

Mepal People



Winter Edition 2010

Ye New Mepal Woode

The fens, like much of England, were once covered in mighty oak forests. These were lost not through industrialisation as in the rest of the country but by climate change 10,000 years ago. The sea swept in forming the marshlands that were much later to be drained to create our familiar, rich agricultural landscape. Cambridgeshire today is one of the least wooded areas in England but at a time of renewed threat through climate maybe it's time the oaks and other trees of the traditional woodland returned to the fens.

Many villagers must be wondering what will happen to the scrubland behind Meadow Way at the side of the A142. Many locals were no doubt pleased to see the Parish Clerk, with the help of the District Council, succeed in getting the developer's sign board removed. However, our longer-term plans for the land are far more ambitious. The Parish Council is now working on proposals to create a community woodland area. We believe planting new woodland will bring huge benefits to the village by improving the landscape and giving us a new leisure area. Not to mention helping to counter climate change and providing a habitat for many species of animals and plants.

The land is currently in the ownership of Reason Homes but is limited to use as a natural space. Reason Homes would like to transfer ownership of the land to the Parish Council. The Parish Council intends to work in partnership with East Cambridgeshire DC and the Woodland Trust under the Planting Parishes initiative to create the new woodland. The Parish Council hopes to be able to access grant funding to help buy trees but will also need to fundraise and find volunteers to help plant the trees. Once we have sufficient funds we intend to hold a planting event involving the whole community to give local people a sense of ownership in creating the woodland.

The new woodland is something everyone in the village will benefit from. In these times of cuts to so many community projects this is something we as a village can do for ourselves. Anyone and everyone in the village can help make this happen. In fact, we cannot do this without your support. You can join the working group to help us fundraise, plant trees or simply make a donation, however small it all helps.

If you would like more information, to offer your help or make a donation please contact Sally Shipley, Clerk to the Parish Council. For further information about the project and the opportunity to make a donation visit: www.eastcamb.gov.uk/environment/planting-parishes and follow the link to "Mepal."

Olle Mark Detustead (Chair of the Mepal
Woodland Working Group)

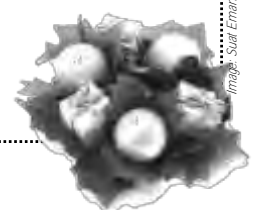
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Mepal Sports Action Group (MeSSAGE)

Thank you for your support over the past 12 months!

The year 2010 marked MESSAGE's 10th Anniversary, the highlight of which was 'Showcasing Mepal'. We hope you agree that this day of celebration on a warm, sunny day in July was a great success – a day when all the village groups and organisations came together to show what village life is all about.

Unfortunately, the weather was not so kind to us later in the year when the Car Boots and annual Rounders Day were cancelled because of rain. It is difficult to know what fundraising events to put on but we hope we have come up with something of interest for next year.

Starting in January, MESSAGE will be running '**Mepal Community Marts**'. Every two months, there will be a chance for you to sell some of your unwanted items but each sale will have a theme, for instance it may be books, DVDs, CDs on one occasion or toys, puzzles children's clothes on another. The first one will be on **Sunday 16 January** with a 'Mini-Mart'. Because of the January weather we cannot spill outside so selling space will be limited to the Pavilion's small tables but these will still be adequate for the sale of, say, duplicated Christmas gifts, bric a brac, jewellery – anything that will fit on or below the table. And the charge for tables at this mart will only be **£1!** Refreshments will also be available so come along, have a browse and chat even if you don't want to be one of the sellers. Look out for details nearer the date but, in the meantime, have a good Christmas!



