

**Parish
News**

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



**Church and Community together
November**

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent can be found on page 28 and the churchwardens on page 26.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 26

Magazine copy see page 28

Parish Clerks

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Gt Maplestead

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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	
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Football Club			
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Pebmarsh

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Ladies Club	Pauline Andow	01787 228790	
	Sandra Beaney	01787 222220	
Carpet bowls	Jim Crayston	01787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
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Footpaths

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All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537	acantor@linus.plus.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Margaret Crudgington	01787 476259	
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Benefice Choir	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Scouts	Stuart Carter	01787 461149	
Guides	Kathy Hoy	01787 280200	
Molly's Wood	Jane Postma		https://www.mollyswood.org/contact

Letter from the editor



My dog has developed a habit of barking for her breakfast between 7.30 and 8.00am. I am a night owl by inclination so it has taken some time to come to terms with an earlier rise. However, I am noticing a huge benefit which is watching the morning sun rise, (see front cover). We already have wonderful sunsets from the front of the house so great sun rises from the back is fabulous.

Please look at Ann Harris and Dorothy Weight's initiative for the Braintree Food Bank, it is on the penultimate page. Please help if you can. This winter will be difficult for a lot of people.

Ann Harris also does a sterling job not just organising Great Maplestead's copy but also Pets, Gardeners, Nature Notes and other interesting articles. She also started the Reading Room and recipes. We have now handed over the Reading Room to one of our Book Clubs, Lit 'n' Latte and when they have been exhausted we will ask another of our three (yes three) book clubs. With regard to recipes, please send in your favourites to us to publish.

A continuous plea, if anyone is interested in taking over the editor-ship, please let me know

With love to you all.

Contents

Page 2	Village contacts and information
Page 3	Letter from the Editor
Page 4	Letter from our Vicar and the Parish News website
Page 5	Bus service
Page 6	Stories from Pets Corner
Page 7-8	Little Maplestead
Page 9	Nature Notes
Page 10-12	Great Maplestead
Page 13	Gardening Corner
Page 14-15 & 20-21	Gestingthorpe
Page 22	The Reading Room
Page 23	Keeping safe on line
Page 24-25	Pebmarsh
Page 26	Cooking and baking
Page 27	Hedingham Heritage Society
Page 28	Autumn security considerations
Page 29-30	Local information
Page 31	Foodbank
Page 32	Church services

Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

November has always felt like the remembering month, hasn't it? We begin the month by celebrating All Saints and then have All Souls'. Then, of course, there are our Acts of Remembrance around Armistice Day.

Remembering is such a bittersweet thing, isn't it? When we remember, it is often with the joy of a cherished time being brought back to our minds, but with the sadness that that time is now past - that it can only be revisited in our memories. The memories bring a smile to our faces, but they often come tied up with a ribbon of grief because some of the people at the heart of that memory have died.

It is not always easy to do so, but it is important that we know it's ok to hold that joy and pain together, to find moments of light and laughter in the darkness, because both the joy and the pain come from the same source; love. If we didn't love, we wouldn't grieve.

For me it is essential to remember that God is with us in all of the memories, yet I know that our faith can be really knocked when we experience loss. Whilst sometimes I might demand action from God to heal the world; whilst I might question why, whilst I might shout at God, I am in absolutely no doubt that I will find God there with me, walking alongside.

When it feels dark, there is light, maybe just a flicker at first. But even a flicker of light makes a huge difference to our darkest time, doesn't it? And the light grows, and it beckons us forward. The light doesn't deny our grief, rather it illuminates it and helps us to find new ways to be, new ways to live with and despite our loss, new ways to find the balance between joy and pain.

It is no accident, I think, that our season of remembering moves into our Advent season of waiting for the light – and ultimately the explosion of the light into the world at Christmas, the light that is Jesus.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5)

Rev'd Beverley



Church Choir

Would you like to join with others in making a joyous noise, if so please consider our benefice choir. We are reforming and happy to have new members from across the four villages, for more information and dates for practice please contact Gill Peskett. gillpeskett43@gmail.com (01787 462786).

Parish News Website

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

www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk

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 £3 single, £5 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.

The latest timetables for the DaRT service at www.essex.gov.uk/dart is incorrect.

