

# **Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe**

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**Church and Community together**  
**May 2022**

**Free**

## Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent can be found on page 32 and the churchwardens on page 30.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 30

Magazine copy see page 32

### 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 Boydell	07927 775989	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 Postma		<a href="https://www.mollyswood.org/contact">https://www.mollyswood.org/contact</a>

## Letter from the editor



Welcome to May.

We are planning for a lot of events over the next couple of months so keep on reading.

The cover photo is from Peter Schwier, definitely demonstrating some of the perils in a garden.

On a personal level sadly David died. We were able to get him home and the NHS Hospice at Home service was so helpful, I cannot recommend it highly enough.

I am also so grateful to the wonderful support and help from our community, particularly for the Celebration of his Life, which we held in the Round Church. My especial thanks to the Reverend Gay, Nick and Elfed for the music, Margaret our organist, Cynthia for the flowers, Jane for her organisation and Jane and Bill, Alan, Jane and Bruce and Kevin for determinedly fighting the wind to raise the gazebo outside the church. You all made it very special occasion.

Jenny

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## Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

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My thoughts this month have been turning towards 'hope'. Life can be tough at times, and never more so than now, especially as we are wearied from 2 years of Covid and now the ongoing situation in Ukraine and the worry of the rising cost of living uppermost in our minds. Hope is a much-needed commodity in society, whether we are thinking nationally, internationally, or more in terms of our local community.

We have just celebrated Easter Sunday, the source of Christian hope. It signifies the first occasion in the story of the Christian faith, when all seemed to be bleak, all was lost, hope was gone. And yet, it turned out that behind the scenes, God was working on something beyond the imaginations of any who were following Jesus at the time, far greater than anything they had dared hope for.

Are we seeing, in the world around us, possibilities that look like they might be a sign of something good, but not quite daring to believe it? Easter hope, is called resurrection hope; the hope that what has died may in fact contain the shoots of new life. But of course, we only see those new shoots if we look for them!

You might like to ponder where you see those new shoots in your life, those close to you, your community, or even think more widely to the nation or the world. I wonder what God is doing that is unseen and unexpected. I wonder about those times when all seems bleak, as if it is the end of the story. What might we hope for that restores new life, in ways beyond our imaginings?

If you would like to explore the theme of hope, how we find hope in such difficult times, do come along to Café Church (8th May at Gt Maplestead 10:30) to hear how hope is prevailing in Ukraine, as Jan Bettley speaks about her connection with the 'Revival' Centre, a place of rehabilitation for children with disabilities in Ukraine. There will also be an activity of rock painting, there will be music, singing, prayers and home-baked goodies and pastries, all ages welcome.



Rev'd Beverley



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.

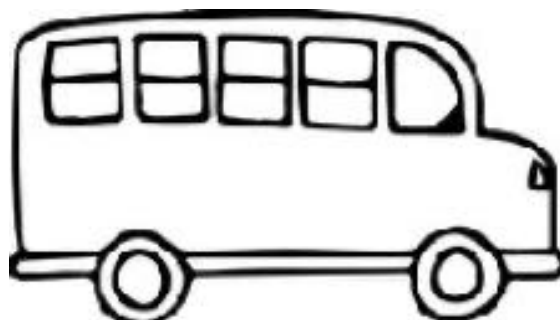
To get more information call Essex DaRT on 01621 874410 or email [info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk](mailto:info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk).

The latest timetables for the DaRT service at [www.essex.gov.uk/dart](http://www.essex.gov.uk/dart) is incorrect.

