

Mepal Matters

The newsletter for Mepal people

October 2021



website: www.mepalparish.org

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.

Friendship Club

Since we opened our club earlier this year we have gone from strength to strength, we have had many new members join and many of our previous member's come back to us which is great.

We have had our usual events such as bingo and chat mornings which gave everyone a chance to catch up after not seeing each other for such a long time. We have held bring and buy sale's and we have even managed to book some places to go out for a meal. We went to the Three tons Doddington, Village Inn Witchford, and we have the Cross Keys Chatteris in November and the Golden Lion Stonea for our Christmas meal in December.

We have also had guest speakers at the club. Mepal Makers came and explained their set-up and Greg was very informative and showed us examples of what they have been making and the plans he has for the future; some of our members even joined Mepal Makers after the talk. Linda Sole

came and gave us a talk about how she got into writing and what her books were about. Linda also donated prizes to the club, so we were able to have a tombola, and we thank her for that. On November 24th we have Amanda Cox and her friend coming along to the club to show our members how to colour Christmas cards in, so we have a lot going on so please have a look at our dates to remember.

We are always on the lookout for things to do at our club so if anyone would like to come along and give us a demonstration of your hobby or if you know of a club that you think our members would be interested in please get in touch.

If you like the sound of our club, why not come along, and join us. We meet every Wednesday from 10:00-12:00 at Mepal Village Hall on School Lane and it's a great way to make new friends (especially if you are new to the village) and meet up with old ones!

Mepal Archive Group

Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network (CCAN) - Mepal along with other villages was invited to join CCAN in 2006, from memory about seven villages, there is now 30 groups. A group of volunteers in the village met to scan photographs and documents relevant to the village on a computer donated by the County Council located in the Village Hall. Mary & Steve Bramble and David Sanders were among the first volunteers, and a lot is owed to these people.

In due course the computer programme was updated and became an internet website. The site now has over 1,500 items available to view. If you would be interested in learning more or would like to become involved in CCAN please contact direct via info@ccan.co.uk or speak to Jenny Sparrow or Jane Edmenson.

Vist: <https://mepal.ccan.co.uk>

The Old Bakery, Mepal



In 1970 this was still a shop, although very limited. In 2005 the building was demolished to make way for houses, to be called St. Mary's Close.

Mepal & District Camera Club

Mepal's local camera club offering fortnightly meetings to discuss, explore and play with all thing's photography. New members welcome of any ability.

A £2 fee is charged per person to cover the cost of the hall and drinks.



@mdccmepal

St Mary's Parish Church



Services

Our services are held every Sunday at 10.15am – Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month and Parish

Eucharist on the second and fourth Sundays. Exceptions to this will be October 31st – a joint service with Sutton & Witcham churches at St Andrew's, Sutton at 10.30am, and November 14th – no service at St Mary's, but a Service of Remembrance in the Chapel. The church is open for private prayer on Sunday afternoons 12 – 5pm, and on Thursdays 10am – 5pm.

St Mary's Christmas Market

The market will be on Saturday 4th December 2 – 4pm at

the Village Hall, with afternoon teas and stalls for you to browse. More details in the December issue.

Book Exchange

There's now a book exchange in the church porch – bring your old books to swap for a new read; if you've nothing to swap you could leave a small donation.

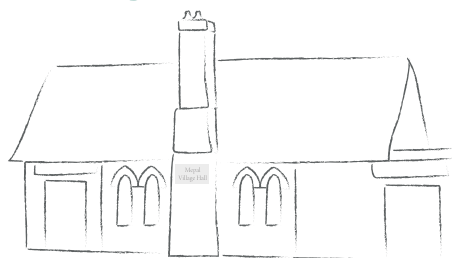
Remembrance Sunday, November 14th

There will be an Act of Remembrance at 10.45am at the New Zealand Memorial Plinth in Laurel Close, then at the Village Memorial, followed by a Service of Remembrance at Mepal Union Chapel. After the service refreshments will be served in the Village Hall.