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

F315 From 01/03/2018

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

F315 From 01/03/2018

Halstead, High Street	07:30	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	18:30	
Little Maplestead, Pump	07:35	10:05	12:05	14:05	16:35	18:35	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
Great Maplestead, Church	07:41	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:41	18:41	All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked
Little Maplestead, Cock	07:49	10:17	12:17	14:17	16:47	18:47	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	07:54	10:23	12:23	14:23	16:53	18:53	
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	07:55	10:24	12:24	14:24	16:54	18:54	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	08:04	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:03	19:03	Timings other than those in bold type will vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	08:10	10:39	12:39	14:39	17:09	19:09	
Bulmer, Cross Roads	08:15	10:45	12:45	14:45	17:15	19:15	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	08:19	10:49	12:49	14:49	17:19	19:19	
Ballingdon, Kings Head	08:23	10:53	12:53	14:53	17:23	19:23	
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:07	10:37	12:37	14:37	17:07	19:07	earliest arrival time
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:30	10:56	12:56	14:56	17:28	19:28	latest arrival time

Stories from Pets Corner

I'm Pepsi, a 2-year-old border collie. I was born on a farm in Suffolk with 11,000 sheep. My relatives worked the sheep daily, however this was not my destiny. I got two new Mummies who have given me a great home with lots of toys and three cat brothers!

I didn't have a great start to life; I was born with an undershot jaw. My teeth were in the wrong place and dug into my gums, which gave me a lot of pain.

I had many trips to the Dog Orthodontist – I had my baby teeth removed and then needed a brace on my big girl teeth; how embarrassing!! It was worth the money though as I have no more pain and won prettiest bitch in our village show.

I also have a hole in my heart and a hernia, so my first year was spent visiting many different vets.

When I was better, I started training classes. I was getting on really well when it suddenly stopped. I wasn't allowed to walk or play with other dogs or humans. My Mum said there was some human disease around and we were not allowed to meet. I didn't understand at all, it's a human disease why can't dogs meet, very strange!

When I was a puppy, I was frightened a few times by bigger dogs. Due to lockdown I was unable to socialise and learn how to interact with other dogs, so I now wear a 'Nervous' sign as I don't like dogs getting in my face. Sometimes I bark or growl because I'm worried and don't know what to do. I'm not vicious, just scared, and need more self-confidence.

Now life is more normal, I enjoy walks with dog friends in the village. I have restarted my training and am seeing a new trainer. She's teaching me and my Mummy new things, its great fun, although I think Mummy needs more training than me! I'm learning something called 'scent tracking' – I have to hunt cheese left in the field, what's difficult about that?! It's giving me more self-confidence and a real purpose in life as I need a job, obviously I'm a collie!

I have two jobs at home: I love rounding up my chickens and the other job is digging the biggest hole before anyone sees me! I was so pleased with myself recently because I managed to dig one big enough to bury my football!! It's our secret though!



Little Maplestead

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

Parish Rooms

We have started looking at funding options and have applied for our first grant; hopefully we'll be able to provide a further update in next month's magazine.

Kevin Caddy

A PLEA

I wonder whether anyone can shed light on who might have painted this picture and indeed when. It could possibly have been done in the late 1980s/early 1990s. It is believed that the painting was submitted to the Parish Council with a view to potentially using the image for a village sign in Little Maplestead.

The Parish Council are working on the possibility of creating an Information Board for the Little Maplestead Playing Field and would like to maybe include aspects of this picture.

If you have any information about it, please could you contact Nadine Scurr on either nadinescurr@hotmail.com or by calling 01787 475889. Many thanks.



More Little Maplestead

Harvest Lunch

We had the most marvellous meal together in the Round Church on Sunday 3rd October. It was a full house of 40 who enjoyed a 3 course hot meal and Harvest hymns and prayers. Thanks to Cynthia who provided the Harvest loaf.

Thanks must go to the marvellous cooks who provided home-made main course of lasagnes – Enid, Karen, Judy and Cyndie. The salads and dressings were provided by Cynthia.

Desserts followed - delicious fruit crumbles, thanks to David, Anne, Nadine, Shelia and Geraldine (strawberry flan). Those who came up for second helpings shall remain nameless, and many still managed to find some room for cheese and biscuits and coffee and mints.

It was really wonderful to gather together after the last few months, tickets went extremely quickly. We were able to raise £430 for church funds.



Nature Notes

Leaning on a gate with a friend recently we saw a jay fly by with an acorn in its beak, then another, and then a third. Jays are quite large birds but secretive and elusive. In autumn they become more visible as they work tirelessly to store up food caches for winter. My friend sent me a link to an RSPB report that said an individual jay can store up to 5,000 acorns in a single season! Most of these will be eaten but many are forgotten, and in this way the oak benefits from the dispersal of its seeds.

Another corvid (member of the crow family) – the magpie – demonstrates different behaviour in autumn. Magpies defend their territories year-round and so are usually seen in ones and twos. In autumn young birds from surrounding territories come together in loose flocks and larger groups can be seen, sometimes a dozen or more. These youngsters invariably have shorter tails than adult birds.

