

Mepal Matters

The newsletter for Mepal people

July 2020

Three Pickerels would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported their planning application. It was a unanimous decision to approve the marquee and they look forward to holding events as soon as they possibly can!

Following latest government advice, they're reviewing the new guidelines and will be letting everyone know their new opening times and dates ASAP!



website: www.mepalparish.org.uk

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 Community Led Plan & Recreation Field

Most of you will be aware that due to the Coronavirus outbreak we had to postpone the planned Community-Led Plan 'Village Get-Together' scheduled to take place on Sunday 1st March 2020; you will be glad to know that fortunately Georgina managed to find plenty of willing consumers of the cakes she was baking for the event!

Unfortunately, the impacts of the virus have severely delayed the Parish Council plans to try to resolve the drainage issues on the field in time for the autumn and for the Parish Council to progress some of the ideas generated in the Community led plan.

As a reminder the CLP identified some area 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

Rest assured that as soon as it is safe to do so, we will look to try to re-schedule a community event to be able to discuss any plans with the village. In the meantime we have re-contacted contractors identified via the FA pitch improvement plan and in terms of indoor sports have a look at the Village Hall article regarding their plans for carpet bowls!

Mepal Mobile Library

The mobile library now stops near the school on the first Wednesday of every month from 3.15pm - 4pm.

Next date will be Wednesday 5th August 2020



BLOCK FEN SELF STORAGE

YOUR LOCAL, LOW COST
SELF STORAGE FACILITY
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED ON THE A142

JUST
£85
PER MONTH

📞 07967 48 76 35 🌐 blockfen.co.uk

SUTTON TREE SERVICES

- TREE REMOVAL
- FELLING AND REDUCTIONS
- HEDGE MAINTENANCE
- GENERAL PRUNING
- STUMP REMOVAL



NPTC QUALIFIED - FREE QUOTES - FULLY INSURED
CALL TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS OR ARRANGE A QUOTE
PAUL YOUNG: 01353 775076 / 07765 223692

St Mary's Parish Church

Rector: Reverend Mary Hancock

01353 778722

Churchwarden: Elizabeth Stazicker

01353 778129



After a long period of closure, we were finally able to open St Marys Church on Sunday June 21st. At the time of writing we are opening

the church on Sundays and Wednesdays only, from 10am – 5pm for private prayer or a time of quiet reflection. We have just had the news that we will soon be able to hold services, under certain restrictions, and we await further information and guidance from government and the Diocese of Ely about how we can keep people safe when they attend services.

Hand cleaning and keeping to the safe separation distance are essential practices to ensure the safety of all who come into the building. Please don't come if you are not feeling well or should be shielding or self-isolating. We ask that people who come will respect the quiet and sanctity of the space, and share it fairly with all who wish to pray there too. Above all, we hope that being in the church will be a comfort and blessing to all who come.

Meanwhile do keep an eye on what's

happening via notices at the church or at Mepal PO & Stores, or online via www.achurchnearyou.com and the weekly mailout from Reverend Mary which gives details of the live streamed services on Youtube and other resources.

49 club (Lotto Bonus Ball)

Would you be interested in becoming a member of the 49 Club, a fund raiser for St Mary's Church? If so, please contact Jane Edmenson on 01353 777621 or jane.edmenson@gmail.com to learn more. You could win £25 if your number is the bonus ball drawn on the Saturday Lotto. Members subscribe £13 quarterly for a number (£1.00 a week). We would like to thank all members for their support, and all who support the church in our village.

Looking forward – we hope to have an outdoor social event in August, regulations permitting – look out for notices!

We hope all are keeping safe and well. If you have any needs with which we may be able to help please contact Reverend Mary Hancock or Elizabeth Stazicker.

Moore Feet Care

In the comfort of your own home Full Feet assessment, Nail Trimming, Corns, Callus, Ingrowing Nails, Athletes Foot & Diabetic Care.

Robin Moore

01354 760049



Please phone for an appointment

S.A.C Dip F.H.P.T / F.H.P.P
Registered with the R.F.H.P & D.R.B Certified

Good Companions

At the moment Mepal Good Companions are unable to meet on Tuesday afternoons for their twice monthly cup of tea, chat and Triominos in the Village Hall.

Hope all you Good Companion members are keeping safe and looking forward to when 'we will all meet again!' Take care, from Jane (777621) and Jenny.

