

**Parish
News**

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



Church and Community together
October 2022

Free

Village contacts and information

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

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 30

Magazine copy see page 32

Parish Clerks

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WEA	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannnewton4@gmail.com
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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

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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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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	
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All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537	acantor56@outlook.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Margaret Crudgington	01787 476259	
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



Autumn is here. Driving in the evenings in the dark is a timely reminder.

The garden is, surprisingly, looking in good health (apart from the hydrangeas) and my last rose look beautiful (see the front cover) and I am inserting plants (hopefully drought resistant-ish and clay loving) in the gaps.

It is interesting to look at some of the results of the pandemic. Zoom, which was enormously helpful in helping people get together during the pandemic is still a huge benefit. My bridge club now runs on line bridge in parallel with face to face bridge with the result that older people, who may not like driving in the dark (I don't) can continue to play at home. We are having a similar experience with the Essex Historic Buildings Group (I am on the committee). We are going to zoom our face to face meetings so that all our new members, who don't live locally (some abroad), can continue to benefit.

A huge thank you to Betty. She is a dog owner in Little Maplestead and when she walks her dog she carries a bag to collect litter. Shaming me as she collects in the road and lane by my house. I will now start following her example.

Hope everything stays well with you during this difficult time.

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Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

Our world today is one of change and challenge. Last month we were faced with the death of our longest reigning monarch – her late majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A monarch who for many was the only one they had known. A monarch who reigned with great wisdom and diplomacy, who served the nation and commonwealth faithfully throughout her reign and who had a steadfast faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and was not afraid or ashamed to share it with others.

Following her death Prince Charles automatically and immediately became our new monarch. It is understandable that in this time of transition there may be some apprehension and uncertainty as to what kind of king our new monarch King Charles III will be. Although he has had a very public life, supporting many great charities and causes, being willing to speak out and give his own opinion, he knows now as monarch this may no longer be possible.

As well as having a new King, just two days before her late Majesty's death we also witnessed a change in Prime Minister as Boris Johnson left and Liz Truss took up the role.

We are entering a new season for our country, but as the author of Ecclesiastes tells us there is a season for everything. A time to be born and a time to die, a time for weeping and a time for mourning, but also a time to laugh and to dance. Seasons of sadness and anxiety pass and hope awaits us.

As we also observe our meteorological season changing, it signals a new beginning. As we enter autumn I am noticing dusk coming earlier and the days are shorter and chillier, the trees are letting go of their leaves as they prepare for new growth in the spring. Maybe it's a good time to think about the people and places that have passed through the different seasons of our lives and what we need to let go of.

I am mindful of the Queen's unwavering Christian faith, the bedrock to her life. A bedrock is the solid rock underpinning the loose and shifting soil above. So as our world feels like it's shifting around us, follow her example and be underpinned by the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

Rev'd Beverley



Unlike a conventional bus, you need to first register as a customer and you need to book your seat on a journey at least two hours in advance of travel. Flat fare £2.50 single, £4 return. Concessionary bus passes are accepted after 0900 Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays.

For more information 01621 874410 or info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk.

Sudbury - Gestingthorpe - Pebmarsh - Gt Maplestead - Halstead (Demand Responsive Service) F315

Operator	Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)						Saturday						
	Notes	ARWT STATH	ARWT BOOK STA	ARWT STATH	ARWT STATH	ARWT STATH	ARWT STATH	ARWT BOOK STA					
Sudbury, Bus Station (A)		0900	1100	1300	1530	1730	1915	0900	1100	1300	1530	1730	1915
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores (opp)		0903	1103	1303	1533	1733	1918	0903	1103	1303	1533	1733	1918
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane (adj)		0907	1107	1307	1537	1737	1922	0907	1107	1307	1537	1737	1922
Bulmer, The Street (adj)		0911	1111	1311	1541	1741	1926	0911	1111	1311	1541	1741	1926
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner (S-bound)		0917	1117	1317	1547	1747	1932	0917	1117	1317	1547	1747	1932
Wickham St Paul, The Victory (o/s)		0923	1123	1323	1553	1753	1938	0923	1123	1323	1553	1753	1938
Pebmarsh, The Kings Head (o/s)		0932	1132	1332	1602	1802	1947	0932	1132	1332	1602	1802	1947
Pebmarsh, War Memorial (opp)		0933	1133	1333	1603	1803	1948	0933	1133	1333	1603	1803	1948
Little Maplestead, The Cock (W-bound)		0939	1139	1339	1609	1809	1954	0939	1139	1339	1609	1809	1954
Great Maplestead, Church (opp)		0945	1145	1345	1615	1815	2000	0945	1145	1345	1615	1815	2000
Little Maplestead, Little Maplestead Pump (E-bound)		0951	1151	1351	1621	1821	2006	0951	1151	1351	1621	1821	2006
Halstead, High Street (SW-bound)		0956	1156	1356	1626	1826	2011	0956	1156	1356	1626	1826	2011
Sunday													
no service							no service						

