

**Parish  
News** **Great and Little  
Maplestead Pebmarsh  
and Gestingthorpe**

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**Church and Community together**  
**April 2022**

**Free**

## Village contacts and information

Contact details for Reverend Beverley Vincent can be found on page 43 and the churchwardens on page 41. Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see also page 44.

Magazine copy see page 28

### Parish Clerks

Gt Maplestead	Ann Crisp	01787 460216	anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Lt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	Kevin B Money	07810 781509	gestingthorpepc@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Shelley Boydel	07801 492312	pebmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

### The Maplesteads

WI	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
WEA	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannnewton4@gmail.com
Autumn Show	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com

### Gt Maplestead

Task Force	Martin Elms	01787 461421	martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Village Hall	Liz Newton	01787 461308	lizatlucking@hotmail.com
Playing Field	Joe Newton	01787 461308	lizatlucking@hotmail.com
Mixed Ability Yoga	Victoria Ashworth	07751 911923	justinashworth@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates	Catherine Pawsey	07814 459683	catherinepawseypilates@gmail.com
Dance & Keep Fit	Judy Cowell	01376 561757	judy.cowell@btinternet.com
Carpet Bowls	Janice Chaplin	01787 469600	bobandjanicechaplin@btinternet.com
Youth Club	Myra Jeggo	01787 474285	m.jeggo@sky.com

### Gestingthorpe

Village Hall	Steve Bagby	07840 367182	
Village amenities	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Tower bell ringing	Valerie Fullman	01787 462755	
Cricket Club	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Football Club			
History Society	Gill Webb	01787 581836	gillwebb880@gmail.com

### Pebmarsh

Village Hall	Jonathan Nott	01787 269231	jonathannott44@hotmail.com
Dog Training	Halstead Dog Club	01787 473154	halsteaddogclub@hotmail.co.uk
Card making	Pauline Andow	01787 228790	
Ladies Club	Pauline Andow	01787 228790	
	Sandra Beaney	01787 222220	
Carpet bowls	Jim Crayston	01787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
Youth club	Carol Parker	01787 269996	taximother@googlemail.com
Baby Sensory Class	Helen Whiting	07703 790273	braintree@babysensory.co.uk

### Footpaths

Gt Maplestead	Steve Harris	01787 462818	steve198harris@gmail.com
Lt Maplestead	Geraldine Holloway	01787 476530	geraldineholloway2017@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	L Crumpton-Taylor	01787 460277	lesliecrumpton-taylor@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Michael Sharp	07725 909986	michael@broomhills-farm.co.uk

### All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537	acantor56@outlook.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Margaret Crudgington	01787 476259	
Solar Society	Miles Scrivens	01787 469766	lauri.scrivens@gmail.com
Benefice Choir	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Scouts	Stuart Carter	01787 461149	
Guides	Kathy Hoy	01787 280200	
Molly's Wood	Jane Posta		<a href="https://www.mollyswood.org/contact">https://www.mollyswood.org/contact</a>

## Letter from the editor

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Barry Vincent, our lovely Vicar's husband, is editing the Parish News this month for which much thanks. It gives me a break to look after my husband.

With Easter approaching and the weather getting warmer and Covid seemingly under control, our Villages have the green light to start to organize a whole variety of events. Organising committees have been busy planning how we can take part in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and there are lots of events planned which you can put in your diaries.

Sarah Maguire sent me the lovely cover photo that she took last week. The deer were feeding peacefully in the middle of a field when they caught her eye on the horizon. Aren't we blessed to live in such beautiful countryside.

Jenny

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## Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

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We are fast approaching Easter which falls in the middle of April this year. Easter is a season all about hope and I really wanted to find some hopeful words to share with you this month.

We have watched with disbelief and horror as the Russian invasion of Ukraine has unfolded. We have seen through the extensive news coverage the brutal destruction of Ukraine's homes, hospitals, schools and towns and the human suffering wrought on innocent civilians, many of them women and children. We see bewilderment and fear on the faces of the displaced and our hearts are broken for what is lost and threatened.



The plight of the Ukrainian people is part of the ongoing story of humanity's inhumanity as people of power and tyranny battle to keep the upper hand. Every time this situation happens in our world we cry out with horror and vow that it must never happen again and yet, even with the refugee crises in Syria and Afghanistan still fresh in our minds we find another humanitarian disaster unfolding. How can we respond to what is happening?

We can, of course give generously of our money and practical help to send supplies of humanitarian aid to Ukraine and countries receiving refugees. We may be able to open our homes to displaced individuals and families but sometimes all we can do is pray. But prayer can be hard. Sometimes it is hard to see where a loving God is in all of this. But I believe God hears our prayers and weeps with the people of Ukraine because God has seen humanity inflict suffering so many times before.