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

<b>F315</b>							<b>From 01/03/2018</b>
Sudbury, Bus Station	<b>09:00</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>13:00</b>	<b>15:30</b>	<b>17:30</b>	<b>19:15</b>	
Ballingdon, Kings Head	<b>09:03</b>	<b>11:03</b>	<b>13:03</b>	<b>15:33</b>	<b>17:33</b>	<b>09:18</b>	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	<b>09:07</b>	<b>11:07</b>	<b>13:07</b>	<b>15:37</b>	<b>17:37</b>	<b>19:22</b>	All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked
Bulmer, Cross Roads	<i>09:11</i>	<i>11:11</i>	<i>13:11</i>	<i>15:41</i>	<i>17:41</i>	<i>19:26</i>	
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	<i>09:17</i>	<i>11:17</i>	<i>13:17</i>	<i>15:47</i>	<i>17:47</i>	<i>19:32</i>	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	<i>09:23</i>	<i>11:23</i>	<i>13:23</i>	<i>15:53</i>	<i>17:53</i>	<i>19:38</i>	
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	<i>09:32</i>	<i>11:32</i>	<i>13:32</i>	<i>16:02</i>	<i>18:02</i>	<i>19:47</i>	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	<i>09:33</i>	<i>11:33</i>	<i>13:33</i>	<i>16:03</i>	<i>18:03</i>	<i>19:48</i>	
Little Maplestead, Corner	<i>09:39</i>	<i>11:39</i>	<i>13:39</i>	<i>16:09</i>	<i>18:09</i>	<i>19:54</i>	
Great Maplestead, Church	<i>09:45</i>	<i>11:45</i>	<i>13:45</i>	<i>16:15</i>	<i>18:15</i>	<i>20:00</i>	latest arrival time
Little Maplestead, Pump	<i>09:51</i>	<i>11:51</i>	<i>13:51</i>	<i>16:21</i>	<i>18:21</i>	<i>20:06</i>	earliest arrival time
Halstead, High Street	<i>09:56</i>	<i>11:56</i>	<i>13:56</i>	<i>16:26</i>	<i>18:26</i>	<i>20:11</i>	
Halstead, High Street	<i>09:37</i>	<i>11:37</i>	<i>13:37</i>	<i>16:07</i>	<i>18:07</i>	<i>19:43</i>	

<b>F315</b>							<b>From 01/03/2018</b>
Halstead, High Street	<b>07:30</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>14:00</b>	<b>16:30</b>	<b>18:30</b>	
Little Maplestead, Pump	<b>07:35</b>	<b>10:05</b>	<b>12:05</b>	<b>14:05</b>	<b>16:35</b>	<b>18:35</b>	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
Great Maplestead, Church	<i>07:41</i>	<i>10:11</i>	<i>12:11</i>	<i>14:11</i>	<i>16:41</i>	<i>18:41</i>	All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked
Little Maplestead, Cock	<i>07:49</i>	<i>10:17</i>	<i>12:17</i>	<i>14:17</i>	<i>16:47</i>	<i>18:47</i>	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	<i>07:54</i>	<i>10:23</i>	<i>12:23</i>	<i>14:23</i>	<i>16:53</i>	<i>18:53</i>	
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	<i>07:55</i>	<i>10:24</i>	<i>12:24</i>	<i>14:24</i>	<i>16:54</i>	<i>18:54</i>	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	<i>08:04</i>	<i>10:33</i>	<i>12:33</i>	<i>14:33</i>	<i>17:03</i>	<i>19:03</i>	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	<i>08:10</i>	<i>10:39</i>	<i>12:39</i>	<i>14:39</i>	<i>17:09</i>	<i>19:09</i>	
Bulmer, Cross Roads	<i>08:15</i>	<i>10:45</i>	<i>12:45</i>	<i>14:45</i>	<i>17:15</i>	<i>19:15</i>	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	<i>08:19</i>	<i>10:49</i>	<i>12:49</i>	<i>14:49</i>	<i>17:19</i>	<i>19:19</i>	
Ballingdon, Kings Head	<i>08:23</i>	<i>10:53</i>	<i>12:53</i>	<i>14:53</i>	<i>17:23</i>	<i>19:23</i>	
Sudbury, Bus Station	<i>08:07</i>	<i>10:37</i>	<i>12:37</i>	<i>14:37</i>	<i>17:07</i>	<i>19:07</i>	earliest arrival time
Sudbury, Bus Station	<i>08:30</i>	<i>10:56</i>	<i>12:56</i>	<i>14:56</i>	<i>17:28</i>	<i>19:28</i>	latest arrival time



## Little Maplestead

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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. If you or others you know feel may need support please contact one of us.

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

### **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.**

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Little Maplestead Parish Council are organising two events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Both events will be free for all the residents of the village.

#### Event 1 Lighting of the Beacon

There will be a Cheese and Wine evening in the playing field on Thursday 2 June at 7.30 pm. Cheese and wine, and hopefully some sausage rolls and Jubilee Tart will be provided. This is to support the lighting of the beacon at 9.45 pm.

#### Event 2 Village picnic/street party, incorporating a Hog Roast.

This will be in the playing field on Sunday 5 June starting about 1 pm.

There will be an official unveiling of a new attraction at around 1.30pm, followed by judging of best decorated cake, and children's fancy dress. The best front garden will be voted on during the afternoon, and the results announced at 3.30 pm

A Hog Roast will be provided, including Tea and Coffee while the roast is being served.

Please bring your own picnic and other drinks.

