

Great and Little Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



Photo Credit: Heidi Page, Oak Farm, Pebmarsh

**Church and Community together
July/August 2023**

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent and the churchwardens on page 39

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 37.

Magazine copy see page 6.

Parish Clerks

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Gt Maplestead

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Carpet Bowls	Janice Chaplin	01787 469600	bobandjanicechaplin@btinternet.com

Gestingthorpe

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Football Club

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History Society	Gill Webb	01787 581836	gillwebb880@gmail.com
Book Club	Penny Bagby	07840 367172	pbagby1@gmail.com

Pebmarsh

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Molly's Wood			https://www.mollyswood.org/contact

Otter's Jotter!

Welcome to the summer! A time for sunshine and smiles! My first double month issue, covering July & August.

We offer a warm welcome to Steve White Electrical Services, who started advertising with us this month. Having been working in one of the Parishes and seeing our magazine, Steve called me to arrange inclusion. Thank you Steve for your support.



This month, I am very excited for the 8th August, as I am going as a guest of the Commercial Executive of Chatham Town FC for their friendly against Charlton Athletic FC - for those who had no idea, I am a keen sport spectator and a passionate 'Addick' (Charlton supporter) being born in Greenwich, but I growing up in the Medway Towns, which is where Chatham, Kent is!

I will be cheering on both teams, but of course my heart is with 'The Addicks' (Charlton), and among other ways I demonstrate my allegiance to my Club, my hubby and I had our Wedding Day at The Valley!

Thank you to Heidi for sharing the beautiful photos, as shown on the cover and in her own Nature Watch, page

Have a wonderful July & August, see you in September!

Nic

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Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

At last summer is here, well it is as I write this! The long lazy days of summer holidays are ahead. Time for relaxing, hopefully freedom to rest from the usual things that get us up in the morning . . . unless you have small children that is. Have you noticed the two months of July and August seem to take on a different pace, slower somehow. Many of us will take holidays around now or have days out and life seems to feel less stressful. Perhaps the sunshine and warmth help us to feel happier and more relaxed.

It's good for our well-being to take time away from our usual routines. God encourages us to take time out from our schedules. Psalm 46 verse 10 says: *Be still and know that I am God*. This Psalm is often used to take the reader to a place of quietness within themselves, a way of finding rest that the mind, body and spirit need.

'Be still' is translated in the Hebrew as 'Let go'. This suggests that we allow God to take the reins of our life instead of trying to keep control for ourselves. The interesting thing is as we let go, little by little even, we find ourselves freed from the constant stresses and anxieties that plague our culture. Surrendering can actually bring a sense of freedom?

When we are still, we can fully appreciate the beauty of creation, we will see, hear and sense God with us. We are so blessed with the beauty of the countryside that surrounds our villages, it's the perfect place to find solace. We don't always need to go away on holiday to feel refreshed because we can find that refreshment if we let go of the things that drive us and just take time to be still.

Psalm 46 also says God is our refuge and strength, so if you are having difficulty letting go of your fears and anxieties and finding stillness seems impossible, God is ready to receive your burdens and offer you refuge. If you need somewhere to be still our churches are open everyday and are places of peace, steeped in centuries of prayer, where you can be sure of finding tranquillity.

Whatever you do this holiday season may it be a time of restoration and blessing.

Rev'd Beverley



Hedingham Medical Centre

The Castle Hedingham surgery: 01787 461465. 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.

Out-of-hours appointments will be available from 6.30pm to 8pm on weekdays, and from 9am to 5pm on Saturdays.

An out-of-hours appointment might not be at your regular GP surgery.



Hedingham Heritage Society



Thursday 6 July:

The Battle of Britain over Essex – a celebratory talk by **Neil Wiffen**, Records Manager at the Essex Records Office, about this historic summer World War 2 battle in the skies over Southern England.

7.30pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

Sunday 6 August: 2pm, The Bardfield Artists

A walk and talk with **Janet Dyson (Bardfield Historical Society)**, around the centre of the town where the artists lived and a visit to the Bawden Room, Brick House and the Cottage Museum.

2.00pm Meet at Bardfield Town Hall, CM7 4QG, Booking essential - 01787 460664/462889, email, or at the July meeting.