The Easter story is one of suffering and death for Jesus, a man of peace and love and because Jesus trod that road to the cross he understands the human suffering of each Ukrainian soul and walks beside them today. Each Easter we remember that Jesus, despite his suffering and death rose from the dead to new life. Ultimately the Easter story ends with triumph that love and hope prevails, that good conquers evil.

The Easter story tells us that hope is stronger than despair, that love is stronger than hate, that peace is stronger than war and that life is stronger than death. This Easter I pray that this will be true for the people of Ukraine and for a world that longs for hope, love, peace and life. Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and for peace.

Easter blessings



### The F315 Local Bus Service

Unlike a conventional bus, you need to first register as a customer and you need to book your seat on a journey at least two hours in advance of travel.

Flat fare £2.50 single, £4 return between any two stages. Concessionary bus passes are accepted after 0900 Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays. To get more information call Essex DaRT on 01621 874410 or email [info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk](mailto:info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk). The latest timetables for the DaRT service Please note that [www.essex.gov.uk/dart](http://www.essex.gov.uk/dart) is not the correct website for this service is not the correct website

**SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL - PEBMARSH - GREAT AND LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - HALSTEAD**

<b>F315</b>							<b>From 01/03/2018</b>
Sudbury, Bus Station	09:00	11:00	13:00	15:30	17:30	19:15	
Ballingdon, Kings Head	09:03	11:03	13:03	15:33	17:33	19:18	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22	All timings in Italic need to be pre-booked
Bulmer, Cross Roads	09:11	11:11	13:11	15:41	17:41	19:26	
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	09:17	11:17	13:17	15:47	17:47	19:32	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	09:23	11:23	13:23	15:53	17:53	19:38	
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	09:32	11:32	13:32	16:02	18:02	19:47	Timings other than those in bold type will vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	09:33	11:33	13:33	16:03	18:03	19:48	
Little Maplestead, Corner	09:39	11:39	13:39	16:09	18:09	19:54	
Great Maplestead, Church	09:45	11:45	13:45	16:15	18:15	20:00	latest arrival time
Little Maplestead, Pump	09:51	11:51	13:51	16:21	18:21	20:06	earliest arrival time
Halstead, High Street	09:56	11:56	13:56	16:26	18:26	20:11	
Halstead, High Street	09:37	11:37	13:37	16:07	18:07	19:43	

<b>F315</b>							<b>From 01/03/2018</b>
Halstead, High Street	07:30	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	18:30	
Little Maplestead, Pump	07:35	10:05	12:05	14:05	16:35	18:35	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
Great Maplestead, Church	07:41	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:41	18:41	All timings in Italic need to be pre-booked
Little Maplestead, Cook	07:49	10:17	12:17	14:17	16:47	18:47	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	07:54	10:23	12:23	14:23	16:53	18:53	
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	07:55	10:24	12:24	14:24	16:54	18:54	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	08:04	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:03	19:03	Timings other than those in bold type will vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	08:10	10:39	12:39	14:39	17:09	19:09	
Bulmer, Cross Roads	08:15	10:45	12:45	14:45	17:15	19:15	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	08:19	10:49	12:49	14:49	17:19	19:19	
Ballingdon, Kings Head	08:23	10:53	12:53	14:53	17:23	19:23	
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:37	10:37	12:37	14:37	17:07	19:07	earliest arrival time
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:30	10:56	12:56	14:56	17:26	19:26	latest arrival time



## **Little Maplestead**

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Although the Government has relaxed most of the Covid restrictions, we still feel that it is important to offer support to anyone in the village who may need it, this is not necessarily Covid specific, it could be any small task. We can collect drugs, search the internet if you do not have a computer, or just be a friendly voice on the other end of the phone.

Some businesses/government departments only seem to offer communication via email, which of course is great for those of us that have the internet, but for those without it this is not very helpful.

The Little Maplestead support group can help!!

Please contact Bill Piper on 01787473933, Jane Stone on 01787472525, Gemma Frost on 07826523187

## **Queens Platinum Jubilee Weekend**

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Little Maplestead Parish Council is organising a couple of events to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee weekend.

The first event will be on the extra Jubilee Bank Holiday 2 June, and the second will be a Village Hog Roast on Sunday 5 June..

On Thursday 2 June from 7.30 there will be wine and cheese and hopefully a Jubilee Tart tasting session in the playing field. This will incorporate the Jubilee Beacon lighting ceremony at 9.45.

Little Maplestead will be lighting its beacon as part of the National Beacon ceremony which hopefully will mean that in the order of 1500 beacons will be lit nationwide at 9.45.

All are welcome.

The second event will be on Sunday 5 June from 1.0 pm.

This will be a large village picnic/afternoon of fun, which will include a hog roast for the whole Village. There will be some additional events like cake decoration competition, Royal fancy dress for the children, and of course any 'big' children who wish to enter!! This again will be held in the playing field. From 1.00pm there will be an unveiling of a new village information board

Details are still being finalized, but please add these dates to your diaries as we are hoping to get as many people in the village together as possible to celebrate the fantastic achievement of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Please watch this space for further details.

