

**Parish
News**

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



**Church and Community together
October**

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

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

The Maplesteads

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

Gt Maplestead

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

Gestingthorpe

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

Pebmarsh

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

Footpaths

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

All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537	acantor@linus.plus.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		https://www.mollyswood.org/contact

Letter from the editor



I took the front cover photo early one Sunday morning on the back roads driving to Colne Engaine. The sun was shining and it was slightly misty and it looked like Italy. It was so beautiful it uplifted the spirits, something that is very important to us right now.

A plea to all our organisers. I noticed that last month the Pebmarsh Fete and the Great Maplestead Fun(d) Day clashed and this month that the Little Maplestead Harvest Lunch and The Great Maplestead Harvest Walk also clash. I know how hard everyone works for which we are all truly grateful, but if we could avoid these clashes it would be great.

If anyone is interested in taking over the editor ship, please let me know
We have still to receive some of the money from our advertisers this year. The redoubtable Jane Stone will be chasing you.

Any interested in a 'letters to the editor' page. This requires you to contact me. Please do.

Also, please remember Braintree Food Bank, there are still very many people who have been very badly affected by the lockdown

With love to you all.

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Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

I have just returned from a week away on a residential training course learning how to transform conflict. Apart from the intensity of long days it was undoubtedly one of the best courses I've done (and I've done a lot)!

Much of the focus was learning about our different personality types, this was useful in understanding how the strengths of one person's character can be an irritant to another.

One of the images we used in our prayer time was that of conkers! As we approach autumn I invite you, if you can, to find a conker, look at it, hold it in the palm of your hand and close your fingers around it, feel the prickles, it feels like holding a hedgehog! You might want to think of the people whose prickliness is uncomfortable.

Then cut open the conker and what do you see? White and soft inside, with a seed; mahogany brown, shiny and smooth. Take a moment to think again about those 'prickly' people, what is inside that you are not seeing?

The seed is shiny but if you just leave it on a desk it goes dull and eventually shrivels. But plant the seeds and they grow. Can we in our communities this autumn commit to looking beyond the spiky protective casing of those we struggle with and see the beauty and potential of what lies inside. Perhaps we can even provide the right conditions for growth and flourishing.

We are commanded to 'love our neighbour', and that means, amongst other things, making allowances for other people's humanity. St Paul says :



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. (1Corinthians 13:4-8)

Rev'd Beverley



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



My name is Louis. I was born on 5th May 2021 but very sadly my Mummy, Roberta, didn't want me; I am a twin and she adores my sister but not me. Thankfully I found a new Mummy – Amanda. She took me in and bottle-fed me night and day until I was strong enough to go and live in the fields with my family and friends.

I am a Herdwick, a rare breed of Cumbrian sheep, so I'm told, first recognised in the 1790s and now awarded protected status, native and found almost exclusively in the Lake District National Park. Herdwick sheep are the hardiest of all Britain's breeds of hill sheep, grazing the central and western dales of the Lake District with fells running to over 3000 feet.

We Herdwicks are apparently renowned for our hefting instinct, the ability – passed on from a Mum to her lambs – to recognise an area as our home and return there, no matter what. Even after being brought down from the fells for lambing or shearing, we will walk several miles back to our own area of land or heft.

Like all Herdwicks, I was born black but, now I am growing up, my face and legs are turning white and my fleece is lightening to a dark brown. Next year, once I am shorn, my fleece will turn steel grey and will continue to get lighter as I grow older.

To be honest, I'm a little confused as to who I am!! I do enjoy being with my Herdwick flock but, being a bottle-reared lamb, the best time of day is when Mummy Amanda comes to feed me and give me a cuddle. I like nothing better than curling up on her lap in the grass, having a head scratch and snooze. I purr just like a cat when contented and follow her around everywhere! That said, I also enjoy cavorting around the fields with my fellow lambs, especially at dawn and dusk, skipping and bounding in a big group while the Mums watch on.

Louis – Little Lodge Farm

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

Our coffee mornings are going from strength to strength.

We are delighted to see a lovely cross section of villagers with some more new faces. We hope to see you all again at a future coffee morning and that you will be joined by more villagers and their friends.