Rector: Reverend Mary Hancock
tel. 01353 778722

Churchwarden: Elizabeth Stazicker
tel. 01353 778129

Village Hall News



It's good to see the Hall in frequent use again, with new bookings making up for one or two that haven't resumed. But we'd like to see even more going on, especially as the

new floor installed just before lockdown means that we can accommodate activities that used to be difficult or impracticable. Is there any anything you'd like to see us starting up? Possible examples are Carpet Bowls, Darts, Quiz Nights, Line Dancing (for beginners if necessary) or anything else you'd like to suggest. Please get in touch – see contact details below.

At our Annual General Meeting in May Rosemary Wells stood down as representative of St Mary's Parochial Church Council on our Committee. Rosemary had served on the Committee for many years, including several years as Chairman, and we are extremely indebted to her for her long service to the local community in this and so many other ways. We welcome Kristi Stewart-Elliott who has taken Rosemary's place. We're always on the lookout for new

members, as there's always work to be done, for example repainting the boundary fence, which our Chairman recently did almost unaided. Again, please get in touch.

If you serve refreshments in the Hall, please be sure you sort any waste correctly. There are two bins in the kitchen, one for recyclables and one for other waste material. We should all be trying to avoid wasting food, but if there is anything that does need to be disposed of after an event and it's more than will fit in the "non-recyclable" bin, please wrap it securely in a black sack. We don't produce any "green" waste to speak of at the Hall, so we shall label the green bin for use as a temporary place to store filled black sacks until they are due for collection.

Chairman: Allen Sallis, Treasurer and Bookings

Clerk: Lynne Woodward, 776272,
LDSWoodward@hotmail.co.uk,

Secretary: David Stazicker, 778129,
david.stazicker@gmail.com

Other members – Gordon Reid, Kristi Stewart-Elliott.

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Mepal Makers

Mepal makers is a free community workshop in Mepal village for anyone wanting to upcycle, recycle, repair or make things. We run regular introductory classes for anyone wanting to use the workshop or learn a new skill. The classes are displayed on the Post Office notice board, and on the Mepal People and Mepal Makers facebook pages. October's classes include making bird boxes, glass ware, picture frames and training on our equipment.

Once you've filled in a membership form (on mepalmakers.co.uk, or collect from the workshop at 16 Bridge Road) and attended a short induction you can join any of the classes or just use the facilities – **7 days a week, 9am to 8pm – and all for free.**

Facilities include:

- Glass kiln
 - o For glassware, enamelling and silver/copper/bronze jewellery making
- Laser etcher/cutter (paper, fabric, wood, leather and slate)
- CNC machine (cuts wood, slate, plastics, soft metals)
- Extensive set of hand power tools (members can borrow tools too)
- Bench top tools (Chop saw, scroll saw, pillar drill, planer/thickener)
- MIG Welder
- Electronics lab (oscilloscope, signal generator, surface mount oven)
- Sewing machine
- and we hope to add a 3D printer next year



INTERESTING BLAST FROM THE PAST

Taken from Mepal Scrapbook 1897 to 1990 by Mike Petty (See Mike's website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes)

11th October 1922

By the erection of a handsome stone memorial cross to perpetuate the memory of those belonging to the parish who fell in the Great War, Mepal has paid a worthy tribute. From this small village with a population of less than 100, twelve men gave their lives, and one woman. On no other roll in the Ely district has a woman's name appeared. Miss Nellie Waters was stationed at the army canteen at Thetford, Norfolk, and while there contracted pneumonia from which she died. Her sister served in canteens abroad for some considerable time and was demobilised at the end of the war.

Photo 1978-1982 Cambridge Community Archive Network

Babylon ARTS



What is Babylon ARTS?

Our mission is to develop creativity and connect communities with arts and culture. We're developing how we talk about our work; the Creative Spaces strand includes the Babylon Gallery and Ely Cinema.

Visit www.babylonarts.org.uk/home.htm to see what's on and find out more.

Babylon Gallery, Waterside. Ely



Evelyn's Flamingo Paperie Shop

Do you enjoy sending beautiful greetings cards? Wrapping presents in unusual, high quality thick gift wrap? Take a look at the **Flamingo Paperie** range!