## More Little Maplestead

### Fibre Broadband for little Maplestead

As you are aware County Broadband have been around the village laying cables for the last few months. There is also another Company 'Gigaclear' who have received government funding to supply fibre broadband to parts of the village.

It appears that once the infrastructure is completed County Broadband will have the ability to supply the whole village, and Gigaclear will have the ability to supply Cock Road, School Road, and the part of Gestingthorpe Road/Oak Road, and the main Sudbury road between the two, as well as Collins Road.

This does mean that residents in those areas will have a choice of which company offers the best deal for their needs.

There are no specific dates when either company will complete their works. County Broadband have stated that they are currently waiting for the handover from their contractors. Once this is received, tests will be carried out to ensure everything is working as it should, and the customer services department will contact people who may be interested to proceed with their connection.

Gigaclear have stated that the plans at present are to go live during May. There are further road closures scheduled for the village in line with the chart below.

Address 1	Start	End
COCK ROAD	11/04/2022	18/04/2022
OAK ROAD	19/04/2022	27/04/2022
SCHOOL ROAD	28/04/2022	09/05/2022
COCK ROAD	20/05/2022	27/05/2022
COLLINS ROAD	20/05/2022	27/05/2022
SADBURY ROAD	20/05/2022	27/05/2022

## Our Annual Plant Sale

Saturday 14th May 10am – 2pm

at the Round Church

Little Maplestead CO9 2SL



- Summer bedding
- Flowers
- Fruits & Vegetable plants
- Herbs

*all at great prices*

Tea, coffee and cakes  
available this year as well!



## Nature Notes

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Spring has certainly sprung over the last month, with birdsong, butterflies and new spring flowers everywhere you look. On a walk on February 16<sup>th</sup> there were Skylarks up singing along with Dunnock and even a Goldcrest. The bare Hazel branches were gleaming yellow with Catkins and of course the Snowdrops were in full glory. The week of the storms arrested progress, but I couldn't help but notice how even the tiniest birds were still managing to fly in the gale force winds and continuing to access the feeders.



On Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> a beautiful male Siskin briefly visited my peanut feeder. It was only the second for the garden in five years and proved to be the last of the winter surprises. They are winter visitors to Essex and breed much further north in Britain. Bright greeny-yellow with wing bars, darker streaks and a glossy black crown and chin, it is a very smart bird.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March I inadvertently left the porch light on and next morning there was a lovely moth on the outside of the door. It was a Shoulder Stripe, an early spring species that overwinters as a pupa in a cocoon among loose earth. The caterpillars feed on Dog-rose and the adults have finished by May.

A week later it was a nice warm, sunny day and the first butterflies appeared; a Brimstone followed soon after by a Comma. Both these species hibernate as adults and respond quickly to early spring warmth. On the same day I discovered a tiny (2-inch) Common Lizard behind bark I had removed from a log. It seemed to be dead but once it warmed in my hand it came to life and scuttled away. This was the first lizard for my garden – I did report sightings by others last autumn, when they look for places to hide away for winter and do come into houses.

Everyone notes the first Cuckoo calling and the first Swallows seen, the harbingers of summer. Two of the commonest warblers breeding in Essex are the Blackcap and the Chiffchaff and both over-winter here. The first Blackcap singing was on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, very early for this species, and the first Chiffchaff was today (15<sup>th</sup> March) in Pebmarsh, which is about the time you would expect to hear them. The Blackcap has a jerky but melodious song while the Chiffchaff reveals the source of its name when it sings; a monotonous, endlessly repeated, chiff-chaff, chiff-chaff.

### Patch Patroller

## Great Maplestead

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### Great Maplestead Volunteer Network

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Just to let you know that the Great Maplestead Coronavirus Volunteer Support Network is still up and running.

If you would like any help please do not hesitate to contact me by phone on 01787 461002 or 07773 627897, or by e-mail at jacqui.mee62@gmail.com

### Coffee at St Giles

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Come to the Wednesday Coffee Mornings the Tower Room at St. Giles. We will be serving from 10.30am until noon – outdoors if it's warm enough, in the church if not. Also, twice a month after the St. Giles services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Please come along and join us if you can.

### The Maplesteads WI

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President for the evening Gill Peskett welcomed our members and guest speaker, Gary Edgerton, to our meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March in the Village Hall.

Following the usual business Jane Stone introduced Gary, who gave a very entertaining and informative talk on the 'Fun side' of Policing. Jill Newton gave the vote of thanks and invited him to join us in the delicious refreshments provided by Angela Davis and Val Castro.

After social time Anne Fletcher provided a 'Call My Bluff' quiz which was won by Jan

Bettley and Angela Davis.

Our next meeting will be the AGM on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Since the March meeting a group of members visited the Round Church in Little Maplestead where they had a very interesting talk about the church from Judy Gosling. Afterwards tea and cake was served by Jane Stone and Jane Piper. It was a lovely afternoon.