Moth numbers decline as the weather cools. Even so, among just 19 species in my recent trap was a Grey Shoulder-Knot, a lovely, medium-sized common enough moth but new for my garden. It brought the total for the garden to 371 species. This may sound a lot but the record for a single garden is over 1100 species, recorded by the famous Lepidopterist Lieutenant Colonel A. Maitland Emmet MBE in his garden in Saffron Walden. I have a long way to go.

A lady in Pebmarsh sent me photos of three common lizards in her house. It is the commonest of the three British species and the most widely distributed but still not easy to find. It is unusual among lizards in that it is viviparous – giving birth to live young. It is the only reptile native to Ireland and its European distribution extends to the Arctic Circle making it the most northerly occurring non-marine reptile in the world. In autumn they seek places to hide away for the winter and this could explain their appearance indoors.



A thrilling insect brightened a recent walk. It was a large brilliantly coloured individual, basking in warm sunshine on a branch at eye level. It looked for all the world like a hornet, but at home I was able to identify it (from a photo I had taken on my phone) as the Hornet Mimic Hoverfly, *Volucella Zonaria*. At nearly 2cm it is the largest UK hoverfly and is harmless, despite its fierce appearance. It was a rare visitor to England 60 years ago but has become more common in the south and is still spreading northwards, possibly in response to climate change. What a beauty!

Patch Patroller

Great Maplestead

Great Maplestead Volunteer Network

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 at St Giles

Wednesday Coffee Mornings have started in 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.

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 25th September

Diane Smith, Doreen Faulks and Liz Newton would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone who donated items for, and all those who were able to help run, this year's autumn jumble sale

Despite the fuel 'crisis' and continuing Covid uncertainty the event was very successful, raising £1160 to help support Great Maplestead's Village Hall

GREAT MAPLESTEAD QUIZ NIGHT



in the Village Hall

Saturday 13th November

Doors open 7.00pm - start 7.30pm

Entry £5 per person; maximum 10 teams; 6 people/team

Please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles

Book your team entries by 6th November
e-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk

All proceeds in aid of the Playing Field Development Project

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

More Great Maplestead

The Maplesteads WI

President Carol Brownlie welcomed our members, guests and our speaker Jade Hamnet to our meeting on Thursday October 7th 2021.

After usual WI business Jane Stone introduced Jade Hamnet with her talk on "The Joy of Kiln Fused Glass".

Jade spoke about how she had come to find her passion for glass when she and her mother had a taster session for making kiln fused glass. Glass is an ancient material and was used by the Romans and the Egyptians and that coloured glass became more readily available in the 1970's. Colours range through the rainbow in either transparent or opaque forms. Pink and purple glass is the most expensive, with iridescent glass being highly prized for jewellery making. Jade explained that it had taken many firings to get to the beautiful glass items displayed beside her. Jade asked if anyone would like to ask a question and several members did just that, asking things like "do you cut yourself often?", "is glue used?" and "if it goes wrong in the firing can it be salvaged?". Diane Smith gave a warm vote of thanks to Jade for her inspiring talk. A numbers of members spoke to Jade and her helpers and bought some of the items on display.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 4 November 2021 and will be attended by our WI Advisor. For further information please contact Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527

Anne Fletcher

Great Maplestead Advent Windows



To lighten the dark winter nights, parishioners are, once again, invited to create an advent window/festive garden display.

If you would like to create a display, please notify the Parish Clerk which date you would like to reveal your design, from 2nd- 24th December, together with your title/theme for your display (eg: Christmas carol/song/film).

A map of where each display is and daily photos will be circulated via village social media channels.

To start off the event, the village Christmas tree, kindly donated by Joe Newton, will be unveiled on **1st December** on the triangle outside St Giles School in Church St. **Light up time 6pm.** This is a community tree so do feel free to add your own decoration to those provided by the village elves.

Clerk contact details: Ann Crisp 01787 460216 or email at anncrisppc@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk

More Great Maplestead

Once upon a time

...a stalwart farming member of one of our four parishes – let's call him Mr. Oldstone* – was carrying out his parochial duty adjusting the village's church clock, a task that apparently needs to be done quite regularly...

On this particular day farming priorities had intervened, such that it was only towards evening that the opportunity had arisen for Mr Oldstone to carry out the necessary adjustment work.

The clock mechanism is in the upper reaches of the church's tower – to reach it requires a long climb up an internal ladder – and once inside the tower the muffling effect of the brickwork and the working of the clock is sufficient to mask any external sounds.