Thank you every one who has come along and enjoyed a chat with a friend and neighbour over a hot coffee or tea and a slice of home-made cake.

Our 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 24th September, 8th October, 22nd October, 5th November and 19th November.

We hope to see you there.

Gestingthorpe Village Hall Committee

The 2021 Annual General Meeting, after having to be postponed from June, was held in our village hall on Thursday 2nd September 2021.

The Minutes of the 2020 AGM, that had been held by E-mail (due to COVID-19 restrictions), were approved.

The Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 were presented by Penny Bagby the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee. A vote was taken on those Accounts; they were adopted and will be presented by the Treasurer to the Charities Commission for publication in the appropriate form on their website.

Reports for the period since the last AGM were presented by the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

Voting then took place for those who would be Committee members for the period from 2nd September 2021 until the 2022 AGM that is due to be held (subject to any Government restrictions that may be imposed) at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th June 2022.

More Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe Village Hall Committee

The roles of Committee members are decided upon at the committee meeting that immediately followed the AGM. The Trust Deed authorises certain bodies within the Parish to nominate a representative and those individuals are automatically a member of the Village Hall Committee. The Trust Deed also authorises the position of elected members and they need to be nominated to stand on the Committee being followed by votes being cast.

The Village Hall Committee members for 2021 / 2022 are:

Elected members:

Chairman : Chris Harman

Vice Chairman : Roger Goldsmith

Secretary : Steph Prior
(also a Representative member)

Treasurer : Penny Bagby

Bookings Secretary : Steve Bagby

Members: Geoff Quick and Myra Quick

Representative members:

Parish Council : Claire Craig

Parochial Church Council : Peter Nice

Cricket Club : Steph Prior
(also the Secretary)

History Group : Andy Craig

Football Club : Vacant post

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

Christmas Wreath Workshops

Saturday 27th November 11am-3pm

Saturday 4th December 11am-3pm

Gestingthorpe Village Hall

Bookings are now being taken for wreath making workshops in the run up to Christmas. There are 15 spaces available at each event, with everything you need to make a fresh wreath provided, although please bring along anything special you might wish to use in your wreath!

Please email, text or Facebook message me with your details and preferred workshop. £12 a head, including all materials, refreshments, tea and coffee. Pre-payment required, please contact me for Paypal details, or drop cash/cheque to By Blacksmiths, Church Street, Gestingthorpe, CO9 3AZ.

Claire thecraigs2018@outlook.com 07814725195

THE GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER • 19th
7.30pm • Tickets £5 per person

please bring your own food, drinks and glasses

Pit your wits against other teams in this test of your grey matter!

Teams of 6, but if you don't have enough for a team - never fear!

There will be others in the same position with whom you can join for this fun evening.

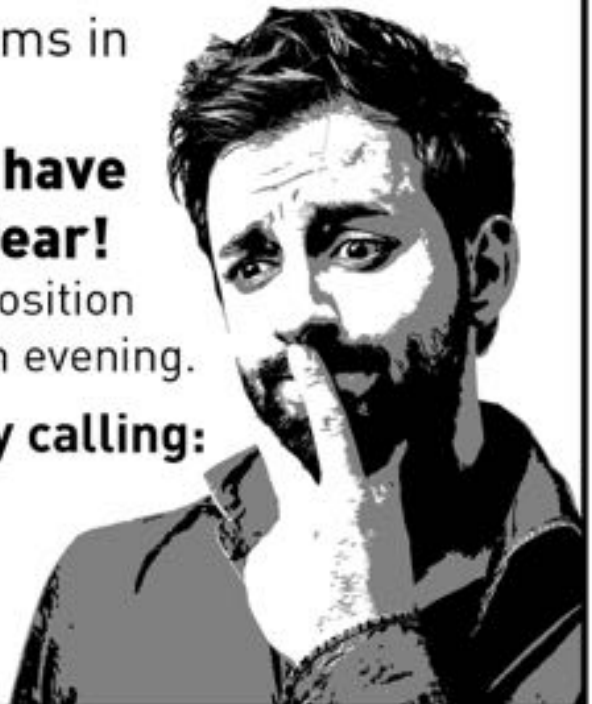
Book your team and a table by calling:

Rose or Chris Harman

01787 462763

There will be a Raffle

All proceeds in aid of Village Hall Funds



Running of the Quiz will be subject to COVID-19 restrictions in force at the time.