NOTES

BOOK Journey must be pre-booked

STA Most times approximate (confirm by booking on 01621 874411, costs apply)

TH Passengers to/from Pebmarsh and Gt. Maplestead must pre-book

OPERATORS

ARWT Arrow Taxis Essex Ltd 01621 855111

Suffolk 01/12/2021

Halstead - Gt Maplestead - Pebmarsh - Gestingthorpe - Sudbury (Demand Responsive Service) F315

Operator	Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)						Saturday						
	Notes	ARWT STATS	ARWT BOOK STA	ARWT STATS	ARWT STATS	ARWT STATS	ARWT STATS	ARWT BOOK STA					
Halstead, High Street (NE-bound)		0730	1000	1200	1400	1630	1830	0730	1000	1200	1400	1630	1830
Little Maplestead, Little Maplestead Pump (W-bound)		0735	1005	1205	1405	1635	1835	0735	1005	1205	1405	1635	1835
Great Maplestead, Church (opp)		0741	1011	1211	1411	1641	1841	0741	1011	1211	1411	1641	1841
Little Maplestead, The Cock (E-bound)		0749	1017	1217	1417	1647	1847	0749	1017	1217	1417	1647	1847
Pebmarsh, War Memorial (opp)		0754	1023	1223	1423	1653	1853	0754	1023	1223	1423	1653	1853
Pebmarsh, The Kings Head (opp)		0755	1024	1224	1424	1654	1854	0755	1024	1224	1424	1654	1854
Wickham St Paul, The Victory (opp)		0804	1033	1233	1433	1703	1903	0804	1033	1233	1433	1703	1903
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner (N-bound)		0810	1039	1239	1439	1709	1909	0810	1039	1239	1439	1709	1909
Bulmer, The Street (opp)		0815	1045	1245	1445	1715	1915	0815	1045	1245	1445	1715	1915
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane (opp)		0819	1049	1249	1449	1719	1919	0819	1049	1249	1449	1719	1919
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores (o/s)		0823	1053	1253	1453	1723	1923	0823	1053	1253	1453	1723	1923
Sudbury, Bus Station (A)		0830	1056	1256	1456	1728	1928	0830	1056	1256	1456	1728	1928
Sunday													
no service							no service						

NOTES

BOOK Journey must be pre-booked

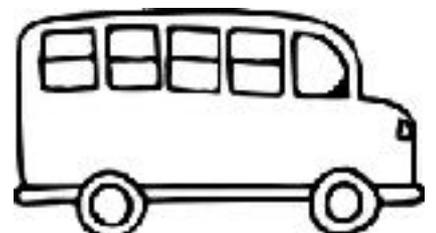
STA Most times approximate (confirm by booking on 01621 874411, costs apply)

TS Passengers to/from Pebmarsh and The Maplesteads must pre-book

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Suffolk 01/12/2021



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

More Little Maplestead

Craft Fair at the Round Church

Our annual Craft Fair on Saturday 10th September went ahead despite the sad news about her late Majesty. We put a table in the church with a Book of Condolence for visitors to sign and, despite the changeable weather, we had a lovely day.

There were ten different craft stalls as well as our bric-a-brac stall and the tea & cake stall. Visitors were able to browse the stalls and then sit down in the sunshine for a cup of tea or coffee with a choice of hot sausage rolls, meat pies, cheese straws or a large selection of cakes. There was also a very interesting display of the history of our Round Church.