Thus it was that Mr Oldstone was unaware when another parishioner – let's call him Mr. Willows* – arrived to lock up the church. It probably didn't help that Mr Willows, failed to carry out his usual cursory inspection of the church interior prior to locking up... As a result, having corrected the clock, Mr Oldstone descended the tower to find himself incarcerated in the building! Unconcerned at first, because he was in possession of a key to the main door, he became somewhat disconcerted when he tried and found that the key wouldn't operate the lock from the inside...

Still, not to worry, all he had to do was summon help using his mobile phone – except that he then discovered the battery was flat!

What to do? No one would be unlocking the church until the following day and, being hungry and tired from a long day's farming, he wasn't too keen on the thought of staying in there overnight. Besides, the pews are quite hard to sleep on...

In desperation, the only thing he could think to do was to climb back up to the very top of the tower and call for help. Which he duly did – unfortunately though, no one came past or could hear his cries... As a last resort, in desperation at making his plight known, he was even considering tolling the church bell to attract attention.

But all good stories† have a happy ending – and so it was that Mr Oldstone's churchwarden mother, worried about the disproportionate length of time he'd been away adjusting the clock, eventually went along to the church and, after discovering him calling disconsolately from the battlements, was able to set him free at last...

†Except that this one is true...

*Names have been changed to save protagonists' blushes.

Gardening Corner

At this time of year tidying the garden is an important job. It's a good idea to think about the wildlife by cleaning out bird boxes, getting rid of the detritus, and doing likewise with any hedgehog shelters, replacing old bedding with dry leaves and grass. In addition, check your bird feeders are clean and, if they have old mouldy food in them, they will need a good scrub and wash out. If you have a bonfire, please make sure there are no hedgehogs hibernating in it – check before you light the match!

Hedges can be cut back and trimmed before the frosts set in for the winter. Remove perennial weeds from the flower borders and cover ponds, if possible, to keep fallen leaves from blowing into them.

One of my favourite plants to mention this month is Anemone Hupehensis – 'Bressingham Glow' – a really hardy perennial with deep pink flowers. A moderate word of caution: perennial Anemones can spread and need to be kept under control.

Continue to bring non-hardy plants into the greenhouse or shed because the nights are getting longer and colder. The next week is probably the last chance to plant perennials but it is time to put in trees and shrubs as I mentioned last month.

Trim back overhanging branches from apple and pear trees. There is nothing worse than being hit in the face as you rush past with the lawn mower. Remove any dead, diseased or damaged branches. A winter prune can be carried out in January.

Compost heaps can be turned, as this will help speed up the break down of material, and if you find any small red worms this is a great sign the heap is 'working' to decompose into friable material. Collect leaf material as a base to provide heat and activation.



Keep warm outside.....The Arborist.

Gestingthorpe

Support in Gestingthorpe

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' Mornings 10am to 12 noon

Coffee mornings are held between 10 am and 12 noon on alternate Fridays in the village hall are continuing to be a hit with those of all ages.

If you haven't already been to one of our coffee mornings please come along soon; we would love to see you.

The next few coffee mornings will be held on the Fridays of 5th November and 19th November.

We hope to see you there.

SKITTLES

MAKES A RETURN TO **GESTINGTHORPE** VILLAGE HALL

The last Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm until around 9:30pm

The first two evenings will be Wednesday 27th October and 24th November



Come and have an evening of fun and a natter between turns

Only £1 per player

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

We provide the fun!

Just turn up or for more information please call Chris on 01787 462763

More Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe History Group

On November 7th, 1920, in strictest secrecy, four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme.

None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why.

The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-Sur-Ter Noise. Once there, the bodies were draped with the union flag.

Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and a Colonel Gell selected one body at random. The other three were reburied.

A French Honour Guard was selected and stood by the coffin of the chosen soldier overnight.

On the morning of the 8th November, a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court arrived and the Unknown Warrior was placed inside.

On top was placed a crusaders sword and a shield on which was inscribed: "A British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for King and Country".

On the 9th of November, the Unknown Warrior was taken by horse-drawn carriage through Guards of Honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls to the quayside.

There, he was saluted by Marechal Foch and loaded onto HMS Vernon bound for Dover. The coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths, surrounded by the French Honour Guard.

Upon arrival at Dover, the Unknown Warrior was met with a nineteen gun salute - something that was normally only reserved for Field Marshals.

A special train had been arranged and he was then conveyed to Victoria Station, London.

He remained there overnight, and, on the morning of the 11th of November, he was finally taken to Westminster Abbey.

The guests of honour were a group of about one hundred women. They had been chosen because they had each lost their husband and all their sons in the war. "Every woman so bereft who applied for a place got it".