People will be coming round the village with tickets to be exchanged for Hog roast. Please keep these safe, and don't forget to bring with you.



Looking forward to seeing you all there!!.

## More Little Maplestead

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### Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee

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What can I do to Celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee?.

You could do any or all of the following with a Royal theme:

Make and or decorate a cake competition.

Make and or decorate a cake, bring it along to the Sunday Hog Roast on 5 June in the playing field. There will be two classes.... Adults and Children.  
The cake could then be shared with the village!.

- Childrens fancy dress competition.

Dress up your children, and come along to the Hog roast on 5 June. Where they will be judged!.

- Decorate your front garden competition.

Decorate your garden, and there will be a voting box at the Hog Roast, so your garden will be judged by the rest of the Village!

If you just want to be waited on, Get you Husband/Wife or Partner to prepare a picnic, and pack drinks (don't forget bottle opener) and just roll up into the Playing field on Sunday 5 June at 1 pm, and share a hog roast with the Village.



It is as simple as that!!

### Plant Sale

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Following the enormous success of our plant sale last year we are repeating the event on Saturday May 14th from 10am to 2pm, as per the advert in this magazine. Our Craft Fair will be held in September again in order to give us more room for plants now, so this is a chance to buy everything you need for the garden at incredibly cheap prices, as well as supporting your local church. There will be all sorts of flowers, vegetables, shrubs and herbs. Following requests from last year there will be a tea stall this year serving our legendary cakes with coffee or tea, and a chance to sit and relax with friends, hopefully in the beautiful sunshine! If it's wet we will be in the church. Entry is free!

If anyone has plants to donate or cakes to bake for us please get in touch with Jane Stone on 472525

# Our Annual Plant Sale

Saturday 14th May

10am - 2pm

Round Church

Little Maplestead

CO9 2SL



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

*all at great prices*

***Free entry***

Tea, coffee and cakes  
available this year as well!



*Come and select high quality plants at a  
fraction of garden centre prices, and enjoy  
tea/coffee and cake in beautiful surroundings*

All proceeds to the Round Church





# SAVE THE DATE

All Little Maplestead Residents are invited to

## The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

### Lighting of the Beacon

Join in the nationwide celebrations with a cheese and wine night & lighting of the Beacon will be lit at 9.35pm

**Thursday 2nd June 2022  
7.30pm - 9.30pm**

Local cheeses and wines provided

Bring your own soft drinks

On the Little Maplestead Playing Field

### Hog Roast

Join your neighbours for an afternoon of fun

**Sunday 5th June 2022  
from 1.00pm**

Hog roast provided. Bring your own drinks

Soyol fancy dress for children

Best decorated cake competition

On the Little Maplestead Playing Field

For more information and to register your interest email:

**[littlemaplestead@yahoo.com](mailto:littlemaplestead@yahoo.com) or call 01787473933**

\*For residents only

## Nature Notes

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Winter had a last gasp resurgence at the end of March and into April with smatterings of snow, feather-light hail and a spell of crisp frosts. Redwings seemed to linger and a flock of 50 in Pebmarsh on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March was the last significant sighting. By then the verges were glistening white with stitchwort and dog's mercury was painting them green.



This cold snap did little to deter the enthusiasm of the local birdlife as more and more of them joined the dawn chorus and nesting activity became obvious.

Crows carrying sticks for nesting platforms, tits prospecting holes and crevices for nest-sites and the pheasants chasing each other around the garden. The males, in particular, are endlessly crowing and wing-flapping while squaring up to opponents.

I have a small pond in my garden and it has been something of a disappointment over the years, with little sign of occupation. A lone frog one year and the surface thick with floating pondweed. I decided to relieve it of an accumulation of dead leaves and using a small net started hauling them out and piling them up at the edge. I figured that any critters that had inadvertently been caught would make their way back into the water, and there certainly were numbers of small creeping things that I could see.

My grandson was curious, so I turned the pile over and spotted a movement; it was a smooth newt, complete with bright orange belly covered in black spots. Further dredging produced three more and I decided to halt the operation and let things be. Newts are largely terrestrial and on land they have a leathery skin. They move into water to breed, at which time the skin becomes smooth, and the bright colours appear. The young, known as efts, develop and leave the water to seek out damp, vegetated areas where they live until it is time to breed again. I will leave any further pond interference until the autumn in future.

With the advent of warm sunny days in mid-April the butterfly counts have increased and there are now six species visiting the garden. The brimstones and commas of March have been joined by small tortoiseshell, peacock, small white and (since yesterday) orange tips.

