

# Mepal Matters

The newsletter for Mepal people

March/April 2022



The village sign was fully restored by our skilled Parish Council Maintenance Manager during lockdown in 2021.

Complete with the new 75 (NZ) Squadron badges it is now back in its rightful place on the verge opposite the Village Hall, looking very smart for everyone to admire.

website: [www.mepalparish.org](http://www.mepalparish.org)

# Mepal Makers Plant a Tree for every Mepal Household

The recent survey on the carbon footprint of local parishes showed that Mepal's CO2 emissions were just average for East Cambridgeshire. With climate change an ever closer threat, and to make our Parish one of the best, we aim to plant one tree for every household in Mepal – that's about 450 trees – and make a positive impact



on our carbon footprint. We have an identified a 1 acre area of land which we can transform back into woodland and an orchard. With different areas aiming to provide different habitats, it promises to be a diverse woodland with a wide range of native UK species.

**Wild Harvest:** with berries and nuts for making jams and jellies, sloe gin and perhaps wine (Rowan, Elder, Blackthorn, Crab Apple).

**Working Wood:** trees suitable for crafting and gardening (Grey Willow, Hazel)

**Wild Wood:** for wildlife (Hawthorn, Oak, Downy Birch, Goat Willow)

**Year-round Colour:** Blossom, berries and autumnal colour (Wild Cherry, Silver Birch, Dogwood)

**Orchard:** Gages, plums, pears and five types of apple, all local varieties

Mepal Pantry have kindly offered to be an outlet for the orchard produce, but I'm sure we'll need help picking it too. We aim to start preparing the site during the last 2 weeks of February and first 2 weeks of March, so by the time you're reading this we will have made a start! **We still need help though** – to finish preparations and then to plant the trees. If you'd like to get involved in the creation of Mepal Wood then send an e-mail to: [general@mepalmakers.co.uk](mailto:general@mepalmakers.co.uk) (who are kindly co-ordinating the effort), or pop a note in the post-box at 16 Bridge Road.

**We will publicise when we are working on the field via Facebook.** We expect to have some spare trees, so if you would like to also plant a tree in your garden please let us know.



## MEPAL MAKERS

LOVE MAKING THINGS?  
WANT TO LEARN A NEW SKILL?  
NEED SOMTHING REPAIRING?

Woodworking, CNC machining,  
Laser engraving, coffee,  
Power tools, glass kiln,  
Biscuits, electronics lab,  
Software, people,  
Crafting, painting,  
Poster printing,  
Space, fun

Mepal Makers is a new community workshop in the village for people wanting to make things, repair things, upcycle or recycle. Whether it's a hobby you've always wanted to try but didn't want to buy the tools until you were sure, or a side hustle to earn some money, or just for the family fun of building things. Membership is free, materials are free- just bring your enthusiasm.

Meet Learn Build Play

For more information:  
[www.mepalmakers.co.uk](http://www.mepalmakers.co.uk)  
[info@mepalmakers.co.uk](mailto:info@mepalmakers.co.uk)  
07801 892331

## MEPAL AND DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB

A SMALL AND FRIENDLY GROUP WITH THE SAME INTERESTS, FROM BEGINNERS TO THE EXPERIENCED PHOTOGRAPHER USING ANYTHING THAT WILL TAKE AN IMAGE!



Meetings are held in Mepal Village Hall, School Lane CB6 2AJ once per month on Friday evenings. Dates are published on our Facebook page. Scan this QR Code or simply search Mepal & District Camera Club.