The coffin was then interred in the far western end of the Nave, only a few feet from the entrance, in soil brought from each of the main battlefields, and covered with a silk pall. Servicemen from the armed forces stood guard as tens of thousands of mourners filed silently past. The ceremony appears to have served as a form of catharsis for collective mourning on a scale not previously known.

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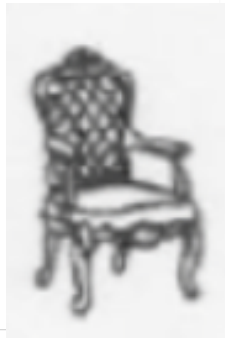
For a reliable and friendly service
please contact

rickdarvell@icloud.com

01787 312265

07806 505916

(Sudbury, Suffolk)



Paul the Sweep

paul.wheatley@live.co.uk

Professional Chimney Sweep

Wood Burners, Open Fires,
Stoves, Boilers, Inglenook,
Multi Fuel

Fully insured, certificates
issued



01787 258021

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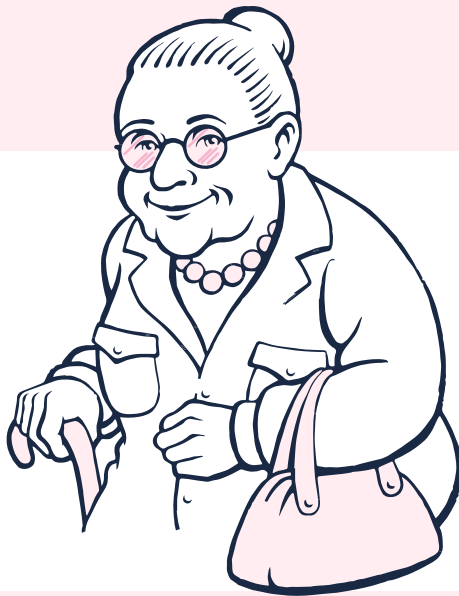
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More Gestingthorpe

More Gestingthorpe History Group

The grave was then capped with a black Belgian marble stone (the only tombstone in the Abbey on which it is forbidden to walk) featuring this inscription, composed by Herbert Edward Ryle, Dean of Westminster, engraved with brass from melted down wartime ammunition.

Beneath this stone rests the body
Of a British warrior
Unknown by name or rank.
Brought from France to lie among
The most illustrious of the land
And buried here on Armistice Day
11 Nov: 1920, in the presence of
His Majesty King George V
His Ministers of State
The Chiefs of his forces
And a vast concourse of the nation
Thus are commemorated the many
Multitudes who during the Great
War of 1914 – 1918 gave the most that
Man can give life itself
For God
For King and country
For loved ones home and empire
For the sacred cause of justice and
The freedom of the world
They buried him among the kings because he Had done
good toward God and toward
His house

Around the main inscription are four New Testament quotations:

The Lord knoweth them that are his (top; 2 Timothy 2:19)

Unknown and yet well known, dying and behold we live (side; 2 Corinthians 6:9)

Greater love hath no man than this (side; John 15:13)

In Christ shall all be made alive (base; 1 Corinthians 15:22)

More Gestingthorpe

More Gestingthorpe History Group

The idea of the unknown warrior was thought of by a Padre called David Railton who had served on the front line during the Great War the union flag he had used as an altar cloth whilst at the front, was the one that had been draped over the coffin.

It was his intention that all of the relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their lost husband, father, brother or son...

THIS is the reason we wear poppies.

We do not glorify war.

We remember - with humility - the great and the ultimate sacrifices that were made, not just in this war, but in every war and conflict where our service personnel have fought - to ensure the liberty and freedoms that we now take for granted.

Every year, on the 11th of November, we remember the Unknown Warrior.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.



THE READING ROOM

This month our reading recommendations have been suggested by Denise Crisell who is a member of one of our three book groups that we have in our four villages. What a well read lot we are.

The theme of her selections is Scandinavian Noir.

The Redbreast by Jo Nesbo is the first in the Oslo Trilogy (followed by Nemesis and then The Devil's Star). This is a police series set in Norway featuring the flawed detective Harry Hole. It is a chilling tale of murder and betrayal that ranges from the battlefields of World War 2 to the streets of modern day Oslo.

Oslo is seeing a disturbing rise of Neo-Nazis and Hole (due to previous disciplinary issues) is sidelined and is investigating older men, who appear to be inspiring younger men to use violence against immigrants who have come to Norway to start a new life. Hole soon discovers a secret that is taking the lives of these few older men left from the time of the Second World War. Warning: the violence described is not for the faint of heart but it's a series I can recommend to those looking for a gripping read.