The moth trap has been disappointing however, with low numbers and few species. Despite this there were two new species for the garden, a small 'macro' (Least Black Arches), and a large 'micro', unflatteringly called the Brindled Flat-body. The terms micro and macro are somewhat arbitrary, with the various families assigned to one of the other; individual members of families often buck their assignation. In general the micros vastly outnumber the macros but are more difficult to identify. **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'll 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.

### Cafe Church - St Giles

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An informal service for community and reflection. Please join us on Sunday 8th May at 10.30am where the theme will be 'Hope', our speaker Jan Bettley with an update on UK Aid in the Ukraine and everybody has the opportunity to paint a rock to either take home or leave at church.

### The Maplesteads WI

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It is with great sadness that, after 102 years of a Women's Institute being in the village, I have to report that the meeting in March was our last. It was not an easy decision but we were unable to get anyone to fill the vacancies of President, Secretary and Speaker Co-ordinator. After a unanimous vote we decided to step away from the WI.

This is not the end but the end of the beginning and, as we look to the future, we hope that a new woman's group will rise like a Phoenix from the ashes. There will be a meeting on May 5th at 7.30pm at the Village Hall and everyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

I would like to thank the WI Committee for all their hard work and support they have given not only to me but also to the club.

In conclusion, I would like us all to remember Connie Hume, who was one of the longest serving members: she will be fondly remembered. More Great Maplestead

The WI Members' last supper of fish and chips at their final meeting.



## 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



### 10<sup>th</sup> Great Maplestead Beer Festival



**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April/Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May -**  
in the **Village Hall**

Saturday **12.00pm - 11.00pm**  
Sunday **12.00pm - 4.00pm-ish.**

This will be a great event, featuring a fantastic selection of local ales, cider, wine, Prosecco, lager, soft drinks, delicious food, Morris dancing, live bands and much more!!

Entry and a souvenir pint glass:  
**Saturday £5/Sunday £3** or **FREE** with your glass from the previous day.

It's the first **May Beer Festival** since 2019 and its **10th anniversary** so it will definitely be one to remember...

# More Great Maplestead



## 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

Service of Thanksgiving - in St Giles' Church at 10.00am

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' / BYO Picnic – from 2.00pm

+ A number of Pre-Weekend Events\*  
and Village Decorations

Open to all residents, family and friends

\*Check hand-delivered flyer for details

More Information at: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/events/>

# More Great Maplestead

## Connie Hume – In Memoriam

St Giles' Church was packed on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April as villagers and relatives gathered to remember Connie, one of our oldest residents, who had lived in the village her entire life and was known to almost everyone.

During the service Rev Beverley Vincent recounted anecdotes and reminiscences of Connie working at Lucking Farm and at Courtalds in Halstead, and her long-standing membership of the WI.

The Churchwardens also read a couple of Connie's poems, which are reproduced below.

Tony, Connie's son, would sincerely like to thank Rev Beverley for conducting such a lovely service, everyone who attended and all those who sent cards, letters and messages of sympathy. He'd also like to thank the members of the WI for providing such excellent refreshments in the Village Hall following the service.



### My Garden

It's good to have a garden  
In which to work and play  
To dig and sow – to weed and  
hoe  
And pass the time away

It's good to have a garden  
In which to sit and rest,  
In a chair, in the sweet fresh  
air,  
That's the thing that I like best

It's good to have a garden,  
A place to call one's own.  
A little plot, a special spot,  
That makes a house a home

### Pleasures

Little white daisies, forget-me-nots blue  
Sweet celandine, bright buttercups too.  
Bluebells and violets, to colour the  
spring  
All nature's flowers, what pleasure they  
bring

Trees of the forest, they reach for the  
sky,  
Hedgerows and meadows, a stream  
rippling by.  
Twilight and daybreak, a blackbird does  
sing,  
All nature's gifts, oh, what pleasure  
they bring

Sunshine and raindrops, soft breezes to  
blow  
Storm gathering clouds – the wind and  
the snow  
The glittering frost, the robin will sing,  
All nature's seasons, what pleasure they  
bring.

## More Great Maplestead

### **The Maplesteads Autumn Show – Saturday 10 September 2022.**

Although September seems a long way off, now is the time to start thinking about this year's Autumn Show, which will take place on Saturday 10th September at Great Maplestead Village Hall.

There will be many categories, including flowers, fruit and vegetables as well as cookery, handicrafts and photography.

There will be competitions for children as well as adults, so we hope that there will be something of interest for the whole family.