Take Healthwatch's new survey about your health and care during the coronavirus crisis

How has the covid-19 pandemic and lockdown affected your health and care?

Health and social care services are working hard to care for us all in these difficult times.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Healthwatch Peterborough want to know how these changes have affected you and those you care about? They are also finding out what toll the crisis has had on mental health and well-being.

About taking part

The survey is online, takes 10 minutes to complete and is anonymous. So you can share your or your family's experiences in confidence. What you say goes

Friendship Club

Due to the present climate we are still unable to hold our meetings and have days out; this will be the way of life for quite a while until it is safe to do so.

It is a very trying time for our members as we all enjoyed our meetings and having a good chatter with our friends over a cup of tea. The main thing is to take care and stay safe until the lockdown is lifted and when it is, we can start to meet again.

If any of our members would like to share anything interesting in the Mepal Matters newsletter give one of the committee members a ring and let them know what you have been doing or any new hobbies you've started doing and we can share it with the village.

Take care stay safe.

back to the people running the health and social care system, so they understand what is working well or what needs to change and why.

Please take part and help our local NHS and social care system make sure everyone gets high quality and safe support.

Take the survey at:
www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/coronavirus-yourviews

PVCu Windows - Doors - Conservatories

Paul Hutchinson
01353 776249



WINDOWS

Hutchinson Windows Limited
Manor House, 103 The Row, Sutton, Ely, Cambs CB6 2PB

Committed to providing you with . . .

- Quality PVCu products
- Over 15 year's experience
- Friendly, knowledgeable advice
- Guaranteed prompt and efficient service

Our aim is for you to be 100% delighted with our products and services

paul@hutchinsonwindows.co.uk

Johnson and Scott
Veterinary Clinics

Providing the best in traditional veterinary care

Friendly, local vets
Personal, caring service
for all your pets

Witchford Opening Times:
Mon & Thurs 8am - 7pm
Tues, Weds & Fri 8am-6pm
Sat 9am-12am
Sunday emergency clinic 6-7pm

01353 634123 (24hr)
www.johnsonandscott.co.uk



Village Hall

The Hall remains closed for the time being but we've seized the opportunity to make a big, much-needed improvement. With another generous grant funded by Mick George – following the earlier one that enabled us to resurface the car park – we are now re-flooring the whole of the public area of the building. Instead of the dog-eared vinyl tiles, care-worn wood block and unsteady, shabby-looking carpet tiles, we are to have smart new wood block throughout the main and side halls. This even surface will mean that (once the present restrictions are eased, of course) the Hall will be a marvellous venue for carpet bowls, other indoor sports, and all sorts of other activities.

Here's a reminder of what it looks like before the work starts. An "after" photo will follow in the next Mepal Matters – or with luck, if we all keep alert etc, you might be able to see for yourselves by then.



Chairman: Allen Sallis, Treasurer: Tony Pleasance, Secretary: David Stazicker 778129 david.stazicker@gmail.com
Other members – Lynne Woodward, Gordon Reid, Rosemary Wells.

Re-imagine Resource Center

At Re-imagine Resource Center we take our commitment to our community as seriously as our commitment to the planet. We have supported families through some difficult times in the last few months by providing a Community Larder and Fridge from our base at Re-imagine at Witchford and from the Restore in Mepal, with surplus food from Supermarkets, local food businesses and working with our food partner FareShare. We have extended that offering to Saturday doorstep deliveries bringing bread and treats to our neighbours.

We continue to ensure that help is offered to any households in Mepal where there is an immediate need for food by delivering quality food boxes. It is for those folks in our area who are going without and need some support.

Although we are optimistic of a return to some normality soon the uncertainty surrounding us all means we cannot predict how this will continue to affect our village or where the greatest need will be and it may be a time that we are called up to do our best for the place we live and for the people we call neighbours. (Look out for the posts on Mepal People Facebook Page to share in the weekend joy.) ruth@re-imagineresourcecentre.co.uk or 07460 337163.



MEPAL PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors:

Clerk Karen Peck - 07842 499377

Vice Chair Lorna Williams

Councillor Mark Brill

Chairman Brian Rollason

Councillor Cassy Brown

Councillor Rebecca Margieson



Mepal Parish Council

Parish Council Update

Coronavirus

Our work has been challenging since the lockdown was imposed on 23rd March this year with new regulations, remote council meetings and year end financial processes. It has fallen on our Parish Clerk (less than 12 months in post) to try to guide us through the new processes! Hopefully we are starting to move back to a more manageable situation – although the ‘new normal’ will present challenges for some time to come.