Thursday 7 September: Digging into Castle Hedingham's past - Mark Baister, Archaeologist and Historic Environment Consultant

7.30 pm meeting at The Keep, Hedingham Castle.



Do join our Society – annual membership for 2023: £15.00

**All walks and talks: Members free - Non-Members £5
Everybody Welcome**

Rob Worley 01787 460 664: Trudi Cullum 01787 462 889 Peter Bayes 01787 469 953

www.hedinghamheritage.org.uk hedinghamheritage@gmail.com

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For more information 01621 874410 / 01621 874411

or info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk

SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL - PEBMARSH - GREAT AND LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - HALSTEAD								
F315		To book on this service call: 01621 8744111					From 01/12/2021	
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	09:18	Timings in BOLD are
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22	fixed timing points
Bulmer, Cross Roads		09:10	11:10	13:10	15:40	17:40	19:25	All timings in Italics
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		09:16	11:16	13:16	15:46	17:46	19:31	need to be pre-booked
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		09:21	11:21	13:21	15:51	17:51	19:36	
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter		09:26	11:26	13:26	15:57	17:57	19:43	Timings other than those in bold type may vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
Pebmarsh, War Memorial		09:27	11:27	13:27	15:58	17:58	19:44	
Little Maplestead, Corner		09:32	11:32	13:32	16:03	18:03	19:49	
Great Maplestead, Church		09:36	11:36	13:36	16:07	18:07	19:53	
Little Maplestead, Pump		09:40	11:40	13:40	16:11	18:11	19:57	
Halstead, High Street		09:44	11:44	13:44	16:14	18:15	20:01	arrival time
F315		To book on this service call: 01621 8744111					From 01/12/2021	
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
Great Maplestead, Church		07:38	10:08	12:08	14:08	16:38	18:38	fixed timing points
Little Maplestead, Cock		07:42	10:12	12:12	14:12	16:42	18:40	All timings in Italics
Pebmarsh, War Memorial		07:47	10:15	12:15	14:15	16:45	18:42	need to be pre-booked
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter		07:48	10:16	12:16	14:16	16:46	18:43	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		07:54	10:21	12:21	14:21	17:01	18:45	Timings other than those in bold type may vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		08:02	10:27	12:27	14:27	17:07	18:48	
Bulmer, Cross Roads		08:08	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:13	19:03	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		08:10	10:35	12:35	14:35	17:15	19:09	
Ballingdon, Kings Head		08:16	10:41	12:41	14:41	17:21	19:11	
Sudbury, Bus Station		08:20	10:45	12:45	14:45	17:25	19:14	arrival time

The copy deadline for the September 2023 magazine is **Friday 18 August 2023**

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

Nature Notes



Recent showers have doubled the rainfall received since the middle of May from 4 to 8 mm. This poses problems for gardeners and wildlife alike. I keep the birdbath and a couple of other ground level containers topped up daily and it is gratifying to see them all being used by a variety of visitors.

High summer sees the newly fledged young of many species of bird in the garden; this year the doves and pigeons seem to be

excelling themselves. Collared dove youngsters are notable for lacking the black collar of the adults and are very alert – with good reason as they are a particular favourite of the sparrow hawk! The wood pigeons build their flimsy stick-platform nests in thickets, often at eye-level. In my garden there is one in the ivy and another in the wisteria. The young are easily identified as they lack the adults' white patches on the sides of their necks.

An interesting development on local walks has been the appearance of signs put up by Essex Police reminding walkers that badgers are protected and interference with setts is prohibited by law. There are good numbers of badgers in our area, and I wonder if there have been reports of illegal activity that have prompted these notices.

Swifts seem to prefer towns to the countryside and I see them whenever I visit Castle Hedingham. Their screeching call draws the eyes skywards and you are rewarded with the sight of groups of these scythe-shaped black birds hurtling between the buildings in pursuit of insect prey. They nest in building cavities and therefore prefer sites with older buildings, which provide more opportunities. The church in Pebmarsh must have many of these, as the birds are continually in and out.

Little owls are another enigmatic resident of our area. They often sit quietly in the open during the day but are easily missed. When you do spot one it always seems to be staring straight at you; you realise it has seen you first and, while not afraid, it is taking no chances and watching until you move away.