This year's photographic competition for adults will be entitled 'Abandoned Buildings' and, for under 16's, 'I Love My .....????'

So you have plenty of time to capture the perfect photograph for your entry when you are out and about in the next few months.

There will also be a sunflower competition, so start sowing your sunflower seeds soon – more details on this to follow.

The Chairman – Carol Brownlie – would like last year's cup winners to return their trophies as soon as possible to Godsalve, Church Street, Great Maplestead.

If you wish to contact the Chairman please phone: 01787 461 527  
or e-mail: [carolbrownlie@gmail.com](mailto:carolbrownlie@gmail.com).

### **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

---

April certainly came in like a lion – what a surprise to see a covering of snow first thing in the morning. May on the other hand is when everything in the garden suddenly starts to grow and it's a case of what to do first!



This month's recommendation is Geum, a small hardy perennial with a number of colour variants from red to orange through to pale yellow. An ideal plant for the front of a border or rockery.

I have to say the flowering prunus [cherry] have been magnificent this year – now is the time to note down the name of a variant that appeals to you ready for purchasing in the autumn.

Agapanthus can also be divided this month, using a sharp spade as described in this column previously.

In the vegetable garden now is the time to harden off tomato plants for external planting and potting up for the greenhouse. Do not plant out though until the risk of frost is over! Potatoes should be earthed up to protect the crown and the developing 'spuds'. Runner bean canes can be erected – I tend to do this to avoid running out of room in the vegetable garden. Continue to sow radish, carrots, beetroot and a later sowing of broad beans.

Feed container-grown shrubs and fruit trees with a granular feed, to sustain the former during the summer months and to improve fruiting yields for the latter.

Continue to move a hoe through the flower borders and vegetable rows – as I said earlier everything grows in May, especially the weeds!

Dahlia tubers can be planted out; they should be sending up new shoots so pot them up if necessary and place them in a warm environment. This will hasten the production of healthy stems.

Lawn mowing is a constant and the blades can now be lowered on the mower. Avoid scalping the grass as this encourages moss and bald patches.

Lastly, take the time to sit and admire your garden and all the hard work you have put into it this spring.

Happy Gardening

The Arborist

# **Gestingthorpe**

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## **Support in Gestingthorpe**

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Please if you are self isolating, or 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 May and June will be held on the Fridays of 6 and 20 May and the 17 June. All Friday gatherings start at 10am and run until 12 noon. Our coffee mornings that are held on alternate Fridays are continuing to be enjoyed by all. If the weather is warm and dry we will put a table and chairs outside so you can hear the birdsong.

It is great to see so many regulars and some new faces at our gatherings and to hear the buzz and laughter between everyone enjoying a chat with their friends over a hot or cold drink and delicious home baked cakes.

We are sure you are all looking forward to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and one of the events will be tea, cakes and savouries in the village hall from 10am until 2 pm on Friday 3rd June. Please come along and enjoy.

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

### **Village hall**

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Our village hall is going to have a new roof.

The village hall was built around 1865 and, true to Victorian building skills, it was well built. However, nothing lasts forever and the old slate roof is starting to fail. It is in need of repair in a few places.

We are pleased that we can, with the aid of monies from fundraising events supported by our villagers, from kind and generous donations from villagers and also using Grants and subsidies from outside sources, have major refurbishment work undertaken.

The work on the roof is to start by the beginning of May. By the time you receive your copy of Parish News for May the scaffolding may well be in place.

The roofing company is to save as many good original slates as possible and if they have enough they will be put onto the roof that faces the road and also onto the roof that faces the church. New Spanish slates will be on the other roof surfaces.

Thank you everyone for helping us to maintain and protect your village hall.

## More Gestingthorpe

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### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

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Please join us over the June bank holiday weekend for a series of events hosted by Gestingthorpe Parish Council, Gestingthorpe Village Hall, and St Mary the Virgin Church. All events and times TBC.

Upcoming events:

Thursday 2nd June

- Lighting of the Platinum Jubilee beacon, forged by our own Blacksmith – Richard Nice, Church Green, 9:45pm
- The village hall will be open for refreshments before the lighting of the beacon. 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 a traditional tea party. Join us for sausage rolls, cake, tea, coffee and more. There will be a chance for younger members of the village to colour in a Jubilee crown – and win a prize.

Saturday 4th June

- Fitness through the Decades with Nic (FunFitFab) taking place on the village green with refreshments.