More Gestingthorpe

First Tuesday Book Club

Book Exchange

Books are now available to exchange for either a gold coin 'donation' or another book. The bookcase is located by the front window in the village hall. For the moment this will only be available during the fortnightly coffee morning and monthly book club meeting. The next meeting of the book club is Tuesday 5th October at 7.30pm. Please contact Penny 07840 367172 pbagby1@gmail.com for more information.

Gestingthorpe has a defibrillator....

.....but, like us all, it needs a bit of support and maintenance now and then. Our defibrillator was installed four years ago and since then it has been looked after by a small team of volunteers on a rota basis, so that it is always ready for use in an emergency, available to help all our residents. Would you like to join that team? You would be very welcome and would be shown exactly what to do.

At the time of the installation in the telephone kiosk by the church, the team was aware that the removal of the rarely-used public phone in the absence of a reliable mobile signal, could deprive some people of access to emergency services, so an alternative line was installed for 999 calls. There is an annual charge for this service.

It was also recognised that many of our residents might be alone when an emergency occurs so the VETS system was set up simultaneously. (Voluntary Emergency Telephone System) This allows for a single number to be called after 999, in our case 01787 825850, which will ring approximately ten volunteers simultaneously. The first to pick-up will cancel the others and will then hurry to the emergency to take the defibrillator, if needed, and give whatever help might be needed. Would you like to join that team? Again you would be very welcome and would be trained in what to do.

And last but not least, the Gestingthorpe Defibrillator Fund is still open for all donations. You may like to contribute. (Bank details are available on request) We would all be very grateful for any help you can offer.

Please contact Wendy Jones on 01787 469049, wendy.jones14@btopenworld.com or Terry Halls on 01787 462112, terryhalls1@gmail.com

Thank you so much.

Wendy Jones

Gardening Corner

Containers and pots can start to look forlorn at this time of year and it's a good idea to go round and dead-head plants, feeding as you go. A weak solution of tomato food is fine and this should keep summer bedding plants going until the first frosts arrive.

If you are saving sweet pea seeds, they will not come true to type next year with F1 plants – what you will have is a delightful mixture of colours. Don't pick the pods until they are brown and dry, you may even notice spiralling when the seeds are scattered directly from the main plant.

One of the most colourful climbers in the autumn months is *Campsis Radicans* [the Trumpet Vine]. This plant really lives up to its name, with scarlet to orange flowers which are born at the end of its long tendrils – it will certainly cover a trellis or wall in just a year or two.

Dig up any main crop potatoes while they are relatively dry; continue picking runner beans; courgettes are coming to the end of their productive life. Harvest any remaining fruit before the slugs have them!

It will soon be time to bring in any cacti and aëoniums. These plants are best kept in a frost free greenhouse, conservatory or spare bedroom over winter. Water sparingly and do not feed in the darker months of the year.

Order bare root roses and fruit/deciduous trees for delivery in November. Should they be delivered early, heel them in on a spare section of ground until you are ready to place them in their final planting place.

If you are pushed for time – let's face it most of us are these days – cut back perennials in late winter, when perhaps there is less to do in the garden. I find *Knautia Macedonica* is a real attraction for Goldfinches, who sit on the seed heads picking out the seeds for long periods of time when food is scarce. Leaving the shears in the shed for a while will let this perennial provide valuable sustenance for these delightful birds.

Enjoy your garden

The Arborist

Nature Notes

The summer was far from the scorcher many had predicted but I think we were fortunate compared to many in Southern Europe, where fires raged and new temperature records were set. Extreme weather poses challenges to wildlife as well as humans and although many will have been disappointed with cooler, cloudy weather, our native wildlife is more than happy with these conditions.

Butterflies have been abundant, and I have seen more painted ladies than in any other year since I arrived in the area. Painted ladies are migrants, with the first ones appearing in May or June. They breed here and produce more butterflies in July and August, which is when they are most noticeable. Thistles are the favoured food plant, although a wide variety of plants may be used. By late August and early September, the garden was full of red admirals and peacocks, but small tortoiseshells were surprisingly scarce.