It was gratifying and much appreciated to see so many people turn up and we had a very successful day, raising just over £1000 for the Church. People often comment on the great atmosphere at our events and the chance to catch up with people they may not see very often. None of this could happen without the support of the amazing team of helpers that we have. There are too many to name but everyone who helped in any way deserves a big thank you and, if you want to join us next year, look out for the information. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and see you next year!

Jane Stone

Parish Room Project

A meeting was held at The Round Church in July with members of the community to discuss the future of the proposed Parish Room. The meeting was very well attended with 26 people in attendance. Kevin Caddy, representing the Parochial Church Council (PCC), hosted the meeting with the Parish Room Sub Committee, Cllr Bill Piper (Chair, Little Maplestead Parish Council) and Perry Crimmins (Grants Co-ordinator).

Kevin welcomed the evening's speakers, Essex County Councillor Peter Schwier and Perry Crimmins. Kevin began the evening by recapping the history of the Parish Room project and displaying a 3D model of the Parish Room. Councillor Schwier reaffirmed his support for the project and recently assisted with an application for an Essex County Council backed grant of £1000, and committed to providing further support.

More Little Maplestead

Parish Room Project

Perry Crimmins described how Pebmarsh was able to save the village pub by raising the funds required to ensure that the village was able to purchase, protect and develop a village asset. The evening concluded with an invitation for questions from the floor.

Subsequently, an extraordinary Parochial Church Council meeting was held on the 2nd August to reflect and review the feedback received at the community meeting. The PCC raised concerns about the feasibility of the project. The planning permission from Braintree District Council has recently expired requiring a new application and the new building regulations will increase the anticipated cost of the project by at least one third. The cost of materials and labour are also expected to increase significantly. The Faculty granted by the Diocese of Chelmsford expires in February 2023, a condition is that 80% of funding is in place before any work can commence.

After careful consideration of all the benefits and the issues raised the PCC has decided to pause the project whilst alternative options are considered.

On behalf of St John the Baptist PCC.

“Meet the Police”

This was a great success with about 25 people attending. We were lucky to have not only PCSO John Thorne but two of his colleagues Charlotte and Jo; they made a good team.

The main issue in the village is speeding vehicles and instances around “near misses” were discussed.

Bill Piper will follow up the meeting with the police by arranging for some / further speeding checks to be carried out and also advise the most likely times.

PCSO John Thorne did bring a speed gun and this was operated for a period of time in Cock Road and all drivers who were monitored were driving within the speed limit!!

Further issues regarding noise – mainly from motorbikes on the Sudbury Road were raised and PCSO John Thorne has stated he would pass this on to the motorcycle team to follow up.

John also explained how the police can be contacted;

- Emergency issues/crime actually taking place i.e hare coursing – 999
- Non emergency issues, please dial 101

More Little Maplestead

More "Meet the Police"

- All other incidents please use the police website.

He also states that if no one reports anything, then the police do not know what to look out for.

Hare coursing IS a crime, so please phone 999 if you witness it.

Due to demand the Parish Council will now lobby Essex Highways to try to get the 40 limit reduced to 30, and the existing 40 limit to extend along Gestingthorpe Road and Oak Road.

Thank you to PCSO John Thorpe, Charlotte and Jo for an interesting and informative morning.



Nature Notes

The heat waves are over, rain has fallen and cooler days are well established. It shouldn't be a relief to see the end of summer, but this autumn is more welcome than most. After 30mm of rain on 25th August, the 26th dawned misty and deliciously cool at 12°C. The Colne was swollen at Hulls Mill and dew-laden cobwebs caught the early sun. Birds were quiet but a lone chiffchaff sang, probably the last to be heard this year. A small group of goldcrests was also heard calling.



A day or two later there was a wonderful surprise when I discovered newly hatched grass snakes under the covers of one of my compost bins. I had discovered adults on several previous occasions (reported in this column), but never young. They were 6-8 inches long, not much thicker than pencils, and very dark – almost black, although they did have a pattern.

The most striking feature was the brilliant gold necklace, the identifying characteristic of all grass snakes, but brilliantly evident on these charismatic youngsters. Adults mate in April and leathery-skinned eggs are laid during June and July. They are laid in batches of up to forty and take about 10 weeks to hatch. The eggs require temperatures of at least 21°C – but preferably 28°C – and high humidity, so rotting vegetation, as found in compost heaps, is a favoured location. When the young hatch they are immediately independent and mine – I had two – remained in the bin over the next couple of weeks before moving away. It was a thrill to see them and my grandchildren were delighted.