Sunday 5th June

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

### **Gestingthorpe Village Hall. Annual General Meeting**

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The AGM will be held in the village hall on Thursday 9th June 2022 at 7.30pm

You are invited to join the meeting in our village hall. We ask that all attendees observe the COVID-19 rules in place on the day.

All villagers from the Parish of Gestingthorpe are invited to take part in the AGM to hear what we have done in the last year and what we are planning to do in the future for your village hall.

## **More Gestingthorpe**

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### **More Gestingthorpe Village Hall AGM**

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We need everyone at the meeting to vote on the 31st March 2022 year end accounts and also on who is to represent the villagers by being part of the Village Hall Committee.

If you would like to stand for, or nominate someone for, a position on the Committee please contact Steph Prior ( 01787 462351 ) or Chris Harman ( 01787 462763 ) by 7th June. We will need your confirmation that a nominee has agreed to stand for election.

If you are unable to join the meeting but want to see the Accounts then please 'phone Chris by 7th June with your contact details. We will then provide you with a paper copy of the Accounts.

If you wish to submit your comments for notification and discussion at the AGM then please let Chris know. We do want and need to hear from you with your views and thoughts on your village hall and the running of it.

If you can join us for the AGM we will be pleased and look forward to seeing you.

### **BLUEBELL SUNDAY**

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Wiggery Wood will be 'open' for local residents to visit and enjoy the Bluebells—and other woodland flora—on Sunday, May 1st, or Bank Holiday Monday, May 2nd, from

11a.m to 7p.m

\*\*\*\*\*

All Welcome

\*\*\*\*\*

To find the wood, drive to Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe, (C09 3BL), where there is ample parking, then follow the signs to the wood, which is about 400 yards away.

Stout footwear is essential!

N.B The wood will not be 'open' in the event of very strong winds

### **Save the date**

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Village tidy up! We will be tidying up the public areas of the village over the weekend of the 28th & 29th of May (Bus Shelter, Playing-field fence, Village Signs etc) if anyone would like to help us the Parish Council would welcome a few more pairs of hands.

Save the date! The Gestingthorpe Village Hall will be having a Summer Party on the evening of the 24th of June, look out for details in nexts months Parish News or on the Village Facebook pages.

## Pets Corner

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My name is Lottie. I'm a chocolate Labrador and I've lived at Barretts Hall in Great Maplestead for nearly 15 years with the nice humans who re-homed me after I had been abandoned for a second time as a youngster.

Initially I was very confused, I couldn't understand why my humans kept calling me Lottie, I didn't know that name so I didn't do anything they asked. Eventually they brought in someone called a "trainer", who whispered to me that if I responded to the name, and did everything they asked, I would get an endless supply of food! I'm a Labrador, how could I refuse?

I don't know my actual birthday but my doctor thought that I was about 7 months old when I was re-homed so it was decided that, like the Queen, I would have an 'official' birthday on 1st August.

When I arrived there was another dog here, a black Labrador called Jack. He was very gentle and quite old, but I gave him a whole new lease of life and we became close playmates for the next four years. I also had to learn to live with two cats called Derek and Clive, who thought they ruled the roost. However, I soon showed them that all dogs weren't the pushover Jack was! Clive loved Jack, though he was always scared of me, but Derek and I became the very best of friends... he'd sneak me the occasional fresh treat through the cat flap, such as baby bunnies or mice... I never really understood why that made the humans squeal.

When I was three I had a puppy, but just the one, which I'm told is unusual. She's called Billie (short for 'Billy-No-Mates', a human joke I never fully understood). I wasn't the most maternal of new mothers, but we've rubbed along quite well over the years, and I think we're very good housemates. She's 11 now, and she's still as fit as a flea. I've never really been a runner, more a waddler really, especially recently as I now prefer a good snooze - but she's got more white hairs than me!

Jack died ten years ago, and we gradually lost the cats too, so Billie and I lived peacefully for a while. Then, three and a half years ago, one of the humans' daughters moved back home from a place called Ibiza, bringing two refugee rescue dogs, called Cassius and Pax, with her! Initially, there was a real language problem, and we struggled to get on, but they are now fluent in English and we have a great relationship, living together in a cool, though noisy, pack. You may have heard them howl!

Lottie Last



# **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 your village Volunteer.

### **St John the Baptist Church, Pebmarsh**

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Waffling's from a warden

Easter has been and gone and it finally feels like spring is with us. Our Easter service was attended by 45 people and the church was filled with flowers thanks to the flower arrangers. The church always looks amazing after the emptiness of Lent, as we put fresh flowers in ready for our Easter service.

