



# MEPAL PEOPLE

The Newsletter for Our Village—April/May 2007

## MEPAL GARDENING CLUB

People of Mepal—do you enjoy your garden? Would you like to learn more about plants, ponds, garden design, etc.? Then why not join us at our regular meetings, 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the third Monday of each month, and learn some more. Only £10 a year to join or just £2 a meeting to come and hear something on your favourite subject. Don't just sit and vegetate in front of TV, come and meet us—we are really very friendly. Notices of forthcoming events are posted on the Village Hall and Post Office notice boards a week before each event. Our next meeting is a talk on Unusual Vegetables so why not make a 5 a day a bit more interesting? Or, how about coming on a Mystery Tour in May? Call Paul Driver on 777692 or June and Allen Sallis on 775302 for more information.

### FOR SALE

Vermiculite 5 Litres £1.00

Growmore 2.5 kilo £1.00

Just phone Paul Driver and he will kindly deliver.

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Hall was packed almost to capacity on 22nd February when rapturous applause greeted the performance by the Daniel Smith Blues Band. The evening was made all the more convivial by a licensed bar, with beer and wine very kindly supplied and served by Mepal Stores. Musical events of this kind have proved highly popular and we are hoping to organise more of these.

At the time of writing we are approaching the half-way mark in building a new fence along the car park boundary, materials supplied by Fen Farm Supplies of Witcham Road. We have obtained quotations for a new boiler and other improvements to the heating system, and are applying for grants towards the cost. If all goes well the Hall should be much more comfortable, and more economical to heat, by the time next winter arrives. It will also mean that we can get rid of the oil tank and move on to plan our next improvement, a new toilet block, to be built where the tank now stands.

There is now an extra bin in the kitchen marked "Cans and Bottles". If Hall users can kindly put those empties in there instead of in the general rubbish we can send them for recycling. This not only benefits the environment but helps our local community because the Parish Council is paid by weight for what is put in the recycling bins on Bridge Road.

We are extremely grateful to Edna Bryant

of Sutton for the generous gift of an electric organ which has been installed on the stage in the Hall. If anyone fancies their musical skills and would like to try it out (but not when someone else is using the Hall!) please contact one of the Committee's officers listed below.

The next date for your diaries is our **Annual General Meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 8 pm**. This is the chance for everyone in Mepal to come along and express their views about the Hall and how it is run, and to elect members to serve on the Committee for the following year. If you would be willing to join the Committee and share in this important responsibility on behalf of the local community, you will be especially welcome.

Chairman—Peter Edwards—775469

Treasurer—Jenny Sparrow—778895

Secretary—David Stazicker—778129

Bookings—Jenny Sparrow—778895

## MEPAL & WITCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

As part of your local community we thought that it would be great to give you a regular update of what has been happening at our school.

As usual there have been many events organised to raise money for charities.

We have had Pancake Races organised by the Friends of the school which were great fun for everyone. The School Council organised a sponsored Silence and raised over £500 for a quiet area. A book week was held before half term and the children had a fantastic time dressing up as their favourite characters on the final day. Red nose day fun raised a total of £75 for Comic Relief. Staff and children have also been working hard on new projects and now as Spring starts we are looking forward to developing our environmental garden and using the outdoors to develop some orienteering skills.

We are committed to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare and would like to invite members of the local community to be involved in the life of the school. We feel that your children are a vital part of the community. Staff are open to new ideas and would welcome your suggestions and comments.

The school hall is also available for hire and anyone who is interested should contact the school directly on 778300.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jane Green

## COFFEE MORNING

at Grove House, Bridge Rd  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10am to 12 midday  
All are welcome. Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### PLANT SALE

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Grove House  
10am–12 & 2–4pm

Plants, assorted stalls & refreshments

## PRODUCE SHOW COMMITTEE

The committee met last month to make preparations for the forthcoming show on September the 1st; there are only a few alterations to last year's schedule. One matter that was raised was that if there are some younger members of the community who would consider helping to run the show and possibly become members of the committee, then would they please contact either Ernie Barlow on 777020 or Steve Bramble on 778803 and this will be on the agenda for the meeting on the 24th of April. Once again may we ask that there are more young people to enter this year's show as there was only one entrant in the children's and young people's section.