As always, warm humid overcast nights produce moths in large numbers and it is still not unusual to find a new species for the garden. A recent addition to the list was a lovely green geometrid with the unflattering name



of The Blotched Emerald. The geometrids are a family of larger moths with broadly triangular wings and slender bodies. There are over 300 species in Britain. The Blotched Emerald is predictably green but has peculiar fawn and cream blotches in the trailing corners of both fore- and hind-wings. It lays its eggs on oak and is an absolute delight. **Patch Patroller**

Gardening Corner

This month I am going to start my article with a P.S. – but I’ve not forgotten anything!

P is for ponds: now is the time to carefully rake off blanket weed, taking care not to damage the pond liner. Leave the pile of debris by the side of your pond for a few days to allow any wildlife caught up in the weed to make its way back into the water. I managed to rake up a small newt and a gold fish, which quickly ‘plopped’ back into their aquatic home as the green mass was placed on the bank. Recently, visiting a well-known dry garden and nursery – with well-tended formal gardens, including four ponds – I observed the staff using a boat to navigate the water while raking off blanket weed. What a job!

S is for supporting plants: in particular perennials, which are at their full height just now. If we have rain and winds this month having appropriately placed canes and supports can save both time and the disappointment of collapsed lupins and other tall specimen plants.

Now is also the time to cut down the yellowing foliage of early spring daffodils, the areas can be mown if necessary or cut down with shears in a flower border.

If you have started a compost heap this year, turn the whole thing over so the top is at the base to ensure the structure is well mixed. Grass cuttings, annual weeds, old spent compost and household vegetable peelings (not potatoes) help make a decent mix when left for a year. I find a can of water poured over compost aids decomposition.

My plant of the month is *Alchemilla mollis* [Lady’s mantle]. It has a small spray-like flower of green/yellow colour but the semi-circular leaves look attractive when it rains as they hold the water in tiny globules. The plant makes good



ground cover in a partially shaded location and only grows to about 18in in height.

Keep taking the side shoots out of tomatoes (the ones growing in the leaf joint of the main stem) as this will ensure an upright plant with large leaves; remember to feed regularly as the fruit forms on each truss or flower spike.

Enjoy to fruits of your labour

The Arborist

Sharing the Appreciation



£1,201.16

I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make the Bingo evening so successful.

It was a great evening with lots of giggling and lucky winners! To those who donated prizes, attended the bingo, or helped me, before or on the evening, THANK YOU, as together we raised a fantastic £1201.16 for Cystic Fibrosis.

Myra Jeggo

WOW! That is amazing! Well done to all those who helped raised such a magnificent amount for such a good cause. Thank you Myra & helpers for organising such a successful event & those who took part.

From the Editor

Big Thanks to Ashley for the Message to the Editor!



Just to thank you for such a helpful advert in the Parish magazine and Facebook page about the visit of the 'Maple Leaves' to Hill Farm. It resulted in a really super— record— turn out!

Thank you again,

Ashley Cooper

News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

June started as hoped, with the Gardens looking gorgeous, in particular the wild orchids on the bank in the Glade, the waterlilies spreading and with lots of flowers and the first of the roses; and with a good asparagus season behind us! But as I write, a bit of trepidation is beginning to creep in, because there is no rain in the forecast. If June is dry, our volunteers will be getting their steps in doing lots of watering. We should, hopefully, have enough water in the well and in the new butts to look after our new trees and shrubs and of course to raise the veg in the walled kitchen garden, so that come July we will have produce to sell to visitors on weekly Open Thursdays and for the monthly Open Day.



Our 16 July Open Day is the day of the year when we focus on the world war history of the Gardens – Perfect Vintage singing duo will help us get in the mood, with Vera Lynn songs and other classic swing tracks and vintage banter. There will be a range of stalls and our archivists will present the stories of the Earl of Warwick's involvement with the Essex Imperial Yeomanry in the run up to World War I; and of the airmen and women stationed at the neighbouring Great Dunmow airfield in the 1940s, using their down time to recuperate in the Gardens. Children will enjoy seeing vintage cars and military vehicles and there will be associated craft activities too. Dogs are welcome on leads; and refreshments are available.



For more information go to the Trust's website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Open Thursdays, 11.00-3.00, last entry 2.00. £5 on the Gate.