Alternatively email: [mepaldcc@gmail.com](mailto:mepaldcc@gmail.com)



# St Mary's Parish Church



**Churchwarden:**  
Elizabeth Stazicker  
tel.01353 778129  
eliz.stazicker@gmail.com

On January 12th we said goodbye to Mary, our Rector, at a Farewell service at St Andrew's Church,

Sutton. We will miss her and we send her all best wishes for her retirement. The parish is now in sequestration and the churchwarden is responsible for the parish until new arrangements are made. For enquiries about christenings, marriages and funerals please contact Elizabeth, details above. Retired priests Rev. Alan Jesson and Rev. Steven Bowring will very kindly be helping us out by taking services during this time. Because of the new arrangements for the three parishes of Mepal, Sutton and Witcham our Sunday morning services are now held at 11.30am, with one 9.30am BCP Communion per month, and we have introduced a Family Service once a

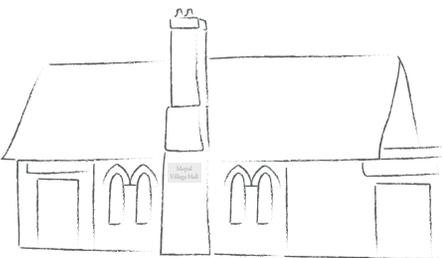
month which we hope will appeal equally to children and adults. For full details of all services please see the **Diary Dates on page 7** and notices at the church and Mepal Stores.

Look out for the Mothering Sunday Family Service on 27th March at 11.30am & Easter Day Service on 17th April at 11.30am.

Pancakes on Tuesday March 1st - On Shrove Tuesday 'Pancake Day' we will be serving pancakes at the Village Hall from 3 – 4.30pm. Do come along for a pancake with your afternoon 'cuppa', or bring the children for an after school treat!

Easter Activities at St Mary's- On Bank Holiday Monday April 18th 10.30am – 12 at the church – coffee & cake and a chance to see the Easter Garden. Children's activities include 'make your own Easter Garden.'

## Village Hall News



**Chairman:** Allen Sallis, Treasurer and Bookings  
**Clerk:** Lynne Woodward, 776272, LDSWoodward@hotmail.co.uk,  
**Secretary:** David Stazicker, 778129, david.stazicker@gmail.com  
**Other members** – Amanda Cox, Alan Fayers, Kristi GordonStewart-Elliott.

Reid has decided to take a well-earned rest by retiring from the Committee. He has been a hard-working member since 2000 and was Chairman between 2001 and 2003 and Vice-Chairman from 2003 to 2005. Mepal owes Gordon a considerable debt of gratitude for his service to the local community.

Winter weather hasn't been conducive to DIY building work, and we have yet to remove internal walls in the former toilet area and re-equip it to provide better storage space. We are taking advice from a neighbouring village hall with a view to creating our own website. We are grateful to the Parish Council and to ACRE's "Halls for Hire" service for the coverage they already provide, but it's

becoming more and more important to have one's own on-line presence in order to get the message out effectively.

As mentioned previously, we are working on various plans for new activities in the Hall. Vijay Puri has kindly offered to host quiz nights, and the first of these will be on Friday 18th March, 7 for 7.30 pm, £5 for adults to take part, £2.50 for under-16s. More details will be announced in due course. After a 2-year Covid break we are resuming our ever-popular breakfast mornings. Because of other bookings on Saturday mornings these will be on Sundays, but the first, on 27th February, will have taken place by the time this issue of Mepal Matters reaches you.

The major event in this year's calendar will of course be Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. Details of our plans will be in the next issue of Mepal Matters which will be published at the beginning of May, but these will be publicised by other routes in the meantime.

## Friendship Club

Pam White  
Secretary, Friendship Club

The Friendship club is going from strength to strength with new members coming along.

We have had meals out, meals in, Bingo, raffles, games morning with lots of other things in the pipeline.

We have a quiz coming up in March, a visit to Skylarks Garden Centre and lots more so please

come along to meet new people, make new friends and see what you think of the club.

If you like it then join us, we meet every Wednesday at 10 am.

**See diary dates on page 7.**

## Mepal Jubilee Village Fete - Saturday 4th June 2022

On the 6th February 2022 Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking her 70 years of service.

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary The Village Hall, School PTA, Mepal Makers and The Three Pickerels would like to help the community and its neighbours celebrate by holding a Village Fete on Saturday 4th June from 11am to 4pm.

So, make a **date in your diary 4th June** and we look forward to seeing you there.