Dates for your Diary

December 2010

3 rd	8.00pm	Gardening Club Christmas Party	Village Hall
5 th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
5 th	10.30am	Service with Communion	Union Chapel
7 th	2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
8 th	11.45am	Friendship Club – Christmas Lunch	Black Bull, Somersham
10 th	7.30pm	Christmas Tombola	Village Hall
12 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's
15 th	10.00am	Friendship Club – Christmas Party	Pavilion
17 th	7.30pm	Tombola Evening	Village Hall
19 th	10.30am	Carol Service	Union Chapel
19 th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
21 st	12.30pm	Good Companions – Christmas Lunch	Village Hall
21 st		Carol Singing around the village – watch for details	
25 th	10.30am	Christmas Day Parish Eucharist	St Mary's
26 th	10.30am	St Stephen's Parish Eucharist	St Stephen's
	10.00-11.00am	Line Dancing Every Tuesday	Village Hall
	7.00-8.00pm	Line Dancing Every Thursday	Village Hall

January 2011

2 nd	10.30am	Service with Communion	Union Chapel
2 nd	4.00pm	Carol Service	St Mary's
4 th	2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
8 th	6.00pm	Race Night – Going to the dogs	Village Hall
8 th	7.30pm	Monthly Tombola	Village Hall
9 th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's
12 th	10.00am	Friendship Club – Coffee & chat	Pavilion
16 th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's
16 th	10.30am	Family Service	Union Chapel
16 th	TBA	Message Mini-Mart	Pavilion
17 th	7.30pm	Gardening Club	Village Hall
18 th	2.30pm	Good Companions	Village Hall
18 th	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's
23 rd	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St. Mary's

Dancing to success!

We're going from strength to strength with more people attending both the Tuesday morning and Thursday evening classes. On Tuesday 19th October we were invited back for a third time to give a demonstration at the Gables residential home in Chatteris. Many of the residents joined in and a great time was had by all.

On Friday 29th October we held our second line dance party. A total of 46 people from Mepal and neighbouring villages had a most enjoyable evening and we raised a total of £240.00 which was shared between Cancer Research, MacMillan Nurses and Alzheimer charities.

Next year some of us are going to be a little more adventurous and we will be going on a line dance long week-end at Hemsby in October. If anybody would like to join the party or thinks they might be interested in giving line dancing a try, please get in touch with Allen on 775302 for more information.

Tell us all about it!

Mepal People is distributed *free* to every household in Mepal, so if you have a message, story, picture, or even just a good doodle for the good people of Mepal, then send it to us. Mepal People is completely run by volunteers.

To make the next issue, get your stuff to us by **19 January 2010.**

Email

mepalpeople@gmail.com
(preferred option)

Other ways to send us your articles:

By phone

Mary Fuller 01353 777147

By post/hand

c/o Sandy, 23 High St;
or
c/c Rae, 7 Rectory Fields;
or
c/o Barbara, 18 Laurel Close

(Space restrictions may mean contributions can't be used immediately. We reserve the right to edit.)

Adverts & Inserts

Sally Shipley
01353 774994
mepalparishcouncil

UNION CHAPEL

The Chapel set a record that has not been matched over the last 50 years at its Autumn Fayre when there were 22 people in the schoolroom, but 12 of that number were manning stalls. This meant that there were several prizes for each of the draw winners!

~ Ernie Barlow

Mepal & Witcham Primary School gets off to a great start!

Fundraising success brings new equipment while parents dig in with gusto

We have had a very busy term so far. It started with a non-uniform day to raise money for some new play equipment for playtimes. We raised £77 and have been able to buy some footballs, skipping ropes, Frisbees and several cup and ball games.



At the end of October we had our "Get your Grown-ups Digging Day" which was good fun. Several parents

helped us plant bulbs for the spring and then joined us for lunch which was really nice. The Gardening Club have also been planting -

strawberries, blackcurrants, fruit bushes and broad beans. Mrs Dicks is the lady who runs the club. She works along with twelve children to plant, weed and water the vegetable patch every Wednesday and Friday lunchtime. Our environmental area has a pond, bird houses, insect boxes and a shed. The fences protecting the area are provided with peep holes to see wildlife.

Next term our plans include a fashion show and creating a school newspaper.