Support to vulnerable and self-isolating residents

We have been able to support residents with shopping and prescription pick-ups and will continue to do so wherever possible, as we realise that whilst life may be getting easier for some of us, those who are self-isolating or in vulnerable groups may continue to need some help.

Particular thanks go to Gurdip, Sukhpal & Jaz at Mepal Post Office for all their work supporting Mepal residents throughout the crisis. Shop Local!

Planning Application - Site South and West of The Bungalow Brick Lane

On 28th May a proposal for the erection of 55 dwellings, new access, estate roads, driveways, parking areas, open space, external lighting, substation and associated infrastructure on the site south and west of the Bungalow, Brick lane was submitted. We are only 5 councillors, and none of us have any planning experience, so receiving the planning application at a point where we are unable to call meetings is difficult.

We have seen the comments on the Mepal People Facebook page and have attempted to deliver a flyer asking for all concerned residents to send in their views and more importantly to contact ECDC. One village resident has also hand delivered their own response to you all, and the Parish Clerk has had a number of conversations with ECDC, Highways, PlanServ and many residents. We have managed to get an extension to the commenting process but this underlines a gap in our current Councillor skill set. We would particularly like to thank Diana Bray, Lionel Shepherd, Georgina & Steve King, Steve Green and Roger Taylor for their input and specialist knowledge.

We are collating your responses with a view to submitting the most objective answers regarding the planning application.



Mepal Post Office & Stores
7a High Street, Mepal CB6 2AW
01353 778275



- Off-licence
- Newspapers & Magazines
- Stationery
- Mobile Top Ups
- Sweets & confectionary
- Dry Cleaning
- Greeting Cards & Wrap

Shop Opening Times	Post Office Opening Times
Mon-Sat 7am-7pm	Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm
Sun 8am-1pm	Sat 9am-12.30pm

CLOSED FOR LUNCH 1-2PM

Playpark

Please be advised that we have decided to keep the Playpark locked until 1st August in order to complete the maintenance and repairs that have been delayed as a result of availability of contractors. We are very sorry for the inconvenience and are trying to get this sorted as soon as possible.

Meetings

Details of all meetings can be found on the Parish Council Website www.mepalparish.org

Wanted

Two Parish Councillors with planning, infrastructure or flood experience – do you think you can actively contribute to the work of your local parish council?

Please contact the Clerk for more information.

Keep an eye on the Parish Council website www.mepalparish.org.uk for all the latest updates.

Useful Contacts

Medical

Sutton Priors Field Surgery	01353 778208
NHS Direct Online Please only call 111 if you cannot get help online	111.nhs.uk
Sutton Pharmacy	01353 778024
Ambulance	999 in an emergency only

Utilities

National Grid (If you smell gas)	0800 111 999
UK Power Networks	Call 105
Anglian water leak report	0800 771 881

Financial

HMRC	0300 200 3300
Universal Credit	0800 328 5644
National Debt line	0808 808 4000
Business Debt line	0800 167 6026

Food and Supplies

Mepal Post Office	01353 778275
Milk and More	0345 606 3606
Plumbs Diary	01223 893033

Other

East Cambs District Council	01353 665555
Cambridgeshire County Council	0345 045 5200
Care Network	01954 211919
Age Concern	0300 666 9860

Green Wood Tree Surgery
Established Local Family Run Business since 2006



- Tree Felling - Dismantling - Removal
- Stump Grinding - Stump Removal
- Crown Reduction - Thinning
- Hedge Cutting - Grass Cutting
- Site Clearance - Ground Maintenance
- Consultancy - Surveys

City & Guilds NPTC Qualified | Fully Insured
Call 01353 688098 for a Free No Obligation Quote
Email info@greenwoodtreesurgery.co.uk

Jason Woor Glass & Glazing

- Double Glazed Unit Replacement
- Single Glass Replacement
- Mirrors
- Replacement Handles and Hinges

5 Year Guarantee!
Local, Friendly and Reliable!

Tel: 07557260502



Haddenham Based.
Find us on Facebook!





A small selection of the amazing Mepal scarecrows..



You can see more pictures on the Mepal People Facebook group