**Cream Teas with live music and stalls at the Village Hall**

**Bake a Jubilee cake or Jubilee pudding contest held at the Village Hall**

**Come and meet Blaze the Retired Guide Dog**

**Mepal's Children's scavenger hunt organised by the Village Hall, Mepal Makers and the School**

**PTA Children's games organised by the school PTA**

**Mepal Duck Race as organised by The Three Pickerels.**

The Village Hall are also looking to hold regular events during this year beginning with:

Quiz Night 18th March

Darts Tournament April/May Date to be confirmed

Live music

Race Night adult only and child friendly occasions TBA

## Do you need a support with you or your family's cancer diagnosis?

At Maggie's we can help. We provide free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer, their family and friends, from diagnosis throughout living with the affects after cancer.

Maggie's has been providing high quality, evidence-based support since 2013 in the local area. We help over 8,000 people a year to achieve the best possible state of psychological and physical health during diagnosis, treatment and throughout their cancer journey. People across Cambridgeshire and beyond can come to Maggie's at any stage, for as long or as little as they like. We believe that the built and natural environments in which people are cared for have a direct impact on wellbeing and how a person responds to the challenge of cancer.

Our Centre is staffed by Cancer Support Specialists, Benefits Advisor, Nutritionist, Counsellors, and Psychologists who can support people in whichever way is best suited to their needs. Maggie's is a place to find practical advice about benefits and eating well; a place where qualified experts provide emotional support; a place to meet other people or simply to sit quietly with a cup of tea.

You don't need an appointment- just come in for a chat to find out more about the support offered to them.

**Our centre is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.**

**Find us at:  
21 Milton House  
Puddicombe Way  
Addenbrooke's  
Cambridge CB2 0AD**



**T: 01223 249220  
E: [cambridge@maggies.org](mailto:cambridge@maggies.org)**

**Facebook: [@maggiescentrecambs](https://www.facebook.com/maggiescentrecambs)  
Instagram: [@maggiescambridge](https://www.instagram.com/maggiescambridge)  
Twitter: [@maggiescambs](https://www.twitter.com/maggiescambs)  
Website: [www.maggies.org](http://www.maggies.org)**



## Walking Dogs on the Recreation Field – please read the signs!

A salutary tale and one of the reasons why it is important that you all abide by our golden rules:

1. Dogs on leads on the Recreation Field
2. Use only the perimeter of the field
3. Clean up after your dogs



Last autumn, on two occasions a casual runner and resident of Mepal was exercising on the perimeter of the recreation field. They noticed off-lead dogs on both occasions and had to take avoiding actions as the dogs in question gave chase. This resulted in injury on one occasion and a less than sympathetic response from the owners or dog walkers in question; this is not an amusing anecdote. It is irresponsible behaviour and a clear reason why we require that all dogs are to be kept on leads in this area.

We want everyone to enjoy the recreation field, and we are fortunate enough to live in a part of the Country where there are many other areas where dogs can be let off lead. Yes, they may be muddy, yes, you may need to ensure that there are no other animals in the fields, yes, it may not be as convenient, but please take responsibility for your dogs, read the signs at the entrances, pick up your dog's poo, and keep them on lead and to the outside perimeter.



## Please treat Parish Council facilities with respect

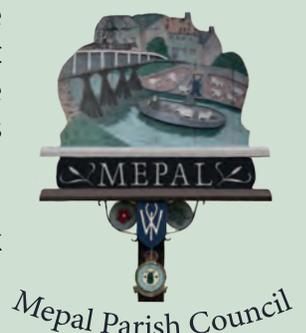
Over the last few weeks, we have had a couple of incidents that have caused some debate on social media, and we feel it is appropriate to clarify that any Parish Council facility or land should be treated with respect, so please consider how your actions might be interpreted.

One incident was reported by an external contractor who reported verbal and physical abuse; this is clearly unacceptable.

Whilst we have been informed that in the other case there was no intention to cause damage, previous stone throwing against the storage container has damaged the vents, and stones thrown from the car park onto the grass to the side door result in issues with external contractors equipment which is unacceptable.