~ Mepal & Witcham School Council

Witchford Village College Community Education

Saturday 27 November 2010

Emergency First Aid
Level 2 Food Safety in Catering
Introduction to SAGE

Courses Starting January 2011

Book Keeping Level 2
CLAIT
Computerised Accounts Level 2
Floristry Advanced
Reflexology
Stained Glass
Update Your Computer Skills

Courses Starting February 2011

Assertiveness
Floristry Beginners

For further information visit
www.witchfordcollege.co.uk
Telephone: 01353 664468
email: scook2@witchfordvillage.cambs.sch.uk

Mapping out the air-field in Mepal

At the last meeting the Archive Group received an interesting post-war map of the airfield. We wondered if there was anyone else who has a map of the village; if so please come along and share it with us. Our next meeting is at 6pm on 20th January in the Village Hall.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the Archive Group in 2010. A Happy New Year to all!

~ Mepal Archive Group



*A big "Thank you" to
Mepal Village*

The Coffee/Bacon Butty Morning held in the Village Hall on 23 October raised a final total of £1,077!

An outstanding sum, thanks to the kindness and generosity of all of you who attended and contributed to making the event such a huge success.

A cheque for £1,077 has been forward to Cancer Research UK where the money will be used for cancer research in Cambridge.

~ Jenny Sparrow and helpers

Mepal Gardening Club



As expected the talk by Ed Frear was extremely interesting and the photographs were excellent and I believe it will not only encourage a lot more bird watching in our gardens but also photographing them as well.



The talk by Mike Thurlow, Head Gardener at Audley End, which took place in November was most enlightening and he gave us many worthwhile tips and hints not only on allotments but on our gardens as well. This was a talk that proved to be of interest to all gardeners and those who attended



thoroughly enjoyed it and those that missed it missed a treat.



Members of the garden club will have been on a coach trip, 23rd November, to Scotsdale Garden Centre in Cambridge for a special evening event and I am sure we all will come home laden with goodies as we are being given a special discount on anything purchased.



December is our Christmas Party and it will again be dancing to Leigh Murfet and I am sure we shall all have a great time. A few tickets are still available so do come along and join in the fun.

Well, another year has flown by and January sees the start of our new programme. Our first talk is going to be by Jane Frost on *Willow in the Garden*. Jane will be showing how to make items from willow and she will also be selling items already made, so do come along I am sure everyone will find this a fascinating talk and demonstration.

It had been suggested that the junction of Sutton Road with the A142 needed brightening up in spring, so the Garden Club has been out in force and planted daffodil bulbs. Hopefully next Spring will show the fruits of our labours. Many thanks to those who helped.



Bird Seed is available as usual from Allen Sallis just give him a ring on 775302 and order or come to the meetings once a month and buy.

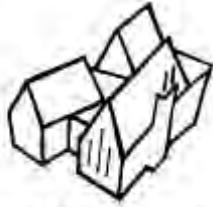
~ Mepal Gardening Club

The Final Tombola Evening for 2010 Grand Christmas session Friday 17th December Mince pies will be served!

Tombola! **Dates for 2010** Fridays, Village Hall

★	→	★★★	○○
◆◆	★	→	15 Oct
😊	◎	17 Dec	Eyes down 7.30pm





Mepal Village Hall

Registered charity No 297314

Mike Petty's illustrated talk on 1st October about the Fens in the 1940s, covering the Second World War and the great flood of 1947, held a large audience enthralled. We hope that he will be able to return here in the New Year to give a much broader picture of the history of our part of the country, stretching from the seventeenth century to the present day. Watch out for further details.

On 17th November with the generous assistance of Arts in Cambs on Tour we hosted a virtuoso display of Bluegrass, Folk and Fun by "Coup de Grass", with a licensed bar as usual adding to the conviviality of the event.