16 July Open Day 11.00-5.00, last entry 4.00. £6.50 on the Gate or £5.50 if bought in advance via the Trust's website or through www.Trybooking.com .

Jill Goldsmith, July 2023

THE
FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF
EASTON LODGE

The Maplesteads



The Maple Leaves present...



...an opportunity for a relaxing alfresco lunchtime

Picnic



Thursday 3rd August



on Great Maplestead's Playing Field

(weather permitting : in the Village Hall if not)

from 12.00 - 2.00pm : Ice Cream van between 1.00 - 2.00pm

Members and guests only : bring your own drinks, food, blankets and chairs

A chance to see the new play equipment and play some Boules!

More information about the 2023 programme is at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/activities/copy-of-the-maple-leaves/>

*  **The Maple Leaves present...**  *
* **Doreen's Road Show** *
* **Thursday 7th September** *
* **Great Maplestead Village Hall : Doors 7.15pm : Starts 7.30pm** *
* **Bring along an antique, old or other interesting item and** *
* **Guest Presenter Doreen Faulks** *
* **will provide more information about a selection of them.** *
* **Do join us for what promises to be an enjoyable social evening** *
* **Members (free) & Guests (£3) welcome** *
* More information about the 2023 programme is at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/activities/copy-of-the-maple-leaves/> *

Craft Fair

Saturday 16th September 10 am - 3.00 pm

at the Round Church

Little Maplestead CO9 2SL



- Handbags and Scarves
- Local Crafts
- Books & bric-a-brac

- Jewellery
- Greeting Cards
- Big Bear Cider



- Ceramics, Pottery
- Local Artist
- Beautician
- Plus many more!

Refreshments available:

Snacks, Teas, and Cakes

£1 entry includes free cup of tea/coffee.
Free entry for children



The Maplesteads

Autumn Show - Sat 9 September

All residents of Great and Little Maplestead should find a copy of the schedule for the forthcoming Autumn Show inside this month's Parish Magazine.

We hope that you find something of interest for the young and the not so young and will start your preparations early in order to make this year's Show even more successful than last year's.

There are many categories, including the competition to grow the tallest sunflower – this is open to all ages. Sponsored by Jo Green of **Radiant Beauty**, the results will be announced at the Show.

Please contact Jo Green (e-mail jo@stgreenbuilders.co.uk) to register.

After the Show there will be a prize-giving, produce sale and a raffle. Please note that there will be **no admittance** to the Village Hall **until 5.30pm** for viewing and refreshments.

Extra copies of the schedule will be available in both the Round Church and St. Giles Church as well as a version on each village website.

Please read your schedule carefully and if you require any further information contact Carol Brownlie: Tel 01787 461 527 or e-mail carolbrownli@gmail.com

And please return any trophies from last year to Carol...



The next bumper Maplesteads'

JUMBILE SALE

in Great Maplestead Village Hall

is on

Saturday 23rd September

Please make a note of the date and hold on to any suitable items yourself until then – the organisers have no storage capacity available.

Many thanks - more details in the September Magazine

Defibrillators at Little Maplestead

As most of you will know we have two defibrillators in the village, one at Little India, and one by the post box on the Gestingthorpe Road. These have been there now for 5 years, and fortunately have not been used in an emergency.

We also had a VETS scheme operating in the village, this is a Volunteer Emergency Telephone System, which was supported by ten people from the village who had signed up to potentially be available to assist, by collecting the defibrillator, and assisting with CPR whilst waiting for the emergency services to attend. This only used to operate through landlines. The VETS phone number was widely published, and worked on the basis of automatically ringing all ten people simultaneously, the first to pick up the phone who was available to help would assist in any way they could. I have been made aware that the VETS can now operate through the VOIP phones or Mobiles. I am also aware that since the rollout of fibre broadband in the village quite a few people no longer have land lines, and the mobile reception is unreliable in most of the village. To this end, we have cancelled our VETS subscription, as we don't feel it would work very well with the change away from home landlines.

Essex Heartbeat Trust who supplied the equipment, and with who the VETS scheme is administered have assured me that the emergency services have been given the exact location of the defibrillators, and the opening code for both.