### Save the Date!



**Great Maplestead Beer Festival**  
**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April**  
**& Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

## More Great Maplestead

### Great Queens Jubilee Celebrations



## Great Maplestead is Celebrating HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

with a weekend of

## Events and Entertainments

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022

Lighting of the Jubilee Beacon – from 9.00pm:

- 9.40pm : Bugle Call Ceremony
  - 9.45pm : Beacon Lighting + Song for the Commonwealth
- ooOoo--

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

Jubilee Celebration Supper and Dance – from 6.30pm

~ ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY ~

--ooOoo--

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

'It's a Royal Knockout' games/BYO Picnic – from 2.00pm

+ A number of Pre-Weekend Events and Village Decorations



A Flyer with more information and Supper Ticket Request Forms  
will be hand-delivered to each household w/c 18<sup>th</sup> April

## More Great Maplestead



### Great Maplestead Right Royal Scarecrow Trail

29<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, villagers are invited to create Scarecrows, with a royal theme, to be displayed outside properties in the week prior to and during the main bank holiday weekend

There will be a prize of a family hamper for the best scarecrow (as decided by an anonymous & independent judging panel). The hamper winner will be announced at the picnic & games on the village playing field on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**.

It is free to enter, but please register your entry by **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**, in order that a map of village displays may be published for all to enjoy & to ensure that your scarecrow is not missed by the judges! Feel free to share photos of your creations via the various social media village groups too.

It's for fun, but we hope it will create some unique Jubilee decorations around the village!

Please register your entry with Ann Crisp via  
email: [anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk](mailto:anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)  
or TP: 01787 460216



## VILLAGE WALK



### Easter Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Meet at 11.00am in Great Maplestead Village Hall Car Park

Half-way refreshments provided

Finish at the Village Hall for drinks and nibbles

**Adults: £2.50 each; Children under 15/dogs: free**

Proceeds to the Playing Field Development Project – please pay before the start of the walk

<https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/participate-information/events/>

## St. Giles Café Church



After some discussion and deliberation, the decision was made to introduce Cafe Church to St Giles in Great Maplestead in place of the Family Service. Family Service had run very successfully for many years but with the lack of children attending church and the need to attract a wider audience it was felt that a new format was needed. Storm Eunice and the great power cut of 2022 put a stop to our original plans but once Eunice had passed and with the

devastation of the war in the Ukraine on everybody's minds we gathered together for our very first Cafe Church.

What is Cafe Church? Well, it is an opportunity for us to gather in church in a much less formal situation than a normal service. Yes, we serve coffee and tea, including decaf, earl grey and green tea - this community is hugely varied in its demands for hot drinks!! And at our first service we had pastries and biscuits. We listened to some music, said a prayer for peace and the Lord's Prayer and discussed our concerns, worries and fears about Ukraine with each other. It was an opportunity to meet new people or speak with old friends and neighbours. A table was set aside with lighted candles for those in need of prayer. Oh, and we raised £132 donation for the Red Cross who offer humanitarian protection and assistance during armed conflicts.

Our next Cafe Church service will be in May. We would very much like Cafe Church to evolve with the community, a chance to feel that community spirit and reflect on our own faith. If you joined us this time - thank you - we hope to see you again, let us know what you thought and if you haven't tried us yet but would like to please do join us on the 8th of May.

The Cafe Church Team formerly known as The Family Service Team !



## More Great Maplestead

### Easter Lilies



for

**St Giles' Church, Great Maplestead**

Would anyone who would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Church's Easter Lilies this April please contact

**Denise O'Connell (07795 170 048)**



### Flowers for the Jubilee



For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we are hoping to turn the village into a floral tribute to Her Majesty

Please help us achieve this by putting hanging baskets or pots of flowers outside your house, by the end of May



**Let's create a right royal spectacle!**

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## Gardening Corner

---

I trust your gardens have survived the storms we experienced in February and any seeds in propagators were not lost. Personally, I spent a whole day picking up rubbish that had blown into or around my 'patch'.

Any bulbs grown for the house can be planted outside once they have finished flowering – remember to plant them at least to the depth of the bulb and not on the surface. Bulbs grown for indoor displays are often standing proud of the container when purchased.

Continue to use any mature home-made compost; spread around shrubs and climbers it will act as a mulch and soil improver.



My recommended plant of the month (which was at its best last month) is Sweet Box [*Sarcococca confusa*], a hardy shrub that exudes a heady fragrance and is evergreen. A friend of mine has a small hedge of this glossy show-stopper under the lounge window and the perfume enters the house even when the window is open just a chink.

Lawns benefit from raking at this time of year, removing as much of the compacted 'thatch' as possible and at the same time removing moss. If you feed your grass, now is a good time but try and time the job with forecast rain to wash the stimulant down to the roots and avoid burning, which can happen if a granular weed and feed is left on the surface for too long.