We welcomed the School in to church for a lovely Easter service before the school holiday with poems and singing by the children and with many proud parents in attendance.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting has been held and the election of officials has taken place for the year. Jim Crayston and I will continue as church wardens and our thanks go to Meg Pearson for staying as secretary, and Denzil Fellows who will continue as treasurer. However, we are looking for someone who would be interested in helping us with this position, as Denzil would like to step down. We would like to thank him for all his work and to Alan Cordle for auditing our accounts again this year.

Jonathan Nott has also decided to step back from the PCC but we are still looking forward to working with him on the committee of Friends of Pebmarsh Church, and with his continued help and support looking after the churchyard through the Nott Family Trust. Thank you for all you do Jonathan.

The Friends continue to support us and are busy working to raise funds for the wall repair next to the Manor House, and whilst they support us in the cost of the fabric repairs, we the Pebmarsh Parochial Church Council are still responsible for the day to day costs and for services. Many of you already are very generous in donating to both the Friends and Pebmarsh church on a monthly basis, but we still need your help. You will see inside this month's magazine a letter from Rev'd Beverly Vincent about a gift day on the 7th May 9am to 2pm. Please come and support us so we can continue to be there for the community when needed.

The church is open everyday and from the 1st June I will start the 'Catch up and a Cuppa' on Wednesday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm.

Our next service is on 8th May at 9.30 am. Sarah Burgess. Church Warden

## More Pebmarsh

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### The King's Head Pebmarsh - Spring & Summer Updates

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#### Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited - Summer Festival

We are delighted to invite you to "save the date" for the return of our annual PCPL community celebration over the weekend of 22-24 July. There will be live music, Open Mic, art and crafts stalls, garden inflatable for children, Morris dancers, BBQ and festival menu. The annual "Bit of a Do" will also be taking place on the Pebmarsh football ground over this weekend - so why not take in both? Further details to follow.

#### Upcoming Events at the King's Head

Ryan, Abigail and Cathy will be running a number of events over the Spring and Summer months, to which everyone is warmly invited:

#### May Bank Holiday

- Friday 29 April - Monday 2 May - King's Head Beer Festival
- Sunday 1 May, Karaoke Night

#### Spring Bank Holiday - Queen's Jubilee

- Thursday 2 June - Garden Street Party with High Tea (£15)
- Friday 3 June - Live music & fancy dress

22/23/24 July - PCPL Summer Festival - further updates to follow

Summer Bank Holiday - 27-29 August - event tbc

As always, further details and the latest updates about events at the King's Head can be found on the pub website <https://www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk> or Facebook page @kingsheadpebmarsh. For bookings call 01787 267942.

We hope to see you at the King's Head over the coming months.

#### Other Activities in Pebmarsh

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



## Jamaican Crunch Pie

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4oz (112g) Gingernuts  
¼ pint (0.14l) double cream  
6 tbsps lemon juice  
Grated rind of 1 lemon

2oz (56g) Digestive biscuits  
1 can sweetened condensed milk  
[approx 7oz (195g)]  
Glazed slices of lemon for decoration

Crush the Gingernuts and Digestive biscuits with a rolling pin, or a few at a time in an electric blender, and place in a bowl. Stir into melted butter.

Use the biscuit mixture to line a 7½ inch (19cm) flan ring on a flat plate or board. Work the crumbs with the back of a metal spoon to form a shell; the edge should appear just above the flan ring.

Lightly whip the cream and fold in the condensed milk, lemon juice and rind and beat until smooth. Pour into the biscuit shell and chill overnight.

To make the glazed lemon slices:

In a shallow pan poach until tender 8 lemon slices (free of pips) in enough water to cover them. Keep the water level up. Drain the slices and add 3oz (84g) of sugar to the pan and, when dissolved, bring it to boil to reduce it to a glaze.

Pour the glaze over the slices and allow to cool. Then arrange on top of the pie.

Serves 6. (Delicious!)

Val Castro – Great Maplestead





### Thursday 12 May **The Home Guard in Essex**

A talk by Neil Wiffen – Essex Record Office

Neil will come suitably dressed for the talk and much can be learnt about the hard training, nightly patrols, dangers and fun across Essex experienced by local men as they answered the call to help protect their country in 1940.

7.30 pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

### Sunday 12 June **Clare Town Walk**

Led by Derek Blake MBE, local historian and chair of 'Clare Walkers are Welcome Town.'