Another year is nearly over and we again owe hearty thanks to Ron and Sally Slough for running the monthly tombola evenings which provide enjoyment for people from a wide area as well as from Mepal and are also an invaluable source of revenue for the Hall. The evenings themselves are only the tip of the iceberg for Ron and Sally, who devote a great deal of time during each month to organising the prizes and publicising these events.



The task of maintaining and improving the Hall is never-ending. Amongst other projects we have re-sited the main notice board, we are continuing to work on our plans to bring the kitchen up to modern catering standards, we are installing better lighting outside the main entrance doors, and by the time this

newsletter appears we hope to have demolished the large cupboard which houses the electricity switchgear and replaced it with a much smaller casing, so as to free up some useful floor space. The war on

Contact the committee

Chairman – Allen Sallis – 775302

Vice-Chairman – Gordon Reid 775150

Treasurer – Jenny Sparrow – 778895

Secretary – David Stazicker – 778129

mepalvillagehall@gmail.com



Mike Petty's lecture went down a storm



Coup de Grass stormed the barn!

weeds, if you will forgive the mixed metaphor, is like painting the Forth Bridge.

Our efforts to maintain the Hall as a fitting community centre for the village have again been greatly helped by a generous grant of £550 from the Parish Council, for which we are very grateful. Volunteers from outside the membership of the Committee kindly contribute their time and abilities to our work - June Edwards in providing the refreshments for the tombola evenings and other occasions, and David Gladstone in our maintenance and improvement projects.

Owing to other commitments Sarah Holmes has found it necessary to resign from the Committee. Especial thanks are due to Sarah, since she joined us in April 2009, for bringing a breath of fresh air to our mostly grey-headed committee, introducing new ideas and producing quite brilliant publicity material for events in the Hall.

~ Mepal Village Hall Committee

To hire the Hall

Contact Jenny Sparrow on 778895

Local Community Groups : Occasional Bookings £10/hour; Regular Bookings £6/hour daytime, £8/hour from 6pm. **Private Parties** : £75 plus cash deposit - Mepal Residents: £100, others £200. **Commercial Functions** - Regular: by arrangement. Occasional: £15/hour.

Report of Activities to 30th Nov 2010

Councillors: Mr Mike Stacey (Chairman), Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker (Vice Chairman), Mr Ron Slough, Mr Mark Newstead, Mr Glenn Drew, Mr Tony Pleasance, Mr Allen Sallis

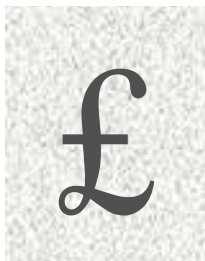
Contact: Sally Shipley (Clerk) 50 Chestnut Way, Mepal, Ely, CB76 2YR.

Tel: 01353 774994.

Email: mepalparishcouncil@msn.com



Setting of the precept for 2011/12
At the Full Council meeting in November, the Parish Council resolved to set the estimated precept figure at £28,845 for 2011/12 which is no increase on the current financial year. The budget will be reviewed again in January before the final figure is agreed.



A Woodland for Mepal
Please see separate article in this issue.

Consultations

Over the last two months, the Parish Council has responded to the following consultation; Communities and Local Government consultation on the Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity. A copy of the response is available from the Clerk.

Planning

since the last report, the Parish Council has considered the following planning application; the construction of a two storey side extension and modifications to porch at 15 Witcham Road, Mepal. No comment was made on this application.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Mepal Parish Council will be on **Monday 10th January 2011 at 19:30 in Mepal Village Hall.** Everyone is welcome to attend and should you have any items of local concern then you may address the Council at the Open Forum.



Litter Pick

A big thank you to everyone who came and helped at the Litter Pick Afternoon on Saturday 30th October. The quantity of rubbish collected has diminished every year since we started the Litter Picks so hopefully this is a good sign!

Bus Shelters

we have received a lot of positive feedback about the two new bus shelters in the village. We hope they will help to keep those using the bus dry and warm during the winter. Thank you to everyone involved in the Working Party for supporting the Parish Council with this project.