Although we have had a wet winter, keep an eye on pots and containers near to a wall or building overhang it is surprising how quickly they dry out. This will help empty your water butts!

Container shrubs can be planted now while the soil has plenty of moisture in it. Make the hole half as wide again as the root ball so you can incorporate plenty of compost and soil alongside. Firm down with your heel to avoid air pockets.

Second early potatoes, broad beans, onion sets and shallots can be planted this month, as can parsnip seed and early peas.

Enjoy your Garden The Arborist

## Stories From Pets Corner

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Hello there, let me introduce myself, I am a chocolate Colourpoint, silky soft, semi long-haired, deep blue-eyed cat answering, sometimes, to the name of Boris – tut-tut, how original...



Colourpoint means I'm one colour, darkening at my extremities – nose, ears, tail and paws. I have a very placid temperament and I am very affectionate (but on my terms). I also have a slight leaning towards "special needs" but I like to think I just take a little longer to process things.

Since joining my family, I have grown into a powerful large cat with a long bushy tail and soft body – quite handsome, even if I say so myself!

My breed is 'Ragdoll' (referred locally as 'Cloth Cap'), which is derived from a tendency to go limp and relaxed when picked up. It is a very popular breed in the U.K. and its native country, the United States.

I was enjoying a comfortable life, the food was tasty and there was plenty of affection; I had my own toys, should I deign to play with them and, above all, a lovely peaceful existence. However, that all changed in an instant when my annoying little sister, Doris, turned up out of the blue.

Incidentally, at this juncture I would say, she is not as handsome as myself. Some would refer to her as cute, I suppose. She has a creamy mink coloured coat and creamy paws, deep blue eyes of course, and the biggest pair of fluffy knickerbockers on her hind legs you have ever seen. Oh boy, and does she know how to use them to her advantage, swaggering around all sassy like!

She is the biggest pain in my life. She pushes me off my bed and shoves me aside while I'm eating because she has finished her own food. She'll rugby tackle me when I am having a forty-winks cat-nap, then swagger off as if "butter wouldn't melt!"

I should dislike her immensely, but blood is thicker than water, so I've heard. She's a pesky nuisance, an annoying little sibling but, I suppose I will quietly keep my cool and adopt the big brother role: you know, looking out for her, protecting her, keeping her in check with a crafty paw-swipe now and again when I think no one is watching. After all, I am sure I am not the only brother with an annoying little sister, mine just happens to be cute little Doris...

Boris Johnson

# S BECK

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## **Gestingthorpe**

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### **Support in Gestingthorpe**

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Please if you are self-isolating, scared, or lonely or need any help please contact Carrie on 07872 170277 or Helen on 07793 402297 if you live in the Church Street, Sudbury Road and Nether Hill area, and Nic 07908445239, Penny 07840 367172 or Kate 07771 535523 for the Audley End, Moat Street and outlying areas. The village is there to help you.

### **Gestingthorpe 'Gathering ' Coffee Mornings**

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Our coffee mornings during April will be held on the Fridays 1st April and 22nd April (not on Good Friday) from 10am to 12 noon.

Our coffee mornings that are held on alternate Fridays are continuing to be enjoyed by all.

If you haven't yet been to a coffee morning; please come along. We would love to see you and guarantee a warm welcome.

We have a couple of games of skittles on the last Wednesday of each month. Please come along and join us. We meet up at 7.30pm in the village hall.

### **Gestingthorpe Book Exchange**

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The Book Exchange will be open Fridays 1st and 22nd April 10am to 12 noon in the Village Hall. Bring a book to swap or take a book for a gold coin donation. All proceeds to Village Hall Funds Gestingthorpe

### **Gestingthorpe First Tuesday Book Club**

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The next meeting of the Gestingthorpe book club is on Tuesday 5th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Please join us for books, chat and wine. Contact Penny for further information [pbagby1@gmail.com](mailto:pbagby1@gmail.com) or 07840 367172

### **The Queens Platinum Jubilee**

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The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Gestingthorpe, June 2022

Please join us over the June Bank Holiday weekend for a series of events hosted by Gestingthorpe Parish Council, Village Hall and St Mary the Virgin Church for the following upcoming events. All events and times to be confirmed.

#### **Thursday 2nd June**

Lighting of the Platinum Jubilee beacon, Church Green at 9:45pm. The Village Hall will be open for refreshments before the lighting of the beacon.

## More Gestingthorpe

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### More Queens Platinum Jubilee

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#### Thursday 2nd June

The church will also be open with a photo display from Gestingthorpe History Group, and tower tours - get a great view of our village!

#### Friday 3rd June

Village hall open day with traditional tea. Join us for sausage rolls, cake, tea, coffee and more.

#### Saturday 4th June

Dance through the Decades with Nic (FunFitFab) taking place on the village green.

#### Sunday 5th June

The Big Jubilee Lunch - join us on the village green for a BBQ, drink and fun games for all the family and Church family service.