Browse the range at www.flamingopaperie.co.uk or contact me for a paper catalogue or details of the e-catalogue.

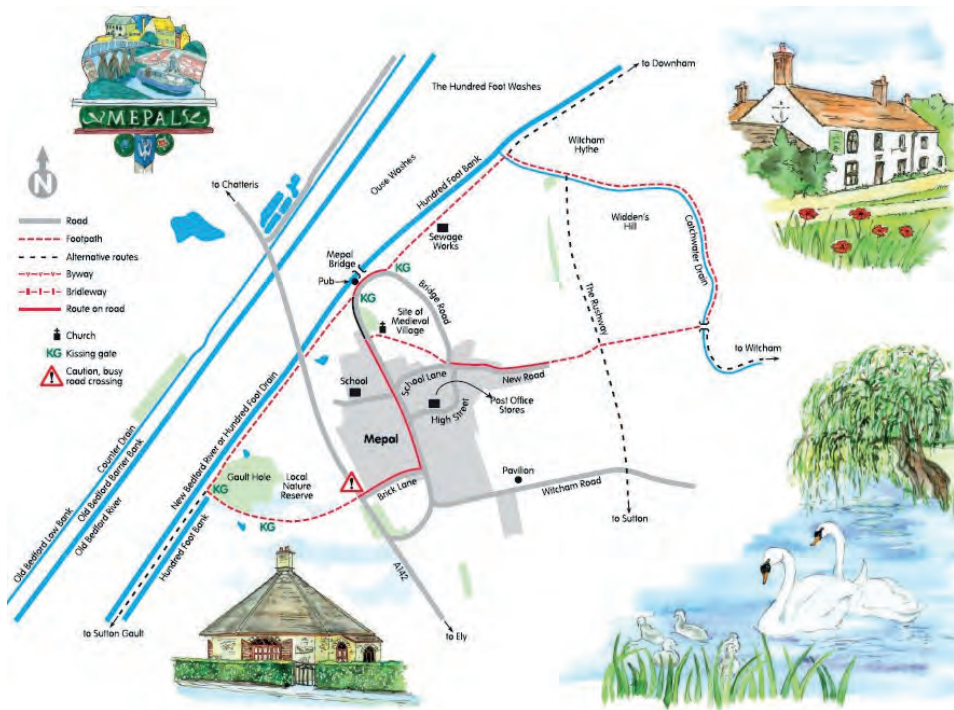


Orders can be placed through my website: www.flamingopaperie.co.uk/web/evelynwoodward or I can place your order for you.

Evelyn Woodward
Tel: 07808921562
Email: funkyflamingo@talktalk.net
Find me on Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/funkyflamingo22815/>

Good news for Mepal Walkers!

The path to Gault Hole is now accessible even for those of 80plus!



This is a gentle reminder to any dog owners using the public footpath running through our field at the back of the school and River Way that we are grazing our sheep on this land.

We would ask you all to please keep your dogs on a lead at all times when in the field and also to keep to the public footpath as you walk though.

Thank you!



Warning
Sheep grazing
Please keep dogs on lead



www.each.org.uk/about-us

Lorna Delanoy

Those of you who are new to Mepal may not know but Lorna is a well-known local author living in Mepal, with a number of booklets about Fenland life to her name. Her family also started the Farmland Museum in Haddenham, which is now housed at Denny Abbey.

The latest local title "Sutton in the Isle" is now available for £4 in aid of EACH. Many other Fen booklets are on sale from 1, Wilton Gardens, phone 01353 777691 or lorna@delanoy.co.uk

EACH offer care and support for children and young people with life-threatening conditions and support families across Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk.

£1 ★★★★★★

MEPAL YOUTH CLUB

AUTUMN TERM

SEPT 9, 23 OCT 14
NOV 11, 25 DEC 9

MEPAL VILLAGE HALL
6.15 - 7.15 YEAR 3-6
7.30 - 8.30 YEAR 7-10

★★★★★ ★★★★★★

Please join us on 2nd & 4th Thursday of every month (Term Time) at Mepal Village Hall. We have pool, football and tennis tables, board games, crafts, Wii's and a tuck shop priced at 20p or 30p per item.