Renewable Energy for Mepal Community Pavilion

Following the success of our grant application, the Development Study Report has now been undertaken to investigate the use and effectiveness of renewable energy technologies for Mepal Community Pavilion. As a result, the Parish Council is currently compiling a further grant application for the capital costs of providing photovoltaic panels on the roof of the pavilion. We will keep you posted.

Finally, we wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2011!



Speedwatch

Since the last publication of Mepal People we have held our second Speedwatch operation in Sutton Road, this time in the morning, to monitor the performance of traffic leaving the Village during the rush hour period. The results showed some improvement in drivers' behaviour over the previous operation, which is encouraging, but there are still a number of drivers who seem to be willing to disregard the safety of others in order to knock a few seconds off their journey time.

Safety of pedestrians and drivers is paramount and Speedwatch volunteers will continue to assist the police throughout the county in order to achieve a better level of protection for our citizens.

If you can spare a couple of hours each month during daylight hours and can read a number plate and would like to become a Speedwatch operative then why not contact Lucy at Ely Police station on 0345 456 4564 Ext 6623 for an information pack and application form.

Mepal People Ads

Finally, a guaranteed solution for your flat roof problems, proven to last over 40 years!

Does your roof suffer from any of these signs?
Moss growth • Cracks or bumps • Leaks • Expired guarantee • Or is it more than 5 years old?

Stop! Replace it now, replace it permanently and prevent misery from a leaking roof.

Unlike felt, RubberBond EPDM will not split, leak or crack and it's tough enough to walk on. Installed in full compliance with the revised Building Regulations of April 2006!

RUBBERBOND
EPDM APPROVED INSTALLER

WHITEHALL
Flat Roofing

Call NOW for your FREE, no obligation quotation - valid for 12 months.
01638 507730
Lines open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

www.whitehallflatroofing.co.uk

Consumer Protection Association

Winthorpe Ltd
Fully Qualified Vehicle Technician

Book a Winter service and get a FREE diagnostic check (saving up to £40)
Offer valid until 31/10/11

Winter servicing from £50

- MOT's • Servicing & Repairs
- MOT repairs and welding • Diagnostic checks

07824 667391 01354 278684

Body & Beauty
Sutton
Tel: (01353) 775302

GABRIELA

Mobile Professional Hair-dresser
In the comfort of your own home!

Fully qualified

Green Wood Tree Surgery

Fully Insured
Fully Equipped
Free Estimates

All Aspects Tree Surgery undertaken including Stump Removal

PAUL GOLDSMITH
Mobile 07801 550 914
Tel 01628 780188
info@greenwoodtreesurgery.co.uk
9 Coates drive, Isleham, Ely, Cambs. CB7 9SJ.

The Soham Carpet & Bedding Centre
Est. 1977

For all your Vinyl, Carpets, Curtains & Blinds

Try our new, unique **Home Selection Service** for flooring and soft furnishings together. We offer **Impartial Professional Advice** and a **Comprehensive After Sales Service.**

www.sohamcarpets.co.uk
Or call us on
01353 669880/07885 087458

Fencing Timber
Entrance Gates
Screws and Nails
Electric Fencing
Animal Feeds
Elite Greenhouses
Wheelbarrows.....

Not just for farmers.....

Fen Farm Supplies
01353 776126
www.fenfarmsupplies.co.uk
Mepal Road - Witcham - ELY - Cambs - CB6 2LD

Are you worried about your weight?
The Cambridge Weight Plan could be the answer. Contact me today.
Your independent Cambridge Consultant:

Stella Revett
tel. 01353 775002 Mobile 07900504841
email stellarevett@hotmail.com

Cambridge
Weight Plan
Real people, real support, real results.