Village photo. Some of you may have been in our millennium village photo, and we would love to see as many residents as possible for a new group photo to mark this occasion. Also, tree planting for the Queen's Green Canopy, Gestingthorpe History Group mementos and more to be confirmed!



## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACONS 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2022

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, **Gestingthorpe Parish Council** will be joining the national beacon lighting ceremony with the lighting of a new beacon created for us by **Richard Nica of the Gestingthorpe Forge**.

**To enable us to participate in this event - we need your support!**

If you are a business owner or would like to support us as a family or individual, we are seeking sponsorship to help us cover the costs. However large or small, any donation will help, and plaques acknowledging sponsors will appear on the beacon's oak post.

We would love to see as many villagers join us at **21:45 on the 2nd of June** to witness the lighting of our beacon, at the same time as those throughout the Commonwealth.

**Details and donations can be made on the Parish Council's GoFundMe page - <https://gofund.me/d7fbd1ba>**

**Alternatively Vice Chair of the Parish Council, Claire Craig can be contacted on 07814 725195 for alternative donation methods.**



## **Pebmarsh**

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### **Support in Pebmarsh**

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Pebmarsh Volunteers continue to be here for you during the pandemic. If you need anything, such as if you're isolating/quarantining and need help to collect prescriptions or with shopping, get in touch with Kate Carling (Phone: 267 924) and she will put you in touch with the village Volunteer for your area of the village.

### **Pebmarsh Village Hall**

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Pebmarsh Village Hall welcomes Ian Mattingly to the PVHMC

From April 2022 the Pebmarsh Village Hall Management Committee will have a new committee member taking care of the book keeping and accounting duties.

Ian Mattingly will be joining the PVHMC and can be reached via email at [pebmarshvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:pebmarshvillagehall@gmail.com).

Perry PVHMC

### **Pebmarsh Village Hall**

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#### **Covid 19 - Precautionary Measures - April 2022**

Further to the recent changes announced by the UK Government, many of the Covid-19 precautions and restrictions have been removed from public places.

To reflect these changes, Pebmarsh Village Hall hirers, users and visitors will no longer be required to complete the cleaning schedules. These have now been removed from the kitchen area where they were displayed.

The 'Cleaning Station' notices have also been removed however, the cleaning materials have been left in place for all to use as best practice when required.

The wearing of face masks inside the village hall is now optional, although the UK Government advises all to wear face masks especially if you are a member of a vulnerable group in society.

These revised steps are subject to change as and if the Covid-19 situation escalates again and the UK Government issues further advice.

On behalf of the PVH Management Committee may I please extend a huge thank you to all for helping to make the facilities a safer place during the past couple of years by observing the precautions, it is much appreciated. Stay safe.

## More Pebmarsh

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### Friends of Pebmarsh Church

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The Friends of Pebmarsh Church has been set up in order to give the church a fighting chance to remain within our community, and we would very much welcome your help and commitment to save our beautiful church. For more information please visit our website <https://friendsofpebmarshchurch.uk/>

The north chancel roof is finally complete with help of the community and George Bayes roofing. Our thanks to The friends of Pebmarsh for working hard to secure grants for us and all who have given generously. We would also like to thank Mark Harrington for cutting back the undergrowth overhanging the path at the back of the church and Chris Chamley who transported tiles in and rubbish away for us. It is never an easy job to complete work at this time of year as we have to consider the Bats and the ground conditions, which means a very small window of opportunity to complete any work.

The next project is to repair the bottom section of wall next to the Manor House, with quotations and finance currently being looked for by the Friends of Pebmarsh so we are hoping to get this done soon.

We have been busy at Pebmarsh with a candle lit evening of reflection and prayer for the people in Ukraine and a collection for the Red Cross which has been very well supported and our final donation of £296.00 will be added to the schools collection of £368.00.

By the time you read this we will also have hosted the benefice service for Mothers Day 27 March with all the mums attending, receiving a primrose plant to take home to their gardens.

Our **Easter Service** will be on the **17 April at 10am** and will be another Benefice service, so we look forward to welcoming the other three churches with tea and coffee afterwards.

Pebmarsh is very lucky to have a very supportive community who always turn up to help when a message goes out and recently that has been the case as Mark Harrington organised a load of wood chippings to spread on the footpaths around the village hall and the church. A group of villagers arrived with wheel barrows and shovels to barrow and rake the chippings over the muddy paths making it safer for all, also the chance was taken to fill pot wholes in the car park. Thank you to you all who took part.

Church wardens

### Other Activities in Pebmarsh

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Don't forget the Ladies Club, Bowls and Social Club, Youth Club and the Kings Head

## Holiday Quiz

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As we look forward to the lessening of the impact of Covid 19, perhaps we can all start to plan more adventurous holidays. This quiz invites you to identify some places that you might choose to visit.