## FRIENDS OF MEPAL & WITCHAM SCHOOL

Are holding a Pampered Chef evening on Thursday, 19th April at 7.30pm at the School Hall, Mepal & Witcham Primary School. There will be a cookery demonstration (with a chance to try the finished dishes!) and a raffle will also be held during the evening. Tickets are £2.00 or £2.50 on the door to include a glass of wine and nibbles. Please contact Debbie Smith (Tel: 778665) for tickets

## STAY 'N' PLAY CLUB

For Children 4—12 years

Time 3.15pm—5.15pm

£3.00 per hour

10% Discount for 3 or more

bookings per week

First Session Free

Snack at 4.00pm

Crafts, Fun & Games in a safe and happy environment with qualified staff.

Annual Registration £5.00

Book with Linda Dicks or Janet Coles at Mepal & Witcham School

# NOTICEBOARD



## Stay 'N' Play Breakfast & After School Club

Book in for an hour or more—First session free!!!

Breakfast Club

08:00-08:45 £2.50

08:30-08:45 £1.00

After School Club

15.15-17:15 £2.60 per hour

10% Discount for 3 or 4 sessions per week.

Snack provided at 16.00.

Fun, games and activities to stimulate and educate your children.

Annual Registration: £5.00

Excellent OFSTED report



## Mepal Parish Council

Correspondence to:

The Clerk,

Mepal Parish Council,

50 Chestnut Way,

Mepal, Nr. Ely

Cambs. CB6 2YR

Tel: 01353—774994

Councillors:

Elizabeth Stazicker (Chair)

Michael Stacey (Vice Chair)

Joan Woollard,

David Green,

Ronald Slough and

Dennis Smith



## Mepal History Archive Group

Every Monday

14:00-17:00 at

Mepal Village Hall.

All welcome.



## Scallywags Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesday (term time only)

9.30 to 11.00 at

Witcham Village Hall.

For more information call

Cathy on 01353 778034, or

Clare 01353 774988



## The Good Companions

Meetings are held every first and third Tuesday at 14.30 in the Village Hall.

We would be pleased to see some new faces whether you are new to the village or have lived here a lifetime. If you are over 55, then come along and enjoy two hours of chat, refreshments and games. Hope to see you there.



## St. Mary's Mepal Services

**1st & 3rd Sunday in month**

**8.00 am Holy Communion**

**2nd & 4th Sunday**

**10.30am Parish Eucharist**

**Evening Prayer**

**4.00 pm every Tuesday**

**Rector:**

**Revd Mark Amey**

**01353 778654**

**Asst. Priest :**

**Revd Peter Parker**

**Churchwarden**

**Mr. John Carey**

**01353 778023**



## Mepal Gardening Club

Would like to invite new members. Meetings are held in the Village Hall. See 'Dates for your Diary' for dates and times. Please come along and listen to interesting talks etc. on all aspects of gardening. Please contact Paul Driver on 01353 777692 for more information



## AGE CONCERN

Mepal's Village Link

Volunteer is

Cristina Holden

who can be contacted on

**01353 777330**

If you have a query or problem relating to benefits, legal issues, social services etc., Christina will be able to provide help.



## Mepal Friendship Club

Every Wednesday.

See the 'Dates for you Diary' section for more details.

Don't sit at home alone, come and join us. All welcome.

We'd love to see some men joining us too!

For more information, contact Cristina on **01353 777330**



**To book the Village Hall, please contact Jenny Sparrow on 01353 778895**



**To book the Recreation Field please contact Mepal Parish Council on 01353 774994**



## Mepal Access Point

Get on line, surf the net.

Access to learning

programs or just learn how to use a computer.

£1.00 per hour session.

Every Tuesday

09:00 to 13:00 at

Mepal Village Hall.



If you would like to advertise in this newsletter please contact

**Sally Shipley**

**Tel: 01353 774994 or**

**Email:**

**[mepalparishcouncil@msn.com](mailto:mepalparishcouncil@msn.com)**

**Adverts are just £35 per year**



## MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Sally Shipley, 50 Chestnut Way, Mepal, Ely, CB6 2YR  
Email: mepalparishcouncil@msn.com

### REPORT OF MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
**PRESENT:** Chair Mrs Stazicker, Mr Stacey, Mr Smith, Mr Slough,  
Mrs Woollard, Mr Green, Clerk Mrs Shipley

Mepal Parish Council met on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall.