On the moth front, there was plenty of excitement and I was thrilled to find my first ever peach blossom in the trap on 20th August. This is a really beautiful moth; look it up on the internet. Other notable firsts included white-spotted pinion, a Red Database rarity, and mouse moth. The latter is a dull grey (mouse-coloured) with a couple of faint black spots; it gets its name by its habit, when disturbed, of dropping to the ground and scuttling away to safety.

Birds, as usual, offer less in high summer but there is always something of interest to reward an early walker. I was surprised to hear a chiffchaff singing on the 7th of September. It was a beautiful calm, sunny morning, although mist descended soon after. Red-legged partridges are gathering in large post-breeding flocks and I saw more than fifty in a field that had been recently harvested. Despite the efficiency of modern farming there must still be plenty of spilled seed for foraging birds. On the same day there was a grey wagtail at Hulls Mill, the first I had seen since an early spring bird. They clearly breed along the river, just not where I go.

Migration is now well under way. Swifts are one of the last migrants to arrive (late May) and start to leave after breeding in late July and early August. They are virtually all gone by the beginning of September, although a few stragglers persist. One day in August there were dozens, if not hundreds, of swallows and house martins feeding around farm buildings in Oak Rd, Pebmarsh. These birds will mostly have left by now, although last winter a few swallows were still to be seen at Abberton Reservoir, indicating that warmer winters are persuading even some of the most committed migrants to risk saving themselves the journey.

Patch Patroller

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.

Pebmarsh Primary School

Opportunities for Governorship at St John the Baptist CofE Primary School
Our lovely small primary school in Pebmarsh has a very supportive governing body.

We are seeking to recruit new Governors who can provide strategic support and guidance ensuring high standards of achievement. Applicants are invited from professionals, business people and beyond who have an interest in education, a commitment to helping shape future generations and a willingness to offer time and expertise. We are a Church of England school.

In return, Governors are welcomed into our School community, sharing in our pupils' success and becoming part of their journey.

If you would consider becoming part of our School's future then please contact us

01787 269300 or admin@st-john.essex.sch.uk

Pebmarsh Bowls and Social Club

The Pebmarsh Bowls and Social Club will be meeting on the first Wednesday of each month in the village hall starting on Wednesday 6th of Oct from 7 pm -9 pm at a cost of £3-00 a session. New members are very welcome. It is all very low key; nothing too serious! For details please contact Jim and Eileen Crayston, Cricks Farm, Pebmarsh 01787 222241 email jim@craystonfarms.co.uk

Advertisements

If any of our advertisers are interested, they can have a colour advert on either the front or the back of the back page. This will cost £35.00 per issue plus a generous donation to our churches. Have a look at February's to see the effect. If any one is interested contact Jenny the editor.!

thecraigs2018@outlook.com

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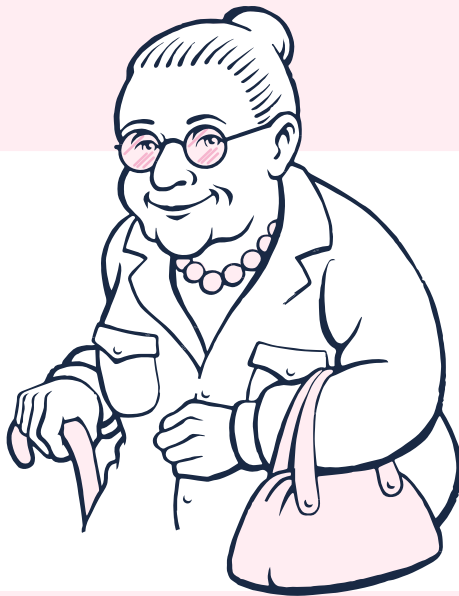
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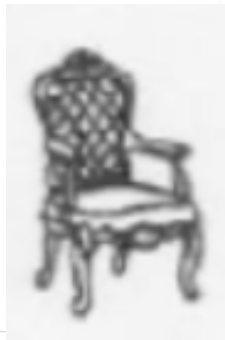
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Little Maplestead

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 Room News

The programme for the building of a Parish Room in the churchyard has been delayed by the pandemic. Now as Covid 19 is more under control, the PCC are hopeful that the next steps can be taken to complete the project.