Q1. Where might you see what is currently the tallest building in the world?

Q2. In which ocean would you find the Seychelles?

Q3. If you were heading off on holiday to the Iberian Peninsula, where might you be going?

Q4. In which South American country would you find the Angel Falls?

Q5. Which is the largest island in The Canaries?

Q6. In which country would you find the temple complex of Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world?

Q7. Which is the largest body of freshwater by volume in the UK?

Q8. Which two European countries does the Matterhorn straddle?

Q9. On what coastline would you find the City of Dubrovnik?

Q10. In which American state would you find the Grand Canyon?

Answers at the bottom of page 23

## Hedingham Heritage Society

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Thursday 7 April: 'The Wild West comes to Essex in 1903'.  
A talk by Phil Lyons – singer, guitarist and local historian  
7.30pm in Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

Members free, non- members £5

Come along and join us for our comprehensive  
programme of events, talks and walks in 2022

Annual membership: £12.00 per person

For further details, please contact:

Rob Worley 01787 460 664, Trudi Cullum 01787 462 889  
or Peter Bayes

01787 469 953

Or reach us at either:

[hedinghamheritage@gmail.com](mailto:hedinghamheritage@gmail.com) or [www.hedinghamheritage.org](http://www.hedinghamheritage.org)



## Quiz Answers from Page 22

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- Q1. Dubai, The Burj Khalifa
- Q2. Indian Ocean
- Q3. Spain or Portugal
- Q4. Venezuela
- Q5. Tenerife
- Q6. Cambodia
- Q7. Loch Ness
- Q8. Switzerland and Italy
- Q9. Adriatic Coast of Croatia
- Q10. Arizona

## April's Cooking and Baking

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### Easy Greek-style Chicken tray bake

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#### Ingredients:

2 aubergines sliced into circles;  
1 red pepper, thickly sliced;  
1 red onion, cut into wedges;  
8 new potatoes, scrubbed and cut in half;  
3 tbsp olive oil;  
2 tsp red wine vinegar;  
3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced;  
1 tsp dried oregano;  
2 sprigs of rosemary;  
6 chicken thighs on the bone;  
2 tomatoes, quartered, or 8 cherry tomatoes;  
150g/5½oz feta, cut into chunks;  
Small bunch mint leaves, roughly chopped, to serve;  
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### Method:

Warm oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6. Put the aubergines, pepper, onion and potatoes in a large roasting dish and drizzle over a mixture of olive oil and vinegar – roughly 2 tbs. Sprinkle over the garlic, oregano, rosemary and season with salt and pepper.

Cover the dish with kitchen foil and roast for 40 minutes.

Heat the remaining tbs of olive oil in a frying pan. Add the chicken thighs, skin-side down, and cook until golden or crispy. Turn the thighs over and cook for a few more minutes.

Turn the oven up to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7. Scatter the tomatoes and feta evenly over the roasting dish on top of the vegetables. Place the chicken thighs on top, skin-side up. Roast uncovered for 15–20 minutes.

Remove from the oven and check the chicken has been cooked thoroughly.

Garnish the bake with the mint and serve with a simple salad.



## Local information

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**Solar Society** will make every effort to restart their meetings when it is appropriate. Programme to be announced.

In the meantime , take care everybody.

Further info from Miles Scrivens 01787-469766 or Wanda Sellar 01787 463449.

**Local Women's Running Group:** laurabloom@btinternet.com or on 07801 749802

**Local Libraries:** Halstead and Sible Hedingham Libraries, libraries.essex.gov.uk.

**Four Parishes Book Group:** Alison Cantor. 01787 462537 or acantor@linus.plus.com

**Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group:** Ruth Worsley on *ruth-SACSG@outlook.com*

**The U3A Halstead:** [u3asites.org.uk/halstead/welcome](http://u3asites.org.uk/halstead/welcome)

**The U3A Sudbury:** [u3asites.org.uk/sudbury/home](http://u3asites.org.uk/sudbury/home)

**U3A Braintree:** [u3asites.org.uk/braintree/events](http://u3asites.org.uk/braintree/events)

**Halstead & District Photographic Society:** [www.halsteadphoto.org.uk](http://www.halsteadphoto.org.uk)

**Gestingthorpe History Society:** [www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk](http://www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk)

**Community Agents;** Community-based support for an ageing population: [www.communityagentsessex.org.uk](http://www.communityagentsessex.org.uk).

**The Empire Theatre Halstead:** [www.empire-theatre.co.uk](http://www.empire-theatre.co.uk)

Halstead and District Local History Society: [www.halsteadhistory.org.uk](http://www.halsteadhistory.org.uk).

**The Hedingham Singers:** Bob Lilley on 07790 573435 or [www.thehedinghamsingers.com/](http://www.thehedinghamsingers.com/).

**Sudbury Newstalk:** [www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk](http://www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk) or 01787 468535.