Faceless Killers by Henning Mankell is the first of the Wallander series. Kurt Wallander is a Swedish detective who has problems in his personal life (his wife has left him, his daughter refuses to speak to him and even his ageing father barely tolerates him). Using Wallander, Mankell asks questions about the state of modern Sweden as his detective tries to understand why the crimes he investigates have been committed. A farmer is found murdered and his wife barely alive at their home which, at first sight, appears to be a motiveless crime. The investigation is made more difficult when there is a leak to the press from within the police that perhaps foreigners were responsible. This allows Mankell to explore attitudes towards migrants in Sweden within the context of this police procedural.

Snowblind by Ragnar Jonasson is set in Siglufjorour, an idyllic, quiet fishing village in Northern Iceland where no one locks their doors and the village is only accessible via a small mountain tunnel. Ari Thor is the main protagonist and has just been posted to Siglufjorour from Reykjavik. Ari Thor's character is used to describe the dark, claustrophobic atmosphere of the village during the winter and his increasing sense of isolation. The death of a local celebrity author plunges him into a case where he finds himself caught up in the secrets and lies of this small community. An avalanche cutting the village off completely from the outside world increases Ari Thor's sense of isolation as he battles to control his growing claustrophobia while striving to find the killer not knowing who he can trust.

Keeping Safe Online (Part 1)

We contribute daily to an ever-growing volume of online personal information that is accessible to all – and it's available permanently. We may think we're communicating with just a few people or friends when on our laptops, mobile phones or i-Pads but we're actually using systems that can publically record, retain and broadcast everything we do online.

Whenever we use e-mail, visit a website or post on a digital forum such as Facebook, Twitter or WhatsApp, a digital footprint is created and stored. This is normal but, since this information is publicly available, you should ensure you manage it carefully:

1. **Do you have views about sharing information online** – particularly about you/your immediate family? Do your friends, or the schools your children attend, know your views? Talk to those who may share information about you/your family and let them know. If something has been posted that you don't want, ask for it to be removed.
2. **Find out what is online about you/your family, work and interests.** Look at what's available to your contacts, and friends, even on 'private' Facebook or WhatsApp groups.

Think how you feel about this information being online and what potential security risks it may pose. Where possible, remove information posted on websites or social media you no longer use. It's not enough to make your profile on one social media site completely private if another account is still accessible and lists personal details. If you see any information online that you would prefer was private, take screenshots and ask the site administrators to remove it. And, as a precaution, think about removing yourself from direct marketing databases.

3. **Think before you click** - particularly before posting online and/or responding to something that's negative.

Think about seemingly innocuous posts – for example, burglars often use holiday information posted on social media to establish when homes may be unattended and therefore vulnerable. Think about what's available online about you/your family. Anyone who finds out your date of birth, first pet's name or your mother's maiden name could potentially use that to impersonate you, to your detriment. Think about what you're posting or reposting about others. Put yourself in their shoes – would you like the same said about you? What would someone you respect think about your post?

4. **Remove metadata from photos** – particularly mobile phone pictures – before posting them. Metadata can reveal details about the location of the photo, camera or phone that's been used. Over time this information could build up a pattern of your life that could make you a target for criminals or stalkers. You can remove this metadata by re-sizing and re-saving photos before posting.

More next month...

Pebmarsh

Support in Pebmarsh

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

Ladies' Club

Ladies' Club carries on the long and popular tradition of meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at the village hall in Pebmarsh. This friendly and welcoming club would love to see some new faces – so please come along, have a cuppa and cake (you can even bring your knitting!). During November, activities will include making some quick and very easy Christmas cards. For more details please contact Pauline Andow on Pauline_andow@hotmail.co.uk

Card Club

Those with creative interest or who are considering trying a new and rewarding hobby are encouraged to attend the Card Club. This long running club is seeking new members and there are currently spaces for four new folk - no experience necessary - all equipment is provided. Make some lovely cards to delight friends and family. This small friendly group meet on the last Tuesday of the month at Pebmarsh Village Hall. Book a place now to avoid disappointment! For more details contact Pauline Andow on Pauline_andow@hotmail.co.uk

Pebmarsh Youth Club

This month we saw the return of our much loved Pebmarsh Youth Club. It was wonderful welcoming so many happy faces, old and new, and it reminded us why we support such a worthwhile cause.

We believe that Youth Club helps widen contacts amongst young people and provides positive activities, increasing a young person's health, wellbeing, self esteem and engagement levels. Youth Club offers our young people a safe space in their community to come together and mix with their peers. So please encourage your children to come along and join in the fun. Contact Carol Parker on 01787 269996 taximother@googlemail.com



More Pebmarsh

New Licensees at the King's Head Pebmarsh

It was family and community to the fore as Ryan and Abigail Donovan and Abigail's mother Cathy Harvey took over as new tenants of the King's Head in Pebmarsh.