Whilst we are pleased that the recreation field is being used for dog walking, general exercise, games and recreation, we would ask everyone that uses it to respect it, respect its users and respect the people who have to maintain it. In addition, whilst we welcome responsible dog owners to walk dogs on the recreation field, this is subject to using the perimeter of the field only and keeping all dogs on lead. It is also important that all dog owners pick up after their dogs, and this is not just on the field. Particularly problematical areas where dog walkers are leaving dog poo are along the high street, outside the Laurel Close play park and down the outer side of the field. This is particularly unpleasant if children walk through it and take it home with them on their shoes, so please be responsible and always take bags with you and dispose of, ideally in the specific marked dog poo bins. Only use the normal bins if you are a long way from a dog poo bin.

Please also email the Parish Council if you are aware that the Pavilion alarm is causing you a noise disturbance. We are aware of three occurrences over the last 12 months where we have had false alarms and have acted to resolve the issues, but we have received no other reports of early morning false alarms causing noise nuisance for nearby residents. Posting comments on social media cannot be acted on, so please make sure that you report issues and problems to the parish council via the contact us page on the website: [www.mepalparish.org/contact](http://www.mepalparish.org/contact), or by emailing the clerk [clerk@mepalparish.org](mailto:clerk@mepalparish.org)



## Mepal Sports Football Club

It has been a difficult few years for the club but, with the work on the village recreation field almost complete, we are now looking to the future and planning our return to the Club's 'Home Ground'. Mepal Sports had to leave Mepal 5 years ago because of the danger caused by sinking drainage lines. For some time, it seemed that the problem would never be resolved but with the hard work of our present Parish Councillors, the village will finally be able use the field again for football, other sports and village events. After all this time of not being able to use the field, the football club fully understands and supports the Parish Council's decision to delay using the field until late Spring to give the surface time to settle.

Mepal Sports has been working with the Parish Council for some time now and we know a lot of villagers are eager to see the village recreation field used. Village life should mean working together and not tolerating unsociable behaviour. So, the Football Club members have been disappointed to hear of intermittent damage to the Pavilion and storage container, abusive language directed at Parish Councillors and now physical abuse of contractors working at the Pavilion. Clear photos of these culprits, taken from the security cameras, have been sent to the Police. Comments on the Mepal Facebook page about unsociable behaviour within the village, probably from the same group of youths, need to be backed up by reports to the Police – endless twittering won't stop this behaviour, take a stand and report them!

Football should be back in Mepal at the start of next season, if not before; the Pavilion is being used now and the Club will be joining with the Parish Council to put on a Jubilee event in June. With more people around, perhaps those involved in the senseless, criminal and idiotic behaviour seen recently will leave the Pavilion and field for those who have some respect.

With regards the football team, we are currently playing our remaining home games at The Paradise Centre, Ely. We have over 25 players signed on, most of whom live in Mepal, Witcham or Sutton. Once we are back at Mepal, we very much hope that there will be enough support to look at starting Junior football again and, maybe, Walking Football.

If you can help in any way or you want more information, please contact our Secretary – Georgina King on 01353 778141.

E.mail: [georgina@georginakingmepal.co.uk](mailto:georgina@georginakingmepal.co.uk)

**Kershaw 4C**

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	AFC Walpole Reserves	11	10	0	1	20	30
2	Berwick Athletic Reserves	16	9	2	5	21	29
3	Outwell Swifts Reserves	10	9	0	1	46	27
4	West Row Gunners F.C. First Team	16	8	2	6	0	26
5	Mepal Sports	14	8	1	5	13	25
6	Lakenheath Casuals A.F.C	12	7	2	3	23	23
7	AFC Ely First	14	7	1	6	-20	22
8	Guyhirn Res	14	7	1	6	-10	22
9	March Academy Reserves	15	4	1	10	-41	13
10	Chatteris Town A Team	14	2	1	11	-28	1*
11	Manea United Manea Reserves	18	0	1	17	-84	1

\* adjustment made

## VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WANTED!



VCAEC Voluntary & Community Action East Cambs are looking for more volunteer drivers for our extremely busy car scheme.

The majority of our trips are taking people to hospital or the doctors but we also take people shopping, to the hairdressers or to visit relatives as these appointments are just as essential for the individual.