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Ely Community Speedwatch Scheme

- The Speedwatch scheme allows the public to get actively involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through their neighbourhood.
- The countywide scheme, is run by Cambridgeshire Constabulary, and is not an enforcement tool but is about educating motorists and raising awareness of the dangers of speeding.
- Volunteers give as much time as they like – there is no minimum requirement.
- Full training and equipment is provided, and volunteers are insured.



To find out more about volunteering or to enquire about setting up a scheme in your area email Speedwatch@cambs.pnn.police.uk



Welcome to the new Cambridgeshire ACRE
The same Cambridgeshire ACRE but even better

Cambridgeshire ACRE has been supporting and strengthening rural communities across the County for nearly 100 years now. We work alongside local people and groups to help improve the places, services and assets that are important to them.

We now have a new look that we feel better reflects who we are and all we have to offer you and your community. Key to our new look is a logo that now includes the words 'Community Action' because this is at the heart of everything we do.

We've also launched a brand-new website (www.cambsacre.org.uk) that clearly sets out the wide range of services we offer and features examples of how our work has made a real difference to people and communities.

Do get in touch if you have any questions by calling 01353 860850 or emailing enquiries@cambsacre.org.uk

Cambridgeshire ACRE is looking for new trustees to join its Board.

We're on the hunt for volunteers who would like to consider becoming a trustee of one of Cambridgeshire's leading charities. We would be particularly interested to hear from anyone with any of the following skills or experience: Financial management/accountancy, Risk management, Community development, Equal opportunities and diversity, Information & communications technology, Human resources and training, Board/committee/governance experience, Legal experience, Charitable/voluntary experience, Fundraising, Local authority experience, Leadership, Change management, Public relations, Strategic management, General business skills.

Christmas Mepal Market



Sunday 21st November
10 am to 12 noon

Mepal Village Hall

LOTS OF NEW STALLS

Refreshments courtesy of
St Mary's Church

How Are You East Cambs? – If you lead an activity, get it listed for free on this website



How Are You East Cambs (HAY) is a new website which aims to list everything in East Cambridgeshire that promotes wellbeing. From activities and groups to yoga, singing, sports clubs, arts groups, and more. You can even find somewhere to talk, find a friendly face or get a cup of tea.

If you run or are part of an activity in East Cambs that you would like featured on this site, there is a link to a form on the Contact page of their website, under Activity Organisers. It is free to list and will take about 20 minutes- time well spent to create a one-stop-shop for local community activity. We hope that this will be the go to place to find out about what's going on in your area.

www.hayeastcambs.co.uk

November

Wed 3rd	Friendship Club AGM followed by Bingo	
Wed 3rd	Camera Club at the Village Hall	19:30 – 22:00
Sun 7th	Holy Communion at St Mary's	10.15am
Wed 10th	Friendship Club Bring and Buy	
Sun 14th	Act of Remembrance at the NZ Plinth then at the Village Memorial, followed by Service of Remembrance at Mepal Chapel	10.45am
Wed 17th	Friendship Club Meal at Cross Keys Chatteris	
Wed 17th	Camera Club at the Village Hall	19:30 – 22:00
Sun 21st	Holy Communion at St Mary's	10.15am
Sun 21st	Christmas Mepal Market at Village Hall	10am – 12pm
Wed 24th	Friendship Club Amanda Cox Learning about painting Christmas cards	
Sun 28th	Parish Communion at St Mary's	10.15am

December

Wed 1st	Friendship Club Christmas Bingo	
Wed 1st	Camera Club at the Village Hall	19:30 – 22:00
Sat 4th	St Mary's Christmas Market at Village Hall	14:00 – 16:00
Wed 8th	Friendship Club Christmas lunch at hall	
Wed 15th	Camera Club at the Village Hall	19:30 – 22:00
Wed 15th	Friendship Club Lunch at Golden Lion, Stonea	

Mepal Parish Council News in Brief

Meetings

The next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 9th November at 7pm at the Pavilion. Please keep an eye on the website for confirmation as meetings are currently subject to late cancellation due to ongoing Covid concerns and a need for Quorum with only 4 out of 7 councillor posts filled.

www.mepalparish.org/parish-council/meetings

Recreation Field

The new attenuation pond is keeping the field well drained, but we are having difficulty getting the grass to germinate along the lines. A third reseeding is being carried out W/C 11/10/2021 and we ask everyone to only use the perimeter of the field (i.e. the outside 3m around the field) until the middle of November to give the grass a chance to germinate. Please only allow your dogs to use the perimeter area, as per the current signs. We really want to facilitate the return of Mepal Sports Football Club as soon as possible (target date January) so need everyone to help and abide by the current rules.