Every social and fund-raising event the church does relies upon running water being supplied by a stand pipe outside the church door. The dream of having Parish Room, where people of the village can gather, socialise and have refreshments, in a warm and welcoming environment, is now much closer to becoming a reality. It will be wonderful to be able to offer the space to everyone who lives in the village for all sorts of leisure or work based activities. As more people work from home it could offer a base where work colleagues could meet up.

The PCC have so far raised almost 20% of the funds needed to build the Parish Room. Realistically, there is no way that we can raise the remaining money needed by fundraising alone – we need to look at other ways of generating the funds.

THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN!!!

You have read this far, so you must be interested...

We are forming a steering group of people who can help us.

Have you any new or unusual fundraising ideas?

Do you have contacts that might be able to help us go forward with grant applications?

Would you like to meet up with other people to brainstorm and push the project forward?

This could be the start of your involvement with a really interesting and worthwhile project. Together we can create a legacy which will benefit our community now and for future generations.

If you can help us in way, however small, please contact

Jane Piper 01787 473933 or Rev Beverley Vincent 07944 200132

Craft Fair at The Round Church

We were blessed with the most amazing weather for the craft fair at The Round Church. Our usual team of trusty helpers turned up together with some lovely new people from our village and even a willing volunteer from Halstead. An abundance of excellent food was donated by so many people and we had a wide variety of interesting craft stalls.

More Little Maplestead

More Craft Fair at The Round Church

I must say an enormous thank you to everyone who helped in whatever way. It was so heartening to see people able to come out and enjoy the lovely sunshine and catch up with each other. The community spirit of our events is often remarked upon but without all the support none of it would be possible. In addition we have a provisional figure of about £1000 raised for our lovely church and it is all down to our wonderful helpers. Thanks again to all who helped as well as all who turned out to support us.

Jane Stone



You are cordially invited to come to our

Harvest Lunch



a 3 course home-cooked lunch

at the Round Church Little Maplestead

Sunday October 3 at 12.00pm

Adults £20.00 Children £5.00

Please contact Jane Piper on 01787 473933 to book your place or for further details



Please bring your own beverage and glass

THE READING ROOM

This month our reading recommendations have been suggested by **Ann Harris**

THE MERMAID OF THE BLACK COUNCH: Monique Roffey

This one was a total surprise to me, quite unlike my usual choices, and I only downloaded it to my Kindle because I was intrigued by the few clips I heard from the Radio 4 serialisation of it. The author, Monique Roffey, is an award-winning Trinidadian-born British writer and this, her most recent novel, won the Costa Book of the Year, 2020.

Near the island of Black Conch, a fisherman sings to himself while waiting for a catch. But David attracts a sea-dweller that he never expected - Aycayia, an innocent young woman cursed by jealous wives to live as a mermaid. When American tourists capture Aycayia, David rescues her and vows to win her trust. Slowly, painfully, she transforms into a woman again. Yet as their love grows, they discover that the world around them is changing - and they cannot escape the curse forever.

Compelling

THE LIDO: Libby Page

Libby Page wrote *The Lido* while working in marketing and moonlighting as a writer. *The Lido* has been published in over twenty territories around the world and film rights have also been sold.

Described as an up-lifting feel-good novel, this is a charming story about friendship, relationships and coming together as a community. This story's two main characters are Kate, a 26 year old woman who suffers severely from anxiety, and Rosemary, an 86 year old widow who spends her days swimming at the local pool called *The Lido*. Kate is a journalist and one day is assigned to write a story about *The Lido* since it is closing. Upon arriving at *The Lido* to start an interview, Rosemary tells Kate, "You can interview me once you go for a swim." Once Kate swims and starts interviewing Rosemary, the two women create a profound friendship that every person longs to have.

Good but not completely "unput-downable"

MAGPIE: Elizabeth Day.

The Author is an English journalist, broadcaster and novelist. She was a feature writer for *The Observer* from 2007 to 2016 and has written four novels; this is her latest.