2.00pm – meet at the Clare Country Park car park – CO10 8NW

Members: free for all walks and talks

Non-members: £5

All Welcome

For further details, contact:

Rob Worley 01787 460 664 : Trudi Cullum 01787 462 889

Peter Bayes 01787 469 953

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## Spring Garden Crime Prevention

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Hopefully by the time that you read this Spring will be established with the weather improving, inviting us out into our gardens. It is a good time to take a look around; are your fences and gates in good condition do you have good quality locks on gates, will they keep the unwelcome intruder out? To the front of your property where possible keep fencing, planting, and hedges to about 1.2m in height so that an intruder is not hidden from view. Protect your rear garden with 1.8m strong fencing, close boarded wooden fencing, and gates are a good choice and this can be topped with trellis or a plastic spiky topping such as [www.defendastrap.com/](http://www.defendastrap.com/) (warning signs needed). Panels should not be able to be lifted out of the posts, and avoid your fencing becoming a ladder by ensuring that the horizontal cross battens are facing into your garden.

Security does not have to be just about locks, bolts, and spiky fence toppings; nature provides some excellent plants to keep people away. There are a number of attractive, fragrant plants of a spiky nature such as climbing roses, pyracantha and berberis and other planting of a dense nature that can work quite well. Have a chat at your garden centre or with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) for the right plant.

Working in the garden: It is easy to get engrossed in what you are doing when working in the garden, if the house is empty it is wise to close and lock the door (don't forget the key though!). Remember when you stop for a break put your tools away, and at the end of the day as well as putting tools away put the wheelbarrow and wheelie bin away too. "It will add insult to injury" if your tools are used to break into your house, a neighbour's, nearby building such as a church, or provide a climbing aid or method of carrying things away.

New tools and lawn mowers: Be mindful of how you dispose of the packaging to your new purchases; don't advertise it to the thieves and burglars with your empty boxes on display outside for roadside collection. Fold boxes inside out or break them up and put them in bag for collection. If you are not using your lawn mower, jet washer or other put it away out of sight from prying eyes.

Property marking: It may deter a thief if your property or flower pots is visibly security marked with your house number and post code such as [www.creproducts.co.uk](http://www.creproducts.co.uk) or labelled if a forensic (hidden) property marking system is used such as [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com) or [www.selectadna.co.uk](http://www.selectadna.co.uk). You can also record the serial numbers of any tools at [www.immobilise.com/](http://www.immobilise.com/) . If your property does get stolen with property marking and/or recording, there is a greater chance of you getting it back.

For suitable security products look for the Secured by Design or Sold Secure logo's and for further garden security advice see the following webpages:

## 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

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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 May 2022

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1 May	9:30am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion 3pm Bluebell Service	Great Maplestead Little Maplestead Wiggery Wood, Gestingthorpe
8 May	9.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Holy Communion 10:30 Café Church	Pebmarsh Gestingthorpe Great Maplestead
15 May	10am Benefice Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
18 May	10am Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
22 May	9:30 Holy Communion 9:30 Morning Prayer 11.00 Morning Worship 4pm Compline	Great Maplestead Little Maplestead Pebmarsh Gestingthorpe
29 May	10am Halstead Area Team Service 5pm Deanery Evensong	St Andrew's, Earls Colne Earls Colne

All are welcome to our services. Our churches are open for private prayer during the day, if you need any information please contact the churchwarden.



### February 2022 Shopping List

<b>Urgent:</b>
<b>Food Items:</b>
Instant Noodles
Coffee
Squash (Small)
<b>Non-Food Items:</b>
Laundry Detergent (Liquid or Pods)
Nappies Size 5 and 6
<b>To Makein Stocks:</b>
Chocolate Bars
Jam
Cold Meat
Juice
Tea Bags (No Larger Than B)
Tinned Spaghetti
Packet Soup
Instant Noodles

## Coming up and save the date

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Coffee in St Giles Wednesday Mornings  
30 April/1 May Great Maplestead Beer Festival  
29 April/2 May Kings Head Pebmarsh Beer Festival  
1 & 2 May Bluebell Sunday, Wiggery Wood Gestingthorpe  
6 & 20 May Gestingthorpe Coffee Mornings  
12 May Hedingham Heritage Society Meeting  
14 May Little Maplestead Plant Sale  
28 & 29 May Gestingthorpe Village tidy up  
29 May/5 June Great Maplestead Scarecrow trail  
Pebmarsh Bowls and Social Club, Pebmarsh Ladies Club and Youth Club  
And don't forget all our Jubilee celebrations in June

The copy deadline for the February magazine is **Friday 20 May 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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This magazine is now available electronically on the parish council web 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)