- In the event of an emergency, DIAL 999. If the emergency is a potential a heart attack, they will give you the code to open the defibs.
- Do not leave the patient, but get someone to collect the defib.
- Follow verbal and written instructions once defib is powered up.
- The code for both our defibs is C1267

I think it would be helpful if we had a list of names and phone numbers in each of the defibs for people that could be contacted to assist in an emergency.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL.

We are fortunate that we have some professional medical people living in the village who I am sure would be prepared to offer basic CPR training to anyone who will sign up, and we can arrange a group training session.

Please contact me if you are available to potentially save a life in our village.

Thanks

Bill Piper 01787 473933

Little Maplestead Coronation Celebrations

Apologies for late publication.

The village picnic on May 7th was a great success, with over 100 people attending a 'sharing picnic' on the playing field. We also had 'mac and cheese' street food, which also went down very well. Loads of food was bought along for everyone to share.



The disco was playing, and the event concluded with a dog show, and we raised our glasses to His Majesty King Charles III.

A massive thank you to everyone who assisted with the organisation, laying out and clearing up, a great team effort.



The Round Church, Little Maplestead

The annual Choral Evensong service was held at the Round Church on the 4th June. Our picturesque church of St John the Baptist has links to St John through the Knights Hospitaller dating back to 1185. This annual event is unique and very special to the Order of St John in Essex. The procession ahead of the service used to start in the village and makes its way up to the church but now it begins at the gate.

As always it was a wonderful service, and we were blessed by the weather which enabled us to enjoy refreshments outside after the service.



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07804 474494 (Pebmarsh)



Casual Vacancy

Great Maplestead Parish Council...

...needs another Parish Councillor

We are looking to appoint someone with good local knowledge of the Parish, an interest in the local environment and who is keen to serve our community and help to make Great Maplestead an even better place to live.

What do Councillors do?

- **Local Involvement**
Work as a team on behalf of **all** residents to consider, evaluate and undertake actions that will benefit the whole Parish.
- **Monitoring**
Ensure together that grants are sought, awarded and best value services obtained for major projects.
- **Decision Making**
Decide how funding is best spent to improve residents' facilities and, in the common interest, respond to **all** planning applications affecting the Parish.
- **Governance**
Commit to the **Council's Code of Conduct** to undertake the role in an unbiased and lawful manner.

What could YOU do?

DON'T BE SHY! If you have the time, and can make the commitment, then this is a great opportunity to get involved in the Parish's future and become a part of its history.

To be a candidate you must:

- ✓ *be a British, Commonwealth or Irish citizen; and*
- ✓ *be aged 18 years or over.*

Also, you must fulfil at least one of these criteria:

- ✓ *have been on the electoral register for the Parish; or*
- ✓ *during the whole of the 12 months before your appointment, owned or occupied land or property in the Parish; or*
- ✓ *during that same 12-month period, have had your main place of work in the Parish; or*
- ✓ *during that same 12-month period, have lived in the Parish or within 3 miles of it*

If you are interested, please submit a short written application to the Parish Clerk, Ann Crisp – e-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk or deliver it to: New House, St Giles Close, Great Maplestead CO9 2RW

Closing date for applications is 12th July 2023

JB

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of Beauty
Therapists



The copy deadline for the September 2023 magazine is **Friday 23 June 2023**
Submit your copy early to guarantee inclusion. Email me or our village reps.

Copy

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Gestingthorpe	Andy Craig	07970 395640	andy@mdamarketing.com
Gt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	ann66harris@gmail.com
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 Sat 1st July
 Fri 14th July
 Sun 13th Aug
 Sun 3rd Sept
 Sun 10th Sept



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Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe 'Gatherings' Coffee Mornings

Gardens in flower and the crops in the fields starting to ripen. A good time to take a nice gentle stroll to our village hall to join us and enjoy our coffee mornings. We would love to see you and guarantee a warm welcome, lovely home baked cakes accompanied by a glass of squash or a cup of tea.

On 23rd June, Wendy Jones, a long-term resident of Gestingthorpe who is soon to leave the village, invited her friends to a 'good-bye' at the coffee morning. We had a great crowd of people enjoying the delicious cakes and biscuits made by our lovely 'cake queens'. 'Thank you' ladies.