Built in c1450 as a drover's inn, the Grade II listed King's Head, which had suffered a number of periods of closure, was reopened in November 2017, following purchase by Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited. This was made



possible by the support of more than 430 shareholders, mainly from the local community but also friends of Pebmarsh from as far afield as New Zealand, Europe and America.

James Haylock, Chair of the Pebmarsh Community Pub Management Committee said: "PCPL would like to thank the departing licensees, Debbie and Stuart Fraser, for their hard work in re-establishing the pub as a thriving business. We are delighted to welcome Ryan, Abigail and Cathy as our new tenants. Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited was established to enable the people and friends of Pebmarsh to secure and safeguard the future of the King's Head public house. We all recognise its importance as an amenity and a community asset, both for the village and the surrounding area. We look forward to working alongside Ryan, Abigail and Cathy to sustain and build on the successes of the past 4 years."

Ryan Donovan has many years' experience in the hospitality industry and had been looking for a suitable tenancy for several years. He said "The events of the past 18 months have certainly emphasised the importance of active local communities. We are very much committed not only to providing a high quality, professional service to our customers but also to ensuring that the King's Head plays a prominent role in supporting community activities."

Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited is a Community Benefit Society established and managed by the community for the benefit of the community. Shares in the venture are still available at £50 each, see www.pcp.pebmarsh.com for details.

Visit www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk

You can also follow the latest news from the King's Head on Facebook @kingsheadpebmarsh or Twitter @pebmarshpub.

Cooking & Baking

It is really interesting where great recipes can come from. We were watching the One Show on BBC1 with Brendan O'Carroll and Jennifer Gibney (Mrs Brown's Boys). He used to be a chef. When they travel for their shows, eating can be difficult and he invented this recipe to cook in a hotel bedroom with limited resources. It has become a staple recipe for them. We tried it, it is delicious.

He used (and gave no quantities) an onion, some mushrooms, some peanut butter, some double cream and some pasta

We thinly sliced an onion and sweated in butter, and added half

a carton of brown mushrooms that we sliced. When they were cooked, we stirred in one heaped tablespoon of peanut butter and 100ml double cream and stirred. We cooked some spelt fusilli and combined.

Quick, easy and delicious.



Your editor – **Little Maplestead**

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Hedingham Heritage Society

Our next meeting will be another opportunity for you to join the Society for its programme of meetings, events and projects from November 2021 through to December 2022. Membership remains at pre-pandemic prices (**£12 single/£18 joint, with under 16's free**) so it is well worth joining us for 14 months of talks, walks and activities focussed on our local environment and its past, present and future.

If we have to cancel or postpone any of our talks and walks, check our website or phone.

Thursday 4th November – Gardening in a Changing Climate – the impact of global warming on plants and insects in North Essex – Robert Brett, Curator at RHS Hyde Hall.

7.30pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

2021/22 Members – free; Non-members – £5

December (date to be agreed) – **Christmas Walk and Seasonal Cheer in the Hedinghams' Countryside** – more details to follow in next month's magazine and on our website:

www.hedinghamheritage.org

Anybody interested in joining the society, please come along to the indoor meetings or walks or just let us know your interest by contacting us at: hedinghamheritage@gmail.com

Or contact

Rob Worley

robertj.worley@btopenworld.com

Tel 01787 460 664

Trudi Cullum

trudi@newriver.co.uk

Tel 01787 462 889



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Autumn Security Considerations

As darker nights roll in heralding the approach of winter here are a few things that you can consider and include in your general maintenance at this time of year that may make your home less attractive to thieves.

- **Put that light on!** - 31/10/21 the clocks go back, check and reset the time of your timer plugs, lights, and other security devices. Remember to a thief a house in darkness is empty. Create the illusion you are in: lights on in rooms that you would normally occupy, TV simulators, a doorbell that you can answer remotely on your smartphone.
- **External lighting and CCTV** - Make sure that external lighting and CCTV is working and clean.
- **Hedges, Trees and plants** - A consideration when gardening – most thieves like to work unobserved. Have your plants or shrubs grown and are they now obstructing CCTV or lighting, does it now prevent neighbours and passer-by's from seeing your frontage? If so a spot of pruning would be advisable. It is recommended to keep hedges and shrubs to about 4' (1.2m) and with trees prune lower branches.
- **Sheds and gates** - keep them closed and locked when not in use, maintain the locks as required. Put alarms on sheds and outbuildings.
- **Property marking** - tools and lawn mowers. Make a note of the model and serial numbers and consider a property marking product.
- **Heating Oil** - with the value of fuel it is worth considering its security. In the more isolated parts of the countryside it is primarily domestic properties that have been targeted by the heating oil thieves, but we have also seen such thefts at farms and other businesses. There are several security devices available that will protect your fuel supplies - details of which can be found via your fuel supplier or local plumber's merchant. One such system is Tank Commander www.commandersecurities.co.uk. There are also other similar security products that can add onto an existing intruder alarm system, whilst others may protect the filler cap and there are of course the conventional locks. Another consideration would be concealing it with landscaping and spiky planting around the tank, restricting access with gates or fencing, or locating the tank under lighting in view of lived in rooms within the house.