MAGPIE is a tense, twisting, cleverly written novel about mothers and children, envy and possession, and the dangers of getting everything you've ever dreamed of.

Marisa may have only known Jake a few months, but she has never felt this certain about anyone. When he asks her to move in with him and they start trying for a baby, she knows she has finally found the steadfast love and support she has been looking for all her life. But their relationship is tested when they take in a lodger, Kate, who has little regard for personal boundaries and seems to take an uncomfortable interest in Jake - as well as the baby they are hoping to have. Why is Kate so obsessed with the couple? And, more worryingly, why doesn't Jake share Marisa's concern? In her determination to find the answers, Marisa risks losing everything she holds dear...

A Great Read!! Very difficult to put down, even at 1am...

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

The Maplesteads WI

President Carol Brownlie welcomed our members, guests and our speaker Paula Short to the meeting on Thursday September 2nd 2021.

Carol asked everyone to gather outside for the dedication of the Centenary Planter. Carol said that the Maplesteads WI had reached its 100th year in 2019 and to mark this occasion the planter was positioned outside the village hall for everyone to see. She thanked everyone for supporting the "Big Breakfast" in October 2019 where enough funds were raised to purchase and plant up the planter. Gill Gozzett, Liz Newton, Diane Smith and Gill Sanderson designed the display, planted it up and have looked after it ever since – what a fantastic display they have achieved! Carol then



asked us to raise our glasses and toast the Maplesteads Centenary Planter, Jan Bettley called "hip hip" and we all joined in the hooray!

After birthday flowers were presented, Jane Stone introduced Paula Short, a former Maplesteads WI member, with her talk on the Chanson Singers of Paris. Charles Aznavour, Mistinguuet and Edith Piaf were the most famous of these singers and Paula told us how they all overcame their very poor beginnings to become the world famous names of today. Paula held us spell bound and at the end of her talk Jill Newton gave a warm vote of thanks and we all gave a resounding round of applause.

The next meeting is on Thursday 7th October 2021 and the speaker will be Jade Hamnet with her talk on "Kiln Fused Glass Demo". For further information please contact Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527

Anne Fletcher

More Great Maplestead

The Maplesteads Autumn Show



A very successful Autumn Show, sponsored by Haylock Investment and Management Services, took place on Saturday 11th September, after a year's absence due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was lovely to see some new faces from both villages who commented on an enjoyable show and promised that they would enter again next year. The hall was ablaze with colourful flower arrangements, fruit and vegetables, photographs and amazing handicrafts.

The Domestic Cup was well supported with a stunning array of scrumptious chocolate cakes as well as scones, jams, eggs and pickles.

The highly fought over Men's Challenge Cup was up to its usual high standard with some delicious shortbread.

The children's entries were much appreciated and created a lot of compliments for their amazing hard work and guidance.

The new Sunflower Competition drew a lot of interest and there were some wonderful photographs of the giant sunflowers – thanks to Jo Green for organising this.

District Councillor Jo Beavis presented the trophies to the prize winners and complimented the committee on a successful show and the high standard of the exhibits. The show concluded with an auction of donated produce officiated by the irrepressible Keith Brownlie, followed by a raffle.

The committee would like to thank everyone who supported this year's Autumn Show and trust that we see you all again next year.

More Great Maplestead

More Autumn Show

The prize winners were:

- Flower Cup – Jean Bowers
- Flower Arrangers Cup – Philippa Mills
- Novice Flower Arrangers Cup – Loraine Mechanioiw
- Domestic Cup – Liz Newton
- Vegetable Cup – Jean Bowers
- Dolly Argent Craft Cup – Alison Davies
- Children up to 8 years – Harper Howard and Dorothy Self
- Children over 8 years – Arabella Self
- Young Growers Cup – Patrick Self
- Men's Challenge Tankard – Brian Young
- Autumn Show Trophy for most Points – Jean Bowers
- Tallest Sunflower – Charlie and Freddie Marshall



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.

Harvest VILLAGE WALK

Sunday 3rd October



Meet at 11.00am in the Village Hall Car Park

Half-way refreshments provided

Finish at the Village Hall for drinks and nibbles

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

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

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

Cooking & Baking

This is a very easy recipe but it never fails to impress !!