Wendy; we loved having you join us at our coffee mornings and send our very best wishes to you in your new home on the south coast

Our coffee mornings during **July** will be held on the **Fridays of 7th and 21st**. The dates during **August** will be the **Fridays of 4th and 18th**; **September** dates will be **1st, 15th and 29th**.

Our coffee mornings continue to be a great place for villagers and friends to have a fortnightly 'catch up' over a coffee and cake. Funds raised at our coffee mornings go towards the upkeep and running of our village hall.

If you haven't yet been to a coffee morning; please come along. If you are in Gestingthorpe and you don't want to walk along the roads on a hot and sticky day please give **Chris or Rose a call on 01787 462763** who would be happy to give you a lift to the village hall.

Gestingthorpe Grill

The first Gestingthorpe Grill was held on the front lawn of the Village Hall on Saturday 17 June.

The BBQ tongs were expertly wielded by Steve Bagby serving up delicious bacon rolls to hungry Fun, Fit, Fabbers who had just completed their work out on the village green, as well as other villagers attracted by the smell of sizzling bacon. Our next grill will be on 15 July from 9.45.

Bacon Sandwiches and Tea or Coffee £3.50

Saturday 15 July between 9.45 to 11.00

Cash only. At your Village Hall

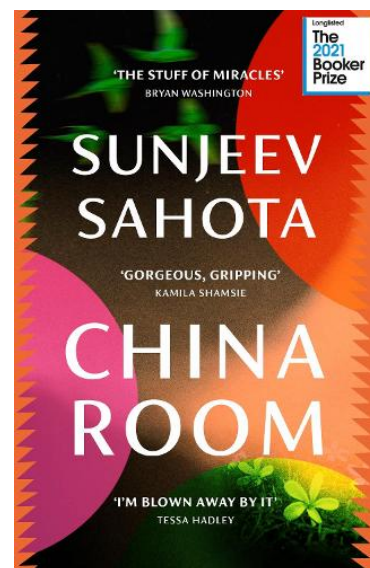


Gestingthorpe First Tuesday Book Club

The Gestingthorpe Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall. Our meetings are very informal with lots of chat, laughs, wine & nibbles. We are currently reading China Room by Sunjeev Sahota.

If you would like to join us, our next meeting is Tuesday 11 July (2nd Tuesday just for this month) @ 7.30pm.

Contact Penny pbagby1@gmail.com or 07840 367172 for further details.



Gestingthorpe Village Hall Events

Date	Use	Time
Tuesday, 4 July 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Tuesday, 4 July 2023	Book Club	19.30 - 21.00
Wednesday, 5 July 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 6 July 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Friday, 7 July 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 - 12.00
Tuesday, 11 July 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 12 July 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 13 July 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Thursday, 13 July 2023	Parish Council Meeting	7pm-9pm
Saturday, 15 July 2023	Gestingthorpe Grill	9.45 - 11.00
Tuesday, 18 July 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 19 July 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 20 July 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Friday, 21 July 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 - 12.00
Tuesday, 25 July 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 26 July 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 27 July 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45

Pebmarsh

Pebmarsh Knit & Natter Meeting

For the Pebmarsh Ladies' Knit and Natter meeting on 11th July, we will be visiting Spencer Farm shop for seasonal strawberries and cream teas!

This group is not just for Pebmarsh residents, ladies from surrounding villages are most welcome.

Any questions please contact Pauline on 01787 228790 or email pauline_andow@hotmail.co.uk

Pauline Andow



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More Pebmarsh

Heidi Page's Nature Watch (from Oak Farm)

It's a lovely time of year on the farm, everything is coming to life, lots of colour and lots of wildlife to see.

If I sit in my photography hide in one of our fields and open the front windows I can see and have photographed Buzzards, Red Kites, Deer and a family of foxes with 4 cubs. If I open the back window a little later in the evening I can watch and photograph a family of Badgers who have 6 cubs.

When I move further up the farm I can hear our 4 Little Owlets in the nest box calling to be fed. They recently had their BTO rings fitted and are now fledged.

We keep a close eye on everything with trail cams and have had some fascinating footage of things we would never normally see. We are so lucky living in Pebmarsh with all this on our doorstep.

Thanks so much for your Nature Watch article Heidi & wonderful pics, really kind of you & so interesting too.