## Hedingham Medical Centre

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The Castle Hedingham surgery is triaging all patients so please phone 01787 461465. Do not go to the surgery. The surgery is open from 11.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 18.00 Monday to Friday to collect pre-ordered prescriptions. Their website is [www.hedmed.co.uk](http://www.hedmed.co.uk).

## Local and National Authority Representatives

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### Essex County Council

Councillor Peter Schwier - [cllr.peter.schwier@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.peter.schwier@essex.gov.uk)

### Braintree District Council

#### Great and Little Maplestead

Councillor Peter Schwier - [cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk)

#### Gestingthorpe

Councillor Wendy Scattergood - [cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk)

#### Pebmarsh

Councillor George Courtauld - [cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk)

Councillor Gabrielle Spray - [cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk)

### Westminster

James Cleverly MP - [james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk)

## Parish Council Websites

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Gestingthorpe	<a href="http://www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk">www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk</a>
Great Maplestead	<a href="http://www.greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk">www.greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk</a>
Little Maplestead	<a href="http://www.littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk">www.littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk</a>
Pebmarsh	<a href="http://www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com">www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com</a>

## Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

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VETS provide support when a defibrillator is required although the first action must be a 999 call. The telephone numbers of the village VETS are:

**Little Maplestead 01787 852252**

**Gestingthorpe 01787 852850**

## Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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Gestingthorpe	Helen Skerratt	01787 237297
Great Maplestead	Ian Johnson	01787 461109
Little Maplestead	Bill Piper	01787 473933

## The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	<a href="mailto:gillpeskett43@gmail.com">gillpeskett43@gmail.com</a>
	Jill Newton	01787 463893	<a href="mailto:gilliannewton4@gmail.com">gilliannewton4@gmail.com</a>

Little Maplestead

Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	<a href="mailto:peter.427nice@btinternet.com">peter.427nice@btinternet.com</a>

Pebmarsh	Jim Crayston	07957870340	<a href="mailto:jim@craystonfarms.co.uk">jim@craystonfarms.co.uk</a>
	Sarah Burgess	01787 269092	<a href="mailto:sarahburgess@btinternet.com">sarahburgess@btinternet.com</a>

## Church Services in April 2022

Sunday 3 April	9:30am Holy Communion 9.30 Morning Prayer 11am Holy Communion	Great Maplestead Gestingthorpe Little Maplestead
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### Holy Week

10 April Palm Sunday	10am then walk to 10:45	Little Maplestead Gt Maplestead
11, 12, 13 April	7pm Compline	Little Maplestead
14 April Maundy Thursday	7:30pm Holy Communion	Gt Maplestead
15 April Good Friday	2pm Last Hour	Gestingthorpe
17 April Easter Sunday	10am Holy Communion	Pebmarsh
Wednesday 20 April	10am Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe

Sunday 24 April	10:30am Halstead Team Service St Catherine's, Gosfield 4pm Compline	Gestingthorpe
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All welcome. Our churches remain open for private prayer on set days, please contact your churchwarden for times of opening.

### The Reverend Beverley Vincent

The Rectory, Church Street, Great Maplestead, CO9 2RG Tel 01787 460273 or 07944 200132. Khvicar@gmail.com



#### Urgent:

Long Life Juice (1litre max)  
Packet Soup  
Jam  
Chocolate Bars  
Instant Mash  
Tinned Spaghetti  
Tea Bags (80 max, please)  
Squash (small, please)  
Coffee

#### To Maintain Stocks:

Tinned Tomatoes  
Tinned Veg  
Sponge Pudding  
Sugar (Small bags, please)  
Tinned Cold Meat  
Laundry Detergent (Liquid or tabs, please)  
Strong Carrier Bags

## Coming up and save the date

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Coffee in St Giles Wednesday Mornings

7 April Maplesteads WI

7 April Hedingham Heritage Society

8 April Great Maplestead Kurling Evening

Gestingthorpe Coffee Mornings

Gestingthorpe Book Club

Great Maplestead Walk 18 April

Great Maplestead Beer Festival 30 April and 1 May

Pebmarsh Bowls and Social Club, Pebmarsh Ladies Club and Youth Club

And don't forget all our Jubilee celebrations in June

Parish News is printed by **Paul Clark Printing Ltd**

Suite 6 . Enterprise House . Rippers Court . Sible Hedingham

Halstead . Essex . CO9 3PY 01787 469628 [sales@paulclarkprint.co.uk](mailto:sales@paulclarkprint.co.uk)

This magazine is now available electronically on the parish council web

The copy deadline for the May magazine is **Friday 22 April 2022**

We need to know who, what, where and when .....

Submit your copy early to guarantee inclusion. Email me or our village reps.

### Copy

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Pebmarsh	Luke Brown	07919 375341	lhwbrown@hotmail.co.uk

sites and the Parish News website

## Parish News Website

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The Parish News website is a gateway to our four villages and their churches. The website address is:

[www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk](http://www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk)