Branghill Drove & Lilibet Woods

The necessary clearance of the ditch between the drove and the houses running along in Meadow Way and Brick Lane to remove the fly-tipped litter and make sure the drainage ditch itself is clear of bramble overgrowth is scheduled to be carried out by contractors in the next month. The nature of the rubbish means that a registered waste company must be used.

Tree Survey

We are currently carrying out a tree survey of the trees under the ownership of the Parish Council to make sure that the proper maintenance is in place.



Hedges around Playpark off the Recreation Field

We have received a request to cut the hedges around the playpark much shorter (or remove them) however this is in conflict with other Mepal residents in relation to wildlife habitat preservation. We need to balance all views so have decided just to do the annual basic maintenance to tidy the hedge up and then will consult with the wider community in 2022 regarding any more substantial work.

Councillor Vacancies

We currently have 3 vacancies and will be considering any applications at the November Meeting. The Parish Council really want to publish a Neighbourhood Plan but would need the new Councillors to take this project on, we currently do not have the resource for new projects. We have two people who have unofficially suggested that they may be interested in working with the new councillors, but unfortunately without the new Councillors this project will stall.

Grant Process

The grant application window closes on 29th October. As a reminder, we will set aside a sum of money each year which can be applied for by local organisations for projects which will be of benefit to residents within the parish of Mepal. This policy is set out here: www.mepalparish.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/14_grant_policy.pdf and should be read by all applicants before an application is submitted. The policy and application form are also available from the Clerk.

Mepal Parish Council:

Clerk: Karen Peck- 01353 741066, Chairman: Brian Rollason
Vice Chair: Lorna Williams, Councillor: Sam Foord, Councillor: Jack Hickman

A Plea from Anglian Water - Why should you care about keeping your pipes clear?



A major problem with the build-up of wipes, sanitary waste, fats, oil and food scraps in local used water pipes is affecting homes and the local environment in our area. **Only flush the 3Ps – Poo, Pee and Paper (toilet paper)**. Moist toilet tissue wipes with

Signs of pollution caused by a blockage- Sewage (including toilet paper, sanitary items, wipes, cotton buds) in water, wastewater in places where it shouldn't be or unusual water flow out of manhole covers., water that is milky or discoloured or oily looking or water that contains soap suds

the **'fine to flush'** logo can be flushed because they fragment like toilet paper and crucially do not contain harmful microplastics. Unless wipes carry the **'fine to flush'** logo on their packaging they have not passed the water companies' stringent standards for flushability and will therefore not breakdown quickly enough before causing a blockage.

ACT FAST by contacting Anglian Water- Provide AW with key details, time, location and conditions in the surrounding area and take photos where possible. Telephone 03457 145 145 or report online anglianwater.co.uk/tell-us



Ouse Washes: Middle Level Barrier Bank raising works - Progress

The wet weather has continued to slow progress and completion of the bank works at Welney is now due mid-September, weather dependant. The bank works between Sutton Gault and Mepal and at Welches Dam is due to be completed by 31 October 2021. We will not be starting any construction works for the demountable flood barrier at Welney this year and will start this work next year.

Read the full newsletter:
www.mepalparish.org/environment-agency-ouse-washes-newsletter-september-2021/



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Mepal Matters is provided by the Parish Council on a quarterly basis (circumstances depending). Please contact mepalmatters@mepalparish.org to submit articles or information for the next issue, copy deadline 6th December 2021. If you can help distribute copies please let us know as we rely on a team of volunteers to deliver the 465 copies.