The Editor



Friends of Pebmarsh Church (FOPC)

The Friends of Pebmarsh Church (FOPC), are proud to report that the repair works to the boundary church yard wall are continuing despite the rather recent inclement weather followed by the more recent heatwave. Although the completion date has been delayed, the funding from FOPC is in place and Enover, the grant provider, assurance of their continued support secures the project.

Sarah Burgess has decided to step back from the FOPC and at the May 2023 meeting all the committee thanked Sarah from both the committee and members, for her invaluable contribution in giving her time, knowledge and expertise to the FOPC. The FOPC look forward to continuing to work with Sarah in her role as Church Warden on the Pebmarsh Church Committee.

The FOPC were promoting and fund raising for our wonderful village church, as well as supporting the up and coming village events, with our 'Dogbola' raffle held at the 'Dog Fun Day' at the Kings Head, Pebmarsh. The day was a great success and

FOPC will once again be at the 'Bit of a Do' on the village event on the football pitch. We look forward to seeing and chatting with you there.

Our famous raffle event, the 'Wheelbarrow of Wine' is underway again for this year with tickets on sale now, your support is greatly appreciated. You can buy tickets from the Kings Head, Pebmarsh, where the prize will soon be on display and or make contact with Perry Crimmins on 01787 269450 to have some delivered to you within the village.

The FOPC are now recruiting for a volunteer to join the committee and those interested in preserving and protecting the fabric of our historic village church for generations to come, please make contact via email at team@friendsofpebmarshchurch.uk and or call John Flack on 01787 269182 for a friendly chat. **As ever, you can also join as a friend of Pebmarsh Church and help our community preserve our village church. It will be great to hear from you.**

The next meeting FOPC is scheduled in July '23 please let us know if you would like to come along and join in. **Perry Crimmins, FOPC.**

The Nott Family Trust (NFT) - Pebmarsh

Last month the trustees of the Nott Family Trust (NFT) met to discuss how they can further promote and develop the village of Pebmarsh. The NFT welcomed addition trustees Colin Gwynn and Mark Harrington and bid farewell to Denise Chamley, to whom the NFT is thankful for all her time, expertise and knowledge that she gave.

Post Covid, which curtailed the trustees activities, the NFT is now galvanised to support, provide and develop opportunities for Pebmarsh parishioners as well as to foremost protect our village playing field and village church.

Through education, excellence, health and faith the NFT has the wellbeing of the Pebmarsh parishioners and parish foremost in their vision.

Working towards meeting and exceeding our aims, the NFT is in the process of registering with the Charities Commission and will then introduce our own Grant Award Programme to bring community benefit to Pebmarsh and the surroundings. More on these exciting developments to come.

If you would like to know more, in the first instance please give us a call for a chat and contact either Jonathan Nott 01787 269231 or Perry Crimmins 01787 269450.

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Old Bones of Contention – the view of a Pebmarsh Elderly Person ('EP')

It is usual and courteous when greeting people to say 'How are you' or, in the local vernacular, 'yew awright'. However, a word of advice from one EP to those of you under seventyish which is, it may be best to think of another form of first sentence e.g., Hello, nice to see you and leave it at that. We EP's probably have so many health issues that asking how we are could lead to a litany of our problems and, once you have opened Pandora's Box you may be there for some time getting more and more depressed and bored. And gosh, like the literal French translation of *Je m'enuie*, do I bore myself when anyone is foolish enough to push me for an update on my numerous ailments.

For me the thin edge of the wedge was buying a two-week pill box from Poundland. It's been downhill ever since. The trouble is too, that you can't get away from it with other people. Everywhere I go these days I seem to get stuck in a supermarket aisle or some queue or, worst of all, sitting in a hospital waiting room. Why can't people just talk about the weather, although that is usually a moaning topic too. I speak to my sister every morning; she is also an EP and we have what we call our Whinge and Twinge session before we talk about anything else. Some years ago I used to see an old chap in the village and always asked how he was, his wonderful reply was always, 'fair to middlin'. My friend up the road is equally safe to enquire after, her stock reply, all be it stating the obvious, is 'still breathing'.