The following planning applications were discussed; Installation of a quarry wheel wash at Mepal Quarry, Block Fen Drove, Mepal. No comment. Certificate of lawfulness granted for change from agricultural to domestic use, Hiams Farm, Chatteris Road, Mepal. Appeal against refusal of planning permission for erection of 500mm wire netting trellis on wooden posts above 1900mm high boundary fence (retrospective) at 2 Chestnut Way, Mepal.

Mrs Stazicker reported that the Clerk's annual appraisal has been conducted by her and Mr Green. The Clerk's performance was deemed to be satisfactory and it was recommended and approved that a salary increase of one point, as per the terms and conditions of employment, is implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.

A review of draft documents for a Disciplinary & Dismissal Procedure, Grievance Procedure & Complaints Procedure was undertaken. Thank you to Mr Stacey for producing these documents. Following discussion, all Councillors agreed that these procedures should be adopted by Mepal Parish Council.

It was agreed that the theme for this year's Annual Parish Assembly on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007 should be the production of the Community Parish Plan. A flyer and posters will be produced advertising the details. Our Community Police Liaison Officer will also be asked to attend.

The Parish Council has been approached by a group of youths from the village who would like to build a basic dirt BMX track on the recreation field. Funding for the project is available via East Cambs & Fenland Youth Bank. The group require the support of the Parish Council to proceed with the funding application and also require permission to use a section of the recreation field. Mr Stacey agreed to investigate the insurance implications. It was moved Mr Stacey, seconded Mrs Stazicker and resolved unanimously that the project be supported.

Community Life Awards 2007 - it was agreed that Mepal would not enter this competition. Resources are already fully committed to other ongoing projects.

The next meeting of Mepal Parish Council is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 19:30 in Mepal Village Hall. All meetings are open to members of the public and those interested in local issues are very welcome to attend.

# MEPAL PEOPLE ADVERTS

## A&C HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Offering the full range of home improvements

CORGI registered gas installers qualified to install and maintain Cookers, Fires, Boilers and full central heating systems. Specialists in all maintenance and repairs, plumbing and electrical work. Call Alan or Chris on 01353 776295

## Soham Carpet & Bedding

Your complete Home Furnishers!

The Soham Carpet & Bedding Centre is operating a home selection on carpets, cushion floor, curtains, all types of blinds and curtain rails.

We will be bringing samples to your home, all you have to do is pick up the phone and dial. Phone 01353 669880 or 07885 087458

The Soham Carpet and Bedding Centre remains committed to giving you, our customer, the best possible service.

## LUDOVIC POTTS RESTORATIONS

- Renovation
- Inlay
- Gilding
- Clock/Barometer Repairs
- Replacement Fittings
- French Polishing
- Leather Lining
- Upholstery
- Lacquer Work
- Cane & Rushwork



Tel/Fax: 01353 741537  
www.restorers.co.uk  
E-Mail: mail@restorers.co.uk



British Antique Furniture Restorers Association

## MEPAL STORES LTD

Serving the Local Community

Tel: 01353 778275

Post Office

Groceries, Provisions, Fruit & Vegetables, Newspapers & Magazines (Home Deliveries - Mepal & Witcham)

Off Licence, Garden, DIY Supplies

Bottled Gas & Coal

Dry Cleaning (next day service available)

Photocopying & Laminating

Faxes sent & received

Bulk Stationery and Printer Cartridges

Commercial Deals for Printing Business Cards and Flyers at unbelievably cheap prices

If we haven't got it - ask. We may be able to get it!!

ALL MAJOR CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED

WE ALSO ACCEPT MOBILE PHONE SWIPE CARDS FOR ALL NETWORKS



## Unisex Hair Design

All aspects of Hair, Hair Extensions and Nails  
Monday - Closed - Tuesday - 9.00am-5.00pm

Wednesday - 9.00am-7.00pm - Thursday - 9.00-5.00pm

Friday - 9.00-5.00pm - Saturday - 9.00am-4.00pm

Pick-Ups for the Housebound

## K J N SERVICES

General Clearance Work Undertaken

Garden/Lawn Maintenance

Hedge Cutting and Clearing

Tree Cutting and Removal

Please Call Mepal

01353 776071 or 07910634662

## Gill's Dressmaking

### & Alterations

Everything from children to adults. Also soft furnishings.