We have drivers who prefer further afield- such as Addenbrookes or QEH Hospitals and others who prefer local journeys- the choice is yours. Whatever your choice you will be very much welcomed!

We are a friendly bunch of people and you will be rewarded with 45p per mile for your help and a summer BBQ and a Christmas party too.

So, if you can spare a minimum of half a day on a regular basis and would like to help others in your community please contact Mark, our CEO on 01353 666166 or email [m.goldsack@vcaec.org.uk](mailto:m.goldsack@vcaec.org.uk) to have a chat.

Our volunteers say how rewarding the role is as they are helping others whilst also keeping themselves busy and staying in touch with others.

[www.vcaec.org.uk](http://www.vcaec.org.uk)



## Mepal Wombles

The Mepal Wombles have been busy in recent weeks. If anyone knows of someone who likes to throw their Carlsberg cans out of their car onto the verges - can you please ask them to stop !

Tins hurt wildlife with sharp edges & all the plastic is polluting our drinking water & rivers.

Her Majesty, The Queen, will be celebrating her Platinum Jubilee this year and events and activities will be taking place all over the UK.

As our contribution to Mepal's celebrations over the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend, Mepal Parish Council and Mepal Sports Football Club will be joining forces to present:-

## **The Big Village Picnic on Sunday June 5 at the Community Pavilion and Recreation Field**

So bring along a rug, some drink and some food and meet up with friends for a fun afternoon.

### **Rather sit on a chair?**

Refreshments will also be available should you just want tea, cake and company with seating set out in the marquee and details of other activities planned for the day will be given at a later date.

**The Football Fun Factory** will be there to entertain the children with their inflatable games and for the older players why not try Beat The Goalie and Walking Football?



**So put the date in your diary – we hope to see you there!**

## DIARY DATES

### March

Tue 1st	St Mary's Pancakes at Village Hall	15:00
Weds 2nd	Friendship Club Bingo and Book Exchange	10:00
Fri 4th	Mepal & District Camera Club Monthly Meet	19:30
Tues 8th	MPC Zoom Community Drop in	19:00 - 19:30
Weds 9th	Friendship Club Coffee and Quiz Morning	10:00
Sun 13th	Holy Communion BCP at St Mary's Church	11.30
Weds 16th	Friendship Club Fish and Chips	10:00
Fri 18th	Quiz Night at Village Hall	19:00
Sun 20th	Mepal Market at Village Hall - Refreshments by Sutton Scouts	10:00 - 12:00
Sun 20th	Parish Communion at St Mary's Church	11.30
Sun 27th	BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's Church	9.30
Sun 27th	Family Service for Mothers Day at St Mary's Church	11.30
Weds 30th	Friendship Club Meet at Skylark GC, Coffee and a Wander	10:00

### April

Fri 1st	Mepal & District Camera Club Monthly Meet	19:30
Weds 6th	Friendship Club Bingo Book Exchange	10:00
Tues 12th	Full Parish Council Meeting at Mepal Pavilion	19:00
Weds 13th	Friendship Club Easter Bonnet, Craft Competition & Cake Decorating	10:00
Sun 17th	Easter Day Service at St Mary's Church	11:30
Mon 18th	Coffee & Cakes at St Mary's Church	10:30 - 12:00
Weds 20th	Friendship Club Afternoon Tea	14:30 - 16:00
Weds 27th	Friendship Club Coffee and chat	10:00

## Support available for people looking after family members or friends

Do you care for someone who would find it difficult to cope without that support? This could be looking after a family member, partner or friend because of their illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction. If this sounds like your situation, then your role means you are recognised as a carer.

Caring Together are a local charity who last year supported more than 17,000 carer of all ages and their families across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, and Norfolk. Carers can be any age and have a wide range of situations.

### THE LIBRARY PRESENTS

Bringing arts activities to locations across Cambridgeshire  
April – June 2022



We're looking forward to our ninth season of high quality, affordable arts activities in the heart of towns and villages across Cambridgeshire.

Events will be taking place in libraries and outdoor locations.