Thank goodness for my wonderful, half my age friends; their ailments are much more interesting, a sore behind from going on a ten mile bike ride, a crick in their neck because they didn't quite make it home from the pub and spent the night in a ditch or on someone's sofa, they can't quite remember which - or more usually, they just need a couple of paracetamol for their hangover. Lucky things, what I'd give to chuck that pill box and just have the odd headache remedy.

PEPA (aka Pebmarsh Elderly Person, anon)

Pebmarsh Village Hall Events

Mondays **Dog training club** - 17.15 - 21.00
Wendy Beard 07305 195 560

Tuesdays **Pilates and Yoga** - 09.45 - 10.30
_Jade Gooding - <https://pilatesandyogawithjade.com/>

Ladies Club – 13.00 - 15.00 Every 2nd Tuesday **now in the Hall *Note new time of 13.00!**
Sandra Beaney

**** **NEW:** Community Outreach **POST OFFICE** every Tuesday in the committee room 14:00 - 16:00 ****

Wednesdays **Adult dance exercise class** - 19.00 - 20:00
Kim Richardson - dance.kimrichardson@gmail.com

Thursdays **Art Group** -11.00 - 16.00
Sue Burgess 07443 537569

Youth Club - 18.30 - 20.30 - every other week
Carol Parker

****New Class for Thursdays!****

"Move Me" Exercise Class - 9.15 - 10.00
jennyjenkins247@gmail.com

Fridays **Life drawing art club** - 10.00 - 12.00
Glynis Hughes

Dog training club - 19.00 - 21:30
Wendy Beard

For any further information on any of our club activities or to book the hall for an event / party please contact Kelly Thompson by emailing pebmarshvillagehall@gmail.com or calling 07919 897592

Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

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
Gestingthorpe

01787 852252
01787 852850

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

Parish Council Websites

Gestingthorpe	www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk
Great Maplestead	www.greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Little Maplestead	www.littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk
Pebmarsh	www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com

Local & National Authority Representatives

Essex County Council

Councillor Peter Schwier - cllr.peter.schwier@essex.gov.uk

Braintree District Council www.braintree.gov.uk

Great and Little Maplestead

Councillor Peter Schwier - cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk

Gestingthorpe

Councillor Wendy Scattergood - cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk

Pebmarsh

Councillor George Courtauld - cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk

Councillor Gabrielle Spray - cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk

Westminster

James Cleverly MP - james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk

Church Services around our Parishes

July 2023

2nd	9:30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9.30	Morning Prayer	Gestingthorpe
	11am	Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
9th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Pebmarsh
	11am	Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
	11am	Cafe Church	Great Maplestead
16th	10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Pebmarsh
Wed 19th	10am	BCP Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
23rd	9:30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Little Maplestead
	11am	Morning Worship	Pebmarsh
	4pm	Compline	Gestingthorpe
30th	10am	Holy Communion Halstead Team Service	Gt Maplestead

August 2023

6th Aug	9:30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9:30	Morning Prayer	Gestingthorpe
	11am	Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
13th	9:30	Holy Communion	Pebmarsh
	11am	Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
	11am	Cafe Church	Great Maplestead
20th	10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
27th	9:30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Little Maplestead
	11am	Morning Worship	Pebmarsh
	4pm	Compline	Gestingthorpe

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The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannewton4@gmail.com
Little Maplestead			
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	peter.427nice@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Jim Crayston	07957870340	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
	Sarah	01787 269092	sarahburgess@btinternet.com
	Burgess		

Parish News

The magazine is available in colour on the Parish News website, which is a gateway to our four villages and their churches.

The website address is:
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Deadline for Articles!
Friday:

18 August for September

22 September for October

20 October for November

**17 November for the
December & January edition**

19 January for February 2024 edition!

Email the Editor : nicola.coppen@live.co.uk



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Parish News is hand delivered through all doors in the 4 Parishes.



A warm
welcome
awaits



Gestingthorpe Cricket Team are actively seeking players to help strengthen the team, whether new to the game or a seasoned player wishing to take up the sport once more.

All matches are friendly but competitive & no weekly commitment is expected.

Match fees are £5 per game, this includes a cricket tea.

There are social events throughout the season & a presentation night at the end of the year.

The Club Captain is Richard Scillitoe & he can be contacted on **07557 850215** or **scillitoe@gmail.com**

We look forward to hearing from you!