many people who delivered and collected the questionnaires on our behalf. Our next 'project' will be to compile another questionnaire covering the remaining issues in Mepal along with the concerns, hopes and wishes of villagers. This, obviously, will take longer and will involve speaking with all groups in the village so that they can have relevant input to the questionnaire. We will also use the information gained at the launch day back in October. This questionnaire will lead to a Plan for Mepal to be taken forward for the next few years so it is important that villagers have their say. If you feel you would like to join the Steering Group to help with drawing up the questionnaire, please contact our Secretary on 778141.

MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL



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

Clerk: Mrs Emma Harris. Tel: 07842 499377

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

- The Speed Activated sign has arrived! Mixed reviews over social media but the Parish Council are really pleased to have this and it will be placed in various speeding hotspots throughout the village and statistics will be gathered and reported regularly.
- Work starts on the recreation field imminently to correct the sinking drainage lines. It is hoped the football pitches will be ready to play on again towards the end of the calendar year.
- 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.
- Mepal Parish Council's Annual Report for 2017/18 is now available online. If you would like a paper copy please contact the Clerk.
- ECDC are asking for your views on the Bring Bank sites - we have one on Bridge Road with various recycling bins - please complete the survey by the 30th June <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HMMMVMQN>
- 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 11th June 2018 and Monday 9th July 2018 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.



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 7th June Members visit with tea at garden centre.

Thursday 5th July Jonathan Crisp from Amey Cespa will give a talk on 'Recycling our waste.' Visitors are very welcome at this open meeting. There is a £3 charge for non-members.

For more information please contact Ruth Pitcher on 01353 775178

Mepal & Witcham pre-school



Mepal & Witcham Pre-School were visited by Ofsted in April 2018 and are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a GOOD. The report is available on our website. Thank you to our fantastic staff, Committee, Parents and Children for the support in helping us to achieve this.

We are well into our final term of the school year and the children are enjoying the outdoor activities. We have had lots of water play and getting dirty in soil filled tuff trays! We have also been looking after our tadpoles. 11 of our children start school in September so we will be busy supporting them in their transition to Reception class.

Please visit our stall at the Church Fete at the Manor House on the 9th June, Mepal & Witcham Primary School Summer Fete on the 16th June 2018 and the Wimblington Fun Day on the 15th July 2018.

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent survey on accessing 30 hours of free childcare. The Committee and staff are now discussing the options from September 2018. Please get in contact if you would like more information about this.

Please get in touch if you would like to arrange to have a look around our friendly setting.

Mepal and Witcham Preschool is a small friendly setting in the village of Mepal with an Ofsted rating of Good. Open weekday mornings during term time offering up to 18 hours per week and accepting funded 2-year olds. For more information www.mepalandwitchampreschool.org.uk or mepalpreschool@aol.co.uk or 07510 173818.

Ofsted registration number 221729 | Registered charity number 1057125

News from Priors Field Surgery Patient Participation Goup

If you've had to visit Priors Field Surgery in Sutton in the last few years you'll probably have seen references to the "P.P.G."

Maybe you've wondered what is the purpose of the local PPG ?

Patient Participation Groups started in 1972 and since 2016 it is contractual for all English practices to form a PPG (there are now over 1300 in the country) They can play a number of roles and there are no set ways of working. The main purpose is to be a channel of communication between the Practice and the wider patient body, advising of concerns and, in many cases, fundraising. The Sutton PPG consists of a small number of volunteers and one or two representatives from the Surgery (normally a Doctor and the Practice Manager).

Over the past few years, thanks to our local fundraising efforts and the generous donations from local organisations, charities and benefactors, we have been able to fund a new ECG machine, three new examination couches, and most recently a state-of-the-art Dermatoscope (used in the diagnosis of skin lesions). All this new vital equipment aids initial patient diagnosis.

At a recent public meeting in June the attendees heard from the Surgery staff about the exciting development plans at Priors Field. The PPG will continue to fundraise with the objective of contributing to the furnishing of the new consulting rooms. **Cont'd overleaf...**

Continued from previous page

Should you wish to contribute there is cash donation box at the Surgery. Alternatively cheques payable to "Priors Field PPG" can be left at reception or posted to either of these addresses :-

PPG c/o 17 West Lodge Lane Sutton CB6 2NX

PPG c/o 45 Stirling Way Sutton CB6 2QY

For further information, comments or suggestions please email priorsfieldppg@mail.com or phone 01353 774768

Rosemary Trollope (Chairman PPG)

Ely Museum is changing

We moved to the Old Gaol on Market Street 20 years ago and now our displays and facilities are worn and tired. We need better toilet and kitchen facilities for the schools and groups who visit us and we want to put in a lift to help people get around the building.

We are planning to fix these problems with a redevelopment of our building on Market Street, refurbishing the Grade II listed historic building and extending above the existing 1997 block. We received initial funding support from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2017 and have been working with an architect and designers on what our transformed museum might look like.

The redesigned museum will have new gallery displays exploring the history of Ely and East Cambridgeshire, from what was here before the Fens were formed, who first settled here, what has happened here and how people have lived. Based on surveys with visitors and local people we have learned that many people are very interested to learn more about the unique Fenland landscape and its impact on people's lives throughout time.

A project like this takes a while, and we will be making our second round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund this summer. If we are successful the project will start in 2019, with the museum closing to the public for building work in autumn 2019 and reopening for summer 2020.

A key part of our project will be a new programme of events, activities and volunteering opportunities. If you are interested in local heritage, keep an eye out for updates on our website www.elymuseum.org.uk

Union Chapel

Sunday 17th June 10am – Its Father's Day and its Messy Chapel too. Everyone is welcome to come and join us for a morning of mess and fun with light refreshments afterwards.

You are invited to:



When: Sunday 17th June

Time: 10am – 11.30am

Where: Union Chapel

Come as a family

Free bacon or egg butties as you arrive

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Not only has the resurfacing of the car park made a big improvement to the appearance of the Hall, but things are looking up in other ways. After a lapse of several years, it looks as if the Youth Club is re-starting. A taster session on 10th May was well attended and other young people have expressed an interest. If similar sessions in the next two months go equally well, the Youth Club should again become a regular feature in the autumn. All credit to Barry Woodward and Karen Simpson for the imagination and energy to get this moving, and to the Parish Council for their support of the venture. Other new groups are thinking about starting to use the Hall, so watch this space.

Having once more appealed for more people to come forward, we were delighted that Lynne Read came to our AGM in April and agreed to join our Committee. She has lots of exciting new ideas for possible events and activities in the Hall, and for how we publicise it, including setting up our own Facebook page, just search for Mepal Village Hall.

We have had a few suggestions on how we can support the VH with added activities. So far these include – a monthly games day – whist drive – coach outings to various locations including theme parks and reintroducing the popular monthly breakfast mornings.

July this year will see the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the RAF 75 New Zealand Squadron at Mepal Airfield, and the Hall will be the venue for a celebratory lunch, to be given to members of the Friends of the Squadron Saturday 21st July. There's a repeat invitation for you to join them elsewhere in this issue. The Community Archive group have a map of the airfield from 1944 which we are planning to put on permanent display in the Hall.

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