Brochures and tickets available from late March in libraries, or visit [www.library.live/the-library-presents](http://www.library.live/the-library-presents)



Urban&Civic

Babylon ARTS

CULTURE

Cambridgeshire County Council

Whether you are new to your caring role, have seen your role evolve as the person you care for has needed more support over time, or have lost a loved one you cared for, Caring Together are there to help you. They can offer a range of advice, information and support, and help you, and the person you care for, access services that are helpful to you.

Their services include:

- a dedicated carers telephone where trained advisors can give you information and advice that will support you in your caring role, such as carers assessments, emergency planning and welfare benefits;
- homecare services, where a care worker looks after the person you care for, including to enable you to have a break;
- face-to-face and online carers hubs, where you can meet other carers in a similar situation;
- a monthly newsletter to keep you informed and updated.

To find out more call them on **0345 241 0954** or email them at [hello@caringtogether.org](mailto:hello@caringtogether.org).

You can also visit their website:

[www.caringtogether.org.uk](http://www.caringtogether.org.uk)

 **Caring Together**  
so that carers have choices

**A Mepal Mum who set up a Community Pantry for her neighbourhood,** which bears a sign reading- take what you need, leave what you can, is both saddened and pleased with the response. "I didn't think it would be



so necessary but nearly 2 years on it has been a lifeline to not just struggling families but we also doorstep deliver to those who can't get out due to shielding or ill health, so it has become a much needed addition to the village."

As well as donations from other Mepal residents, there is also rescued food from local food businesses and supermarkets which is available to anyone who wants to be a waste warrior and is passionate about saving the planet by rescuing food that would be headed for landfill.

Ruth Marley who runs the Re-imagine Resource Centre in Witchford has been serving her

community throughout this difficult time from Food Boxes to Face Mask Kits. "It's been an incredibly challenging two years for non-profit organisations, we have struggled with huge drops in key income streams and have had to adapt to entirely new ways of working, whilst at the same time finding demand for the services greater than ever. One of the few bright spots in this otherwise bleak picture has been an upsurge in social action, new local groups and networks have formed in response to the challenges presented by the crisis, alongside an abundance of informal acts of neighbourliness and collective spirit that is just so encouraging to see."

As the number of COVID-19 cases is currently still high, she has said she has no plans to stop taking donations, hinting that she might continue to maintain the village pantry once the pandemic passes. "I feel like as long as people have a need and they're willing to continue to give and take food, I'll keep up the Pantry as long as I can" she said. "Even though alone you can't save the world you can make a real difference to a part of it. Follow your compassion where it takes you because compassion fuels kindness, gentleness and patience- it binds a community together and creates an equal space for everyone to thrive."

The Mepal Pantry is located down the Cul-de-sac of Bridge Road and is open for everyone to visit. If you'd like to contribute to the work Re-imagine does, visit our FACEBOOK Page **Re-imagine Resource Centre** for details.

The Mepal Market is a fairly new event in the Mepal Diary, with our first market being held last September. We are showcasing the wares of local businesses and crafty local people. The bimonthly market is held at the Village Hall between the hours of **10 am and 12 noon and entry is free**. Refreshments are served by local community groups or individuals raising money for their own group or their chosen charity. In the warmer months we hope to host stalls in the car park as well as the hall, creating a much larger market. Please get in touch by emailing [mepalmarket@gmail.com](mailto:mepalmarket@gmail.com) if you would be interested in having a stall or providing the refreshments.

Dates for 2022  
**March 20th** refreshments by Sutton Scouts  
**May 15th** refreshments by Friendship Club  
**July 17th** refreshments by Friends of the School  
**September 18th**  
**November 27th**



**Mepal Matters Print Dealines**

April 12th - May/June issue

June 14th - July/August issue

August 9th - September/October issue

October 11th - November/December issue

December 8th - Jan/Feb 2023 issue

Mepal Parish Council:  
 Clerk: Karen Peck - 01353 741066  
 Chairman: Brian Rollason  
 Vice Chair: Lorna Williams,  
 Councillors: Sam Foord, Jack Hickman



Mepal Matters is provided by the Parish Council  
 Send articles to: [mepalmatters@mepalparish.org](mailto:mepalmatters@mepalparish.org)  
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