If you would like further advice regarding security please look at the Essex Police website www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/ and <https://www.securedbydesign.com/> .

Naturally we also ask you to report any unusual activity to police in an emergency on 999 or after the event on 101 or "Do it online" www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime/ or to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Local information

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

The U3A Sudbury: u3asites.org.uk/sudbury/home

U3A Braintree: u3asites.org.uk/braintree/events

Halstead & District Photographic Society: www.halsteadphoto.org.uk

Gestingthorpe History Society: www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk

Community Agents; Community-based support for an ageing population: www.communityagentsessex.org.uk.

The Empire Theatre Halstead: www.empire-theatre.co.uk

Halstead and District Local History Society: www.halsteadhistory.org.uk.

The Hedingham Singers: Bob Lilley on 07790 573435 or www.thehedinghamsingers.com/.

Sudbury Newstalk: www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk or 01787 468535.

Hedingham Medical Centre



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.

Local and National Authority Representatives

Essex County Council

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

Braintree District Council

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

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

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 01787 852252

Gestingthorpe 01787 852850

Pebmarsh 01787 852300

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	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	Sarah Burgess	01787 269092	sarahburgess@btinternet.com



Reverse Advent Calendar

November 2021



Would you like to help make a real difference for people in need this Christmas?

You can do so by building up your own FoodBank Box during November, putting a selected item into it each day (*remember, long use-by dates please!*).

1	2	3	4	5
Baby Wipes	Conditioner	Deodorant	Pet food	Shampoo
6	7	8	9	10
Shower Gel	Soap	Tooth-brushes	Toothpaste	Washing Detergent gel
11	12	13	14	15
Washing-up Liquid	Chocolate	Chocolate Biscuits	Christmas chocolates	Washing-up Liquid
16	17	18	19	20
Crisps (6-pack)	Custard	Dried pasta	Instant Mash	Long Life Fruit Juice (1L)
21	22	23	24	25
Long Life Milk (1L)	Packet Soups	Pasta Sauce	Sponge Puddings	Sugar (500g)
26	27	28	29	30
Tea Bags (40 if poss)	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Meat	Tinned Ready Meals	Tinned Spaghetti

When your box is complete*, please drop it off to either:
Dorothy Weight (1 Stone Cottages, Church Street) or
Ann Harris (The Forge, Lucking Street) by

Sunday 5th December

so the boxes can be sorted and taken to **Halstead Food Bank**

*Alternatively, we would be happy to receive suitable individual items to enable us to make up combined boxes

<https://braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/>

Coming up and save the date

Coffee in St Giles Wednesday Mornings
 Maplesteads WI 4 November

Hedingham Heritage Society Gardening in a changing climate 4 November

Gestingthorpe Coffee Mornings on the 5 and 19 November

Great Maplestead Quiz Night 13 November

Skittles in Gestingthorpe on the 24 November

Pebmarsh Youth Club, Ladies Club and Card Club have started

November Church Services

7 November	9:30	Gestingthorpe – Morning Prayer
	9:30	Great Maplestead - Holy Communion
	11:00	Little Maplestead – Holy Communion
14 November	10:45	Pebmarsh – Benefice Remembrance Sunday Service
17 November	10:00	Gestingthorpe – BCP Holy Communion
21 November	11:00	Great Maplestead - Family Service
	11:00	Gestingthorpe - Holy Communion
28 November	9:30	Great Maplestead - Holy Communion
	9:30	Little Maplestead - Morning Prayer
	10:00	Gestingthorpe - Family Worship
	11am	Pebmarsh - Morning Worship
	4pm	Gestingthorpe – Advent Evening Prayer

Our churches remain open for private prayer on set days, please contact your churchwarden for times of opening.

The Reverend Beverley Vincent

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

The copy deadline for the December/January magazine is **Friday 19 November 2021**

We need to know who, what, where and when

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

Copy

Editor	Jenny Bishop	07906 083999	pmeditor@icloud.com
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