Machine knitted garments made to order - ask for details.

Call me on 01353 777290.



## Green Wood Tree Surgery

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All Aspects Tree Surgery undertaken including Stump Removal

PAUL GOLDSMITH  
Mobile 07801 550 914  
Tel 01638 780188  
info@greenwoodtreesurgery.co.uk  
9 Coates drive, Isleham, Ely, Cambs, CB7 5SJ.

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www.admiralconservatories.com

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ian@lightangles.co.uk  
www.lightangles.co.uk

## DRYROOF BUILDING & ROOFING CONTRACTORS

21 High Street, Mepal, Ely CB6 2AW  
For free advice and estimates, please call Steve on 07981 254637

## P.J. WALKER GENERAL BUILDER

Extensions, Plastering Patios, Tiling, Plumbing & Carpentry - Free Quotes  
Call Phillip on 01353 776048 or 07870 158502



## Chatteris

Cromwell King Edward Centre, King Edward Road, Monday 10.00am

## Sutton

The Pavilion, The Brooklands Centre, The Brook, Sutton - Monday 5.30pm & 7.00pm

## Chatteris

Bricstan Room, Beside Church, Market Hill Tuesday 5.30pm & 7.00pm

For further information please telephone Georgina 01354 688197

## The Three Pickerels

01353-777777

Free Pool Monday Evening

Quiz every Sunday

Evening - Cash Prizes

Opening Hours

### Mon-Fri

Lunch 12.00-2.30pm

Food 12.00-2.00pm

Evening 6.00-11.00pm

Food 6.00-9.00pm

Saturday 12.00-11.00pm

### Food

Lunch 12.00-2.30pm

Evening 5.00-9.00pm

Sunday 12.00-10.30pm

### Food

Lunch 12.00-2.30pm

O.A.P. Special 2 course £6.95

Mon-Fri 12.00-2.00pm

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## APRIL

1st—8.00am	Holy Communion (Palm Sunday)	St. Mary's Church
1 <sup>st</sup> - 10.30am	Service with communion—Mr & Mrs Earl	Union Chapel
2nd—8.00pm	Service of Compline for Holy Week	St. Mary's Church
3rd—8.00pm	Compline	St. Mary's Church
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
4th—10.30am	Compline	St. Mary's Church
4 <sup>th</sup> - 10.00am	Friendship Club – Hot X Buns and Chat	Village Hall
6th—10.30am	Good Friday Meditation	Union Chapel
8 <sup>th</sup> - 10.30am	Easter Eucharist	St. Mary's Church
11 <sup>th</sup> - 10.00am	Friendship Club – Bingo	Leave V.H. 10am
13 <sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm	Tombola	Village Hall
15th—8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's Church
15 <sup>th</sup> - 10.30am	Family Service—Mr. B. Mills	Union Chapel
16 <sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm	Gardening Club – Unusual Vegetables	Village Hall
17 <sup>th</sup> - 2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
18 <sup>th</sup> - 10.00am	Friendship Club—Huntingdon Garden Centre	Leave V.H. 10am
22 <sup>nd</sup> - 10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's Church
25 <sup>th</sup> - 10.00am	Friendship Club-Games & Raffle	Village Hall
29th—10.30am	Ecumenical Songs of Praise	St. Andrews Sutton
29th—6.30pm	Service of Wholeness and Healing	

## MAY

1 <sup>st</sup> - 2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup> - 10.00am	Friendship Club – Quiz	Village Hall
6th—8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's Church
6 <sup>th</sup> - 10.30 am	Service with Communion—Mr. M. Howard	Union Chapel
9 <sup>th</sup> -11.45am	Friendship Club Lunch @ Bluebells	Leave VH 11.45
11 <sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm	Tombola	Village Hall
13 <sup>th</sup> - 10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's Church
15 <sup>th</sup> - 2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
16 <sup>th</sup> - 10.00am	Friendship Club – Beetle Drive	Village Hall
18th -10-12am	Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Cake stall etc.	Union Chapel
20th—8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's Church
20 <sup>th</sup> - 10.30am	Family Service—Mr. D. Palmer	Union Chapel
21 <sup>st</sup> —10.00am	Gardening Club—Mystery Drive	From Village Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> - 10.00am	Friendship Club—Visit to Ely	Leave V. Hall
25 <sup>th</sup> - 10.30am	Eucharist for Pentecost	St. Mary's Church
30 <sup>th</sup> - 10am	Friendship Club – Competition	

## WITCHFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Why not try something new in January 2007

### Tuesday

Ballroom Dancing (Beginners)  
Computerised Accounts  
CLAIT/ECDL/ECDL Advanced  
Diploma Home-based Childcare  
Egyptian Dance  
Floristry City & Guilds (20th Feb.)  
Jewellery Making  
Professional Cookery  
Salsa—New

### Wednesday

CLAIT/ECDL/ECDL Advanced  
Fenland History  
Upholstery & Chair Caning  
Yoga (Beginners & Intermediate)

### Thursday

Family History  
Yoga

### Saturday

Basic Food Hygiene  
Emergency First-Aid

**For further courses and information please contact Juliet Martin or Claire Baker on 01353 664468.  
www.witchfordcollege.co.uk or email: jmartin@acl.ccceducation.net**

## Recycling Centre

FOR PUBLIC USE AT BRIDGE ROAD, MEPAL THERE ARE BANKS FOR PAPER, GLASS, CANS, TETRAPAKS AND PLASTIC

The rubbish recycled via these banks has resulted in the Parish receiving over £550.00 from East Cambs. District Council during the last twelve months

Credits are not received for rubbish recycled via the fortnightly collections of the black boxes or brown sacks. So please, use the banks as much as you can. For further information please contact: Mepal Parish Council on 01353 774994

## LITTER PICK

Can you spare a couple of hours on Saturday 21st April to help collect litter and tidy up the village ready for Spring?

Meet at Mepal Village Hall at 10.00am followed by free refreshments for all volunteers. Mepal Parish Council are committed to improving the quality of life in our rural community and would be grateful for your help

## Mepal Annual Parish Assembly

Let's paint a picture of the future we want for our Village!  
Meeting Monday 30th April, 2007 at 19.30 in the Village Hall

## **MeSsAGe**

### **Mepal Sports Action Group**

Registered Charity number 1095391

**A big thank you to all those who supported Mepal Parish Council and MeSsAGe at the Pavilion day in February. A total of £276.64 was raised on that day. Thanks also go to those who baked cakes and to the sponsors of our recreation raffle drawn on that day;**

**Travis Perkins of Ely, Ipswich Town F.C. and Sundari Jewellery.**

Work on the pavilion is progressing well and the vast majority of finance has been provided by outside funders so Mepal is very fortunate, indeed in an envious position, compared to many villages. The project has recently secured a further £5,000 for the building work and money for a **Grand opening day/village funday which will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July.**

All village organisations will receive an invitation to join us and any offers of help for this day would be welcome – please contact Georgina on 777112 or Amanda on 777697.

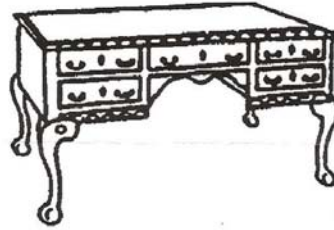
MeSsAGe is currently looking for new members to support us in the running of the building, supporting the charity, and in promoting new activities based in the building or on the field which encourages sport/recreation. We need your input to develop your new facilities and maximise the use of the recreation field, particularly in the summer months. We would welcome support and ideas from any age group.

Our future fundraising includes our attendance at the school fete on 16<sup>th</sup> June and our **Sponsored Swim** (or sponsor Spencer) on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Thanks to the generous support of the **Paradise Swimming Pool at Ely**, we will be cheering some willing swimmers towards their target and a possible prize. You should find a sponsor form in the shop and if you wish to help us you could swim yourself! **Frankie and Benny's restaurant** in Huntingdon have generously provided the prize for the adult who collects most sponsorship. Thanks to them also.

**Please contact our secretary on 777697 for further information on any of the above.**

# LUDOVIC POTTS RESTORATIONS

- Renovation
- Inlay
- Gilding
- Clock/Barometer Repairs
- Replacement Fittings
- French Polishing
- Leather Lining
- Upholstery
- Lacquer Work
- Cane & Rushwork



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