Wickys

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
Tel: 01353 776226, 69c High Street, Sutton, CB6 2NL

Sutton
The Pavilion, The Brooklands Centre, The Brook
Monday 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Chatteris
Bricstan Hall, Beside Church Market Hill
Tuesday 10.00am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Slimming WORLD
discover the amazing you

For information, please call
Georgina 01354 694234



**ADMIRAL
HOMESPACE**

- FLAT ROOFING
- CONSERVATORIES
- REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
- LIFT CONVERSIONS

Free Quote • Absolute
Integrity
Dania • P218 45W
01480 456789
admiral@homespace.com

**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.

**STEVE'S
FLOORING**

- Carpet & vinyls
- Supplied & fitted
- Free quotations

Steve W Barnes
38 Morton Close
Ely CB7 4FE

**ARCHITECTURAL
CONSULTANTS**

Planning & Design drawings for your new house, extension etc

Contact us now
T:01353 649649
M:07939 158482

**LUDOVIC POTTS
RESTORATIONS**

- Renovation
- Inlay
- Gilding
- Clock/Bareometer Repairs
- Replacement Fittings
- French Polishing
- Leather Limpet
- Upholstery
- Lacquer Work
- Case & Bushwork



Tel/Fax: 01353 741537
www.restorers.co.uk

E-Mail: mail@restorers.co.uk



British Antique Furniture Restorers Association

WITCHFORD 3G PITCH NOW OPEN!

Available for hire

Mondays - Fridays 5pm - 9.45pm

Weekends by negotiation

Prices start from £18.00 per hour

WVC SPORTS HALL

Available for hire

Mondays - Fridays 5pm - 9pm

Prices start from £25.00 per hour

OPEN BADMINTON SESSIONS

Wednesdays and Fridays 8pm - 9pm

£6.00 per court

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

TRAMPOLINING SESSIONS

Level 3 coach

Wednesday 4.30pm - 5.30pm and 5.30pm - 6.30pm

£24.00 per 6 week course (one hour sessions)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

For further information and to book, please contact:

Carly Bateman 01353 662053 ext 121

sports.lettings@witchfordvillage.cambs.sch.uk

A & C Home Improvements

- Plumbing & Heating
- Boiler Servicing
- Floor & Wall Tiling
- Bathrooms Fitted
- Kitchens Fitted

For a Free Estimate Please Call 01353



MEPAL P.O & STORES LTD

Serving the Local Community

7A High Street, Mepal, Ely, Cambs CB6 2AW
01353 778275

Under New Management

We provide the following goods and services:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| POST OFFICE
**** | DRY CLEANING
**** |
| NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES
**** | GREETING CARDS/ GIFT WRAP
**** |
| SWEETS & CONFECTIONERY
**** | CIGARETTES/ TOBACCO
**** |
| STATIONERY/ TOYS
**** | ALL CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS
ACCEPTED |
| PHONE TOP UPS
**** | Please ask us if would like any extra goods or services |
| BOTTLED GAS & COAL | |

Shop Opening Hours:
Mon-Fri 6.30 am – 7 pm
Sat 7 am – 7 pm
Sun 8 am – 1 pm

Post Office Opening Hours:
Mon-Fri 9 am – 5.30 pm
Sat 9 am – 12.30 pm
Sun Closed

All closed for lunch from 1-2pm

Light Angles
Photography

Photography
&
Digital Imaging

Wedding & Portrait Photography

School & Nursery Photography

Photography & Digital Imaging
Services, Training & Advice



please call Ian
on
01353 776267

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

Computer Problems?

Whatever your PC or Laptop problem,
Ely PC & Laptop Repair can help!

Local - Honest - Friendly - Reliable - Competitive

- PC Repairs & Upgrades
- Laptop Repairs & Upgrades
- Wireless Networks & Internet
- Virus Removal
- Data Recovery
- Home & Business

10% OFF Call-out charge with this advert (includes first hour)

www.elypcrepair.com

Covering the whole of Cambridgeshire

Tel: 01353 780111 | Mob: 07825 285115