Pavlova – Serves 6/8

Ingredients:

3 large fresh egg whites
175grams caster sugar
275 grams Double Cream
350 grams strawberries or
any other soft fruit

Method:

Preheat oven to 150°C (Fan 130°C or gas mark 2)

Line a lightly oiled baking sheet with baking parchment.

Whip the egg whites until stiff, then gradually add approx. 25g of the caster sugar at a time, whisking after each addition until all the sugar is in.

Draw a circle approx. 20cm in diameter and spoon the mixture in blobs onto

the sheet to form a circle – join the blobs together.

Use a fork or skewer to make swirls or peaks round the edge of the meringue.

Place the baking sheet in oven then immediately turn down the heat to 140°C (Fan 120°C or gas mark 1) and leave to cook for one hour.

Turn the heat off but leave the pavlova inside the oven until it's completely cold – overnight if possible.

To serve – lift off sheet and remove paper.

Whip 275ml double cream and spread on top and arrange your chosen fruit on top of the cream.

Dust with icing sugar just before serving.

Enjoy !!

Lyn Haylock – Great Maplestead

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Hedingham Heritage Society

We're back for the autumn

If we have to cancel or postpone any of our talks and walks - details will be posted on our website or check by phone contact – see contact numbers below.

Thursday 7 October- Dormice of Essex - Sue Portsmouth, Karen Bigmore and the Southend Dormouse group

Thursday 4 November – Gardening in a changing climate – the impact of global warming on plants and insects in North Essex – Robert Brett, Curator at RHS garden Hyde Hall

7.30pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall - **Members – free, non members -£5**

All covid safeguards will be in place, social distancing, face coverings etc as required at the time.

Contact us at hedinghamheritage@gmail.com or

Rob Worley – robertj.worley@btopenworld.com Tel 01787460664 Trudi Cullum – trudi@newriver.co.uk Tel 01787462889

Peter Bayes – peter_bys@yahoo.co.uk Tel 01787469953

www.hedinghamheritage.org



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Laurels, Shalford Road, Panfield, Braintree, Essex
Partners: Thomas & Jonathan Self

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



We urgently need fruit juice (1L variant please), custard, laundry detergent, baby wipes, size 6 nappies and washing up liquid.

We currently have large stocks of baked beans, cereals, pasta, pasta sauce, biscuits, fish, soup, baby food and cereals, and we would ask if you could donate one of the items from the list below.

Tea (40 bags if possible)

Cereal bars

Pasta sauce

Tinned fruit

Tinned tomatoes

Tinned spaghetti

Tinned sponge puddings

Sugar 500gms

Coffee (small jars)

Instant mash

Breakfast cereal

Packet soup (cuppa soups)

Tinned rice pudding

Rice

Warmed tinned meat

Jam

Larger packs of items don't fit in our parcels making it difficult for our clients to carry home, this is why we ask for small packets.

braintreearea.foodbank.org

Coming up and save the date

Coffee in St Giles Wednesday Mornings

Little Maplestead Harvest Lunch on the 3 October 2021

Great Maplestead Harvest Lunch on the 3 October 2021

Pebmarsh Bowls and Social Club on the 6 October 2021

The Maplesteads WI on the 7 October 2021

Hedingham Heritage Society Essex in the News 7 October 2021

Gestingthorpe Coffee Mornings on the 8 and 22 October 2021

Skittles in Gestingthorpe on the 27 October

October Church Services

3 October	9:30	Gestingthorpe – Morning Prayer
	9.30	Great Maplestead - Holy Communion
	12noon	Little Maplestead - Harvest Lunch
10 October	9,00	Pebmarsh - Holy Communion
	10.00	Great Maplestead - Family Service
	11.00	Gestingthorpe - Holy Communion
13 October	10.00	Gestingthorpe - BCP Holy Communion
17 October	10.00	Great Maplestead Benefice Holy Communion
24 October	9.30	Great Maplestead - Holy Communion
	9.30	Little Maplestead - Morning Worship
	10.00	Gestingthorpe - Family Worship
	4.00	Gestingthorpe - Compline

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 July magazine is **Friday 22 October 2021**

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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