The bird feeders have been kept stocked and the common birds appear grateful. Keeping an eye out always pays dividends and rewards have included a lone coal tit, which is now appearing daily. On one morning, after a brief shower, a chiffchaff and then a blackcap were seen foraging for insects. Song thrushes make their presence known in spring and summer with their beautiful, varied song but are elusive by autumn and seldom seen. I was pleased to see one a day or two ago, foraging under a bush.

Another common garden resident, the grey squirrel, is particularly active at this time as they lay up a larder for the winter. A favourite item in our garden is walnuts and our two large trees are laden. The nuts often fall in twos, connected by a forked stem, and the squirrels favour these as they can carry two at a time by grasping the common stem and bounding away with a large walnut either side of the mouth. They make a comical sight as they go about their work.

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 St Giles

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

The Maplesteads' Autumn Show

A very successful Autumn Show was held on 10th September in Great Maplestead Village Hall, which was ablaze with flowers, fruit and vegetables despite a very difficult growing season.

The handicraft section was well-supported, with some wonderful entries winning high praise from the judges; the men excelled with their lemon drizzle cakes and the children's entries were amazing...

Rev. Beverley presented the various trophies to the prize winners, who were:

Flower Cup	Fernando Castro and Pam Wheaton
Flower Arrangers Cup	Philippa Mills
Novice Flower Arrangers Cup	Myra Jeggo
Domestic Cup	Patsy Maile
Vegetable Cup	Patsy Maile
Dolly Argent Craft Cup	Alison Davies
Children up to 8 years	Phoebe George – Jeggo
Children over 8 years	Arabella Self
Young Growers Cup	Phoebe George – Jeggo
Men's Challenge Trophy	Keith Sheffle
Photography Trophy	Alex Taylor
Photography under 16's	Arabella Self
Sunflower Competition	Finley Young
Autumn Show Trophy	Patsy Maile

The Committee would like to congratulate all the winners and thank both villages for their support. We look forward to welcoming you all again next year!

More Great Maplestead

35 Not Out...

At Great Maplestead Parish Council's 7th September meeting Joe Newton's 35-year long service as a Councillor was suitably celebrated.

Joe has followed in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather, who also each served in excess of 35 years! In fact, a Newton family member has been on the Council since its inception in 1899...



Joe was awarded his long service recognition certificate by Braintree Council Chair, Andrew Hensman, who congratulated him on his commitment to the parish. Andrew, who had enjoyed visiting Great Maplestead earlier during the afternoon, was also interested to hear about the work of a smaller, rural Parish Council.

District and County Councillor Peter Schwier also congratulated Joe on his long service award.

Council Chairman, Cllr. Martin Elms said "Joe has done so much in this village, both as a parish councillor and socially, whilst integrating with a busy life as a farmer. His selfless commitment is commendable and I thank him on behalf of the parish for all that he, and also his wife Liz, have done and continue to do for the benefit of others."

For once, Joe was rendered totally speechless...

Harvest VILLAGE WALK

Sunday 9th 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/evening/>

COMIC GREYHOUND RACING NIGHT



including a special presentation and plaque unveiling to celebrate the

Centenary of Great Maplestead Village Hall

Saturday 22nd October

Starts at 7.00pm : Tickets £5.00 per head

from Martin or Jo Watson: 01787 469 857

Bring your own drinks, nibbles and lots of £1 coins...

Race sponsors required!

All proceeds towards the Community Playing Field Development Fund

The Maple Leaves present...

...an entertaining evening in Great Maplestead Village Hall, with an interesting tale of

Stars in the War

Thursday 6th October

Starts 7.30pm : Members & Guests welcome

Guest Speaker Paula Short will be giving a talk about the participation of stars of stage, screen and music in wartime activities and their contribution to keeping the public's and Services' morale high during the war years

More information about the Maple Leaves' 2022 programme is at:

<https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/activities/copy-of-the-maple-leaves/>

Gardening Corner

It's the time of year to think about bulbs – most garden centres will have a large and plentiful supply. When planting, make a hole twice the depth of the bulb; tulips can be planted in November, other bulbs and corms at any time over the next two months.



Lavender can have a 'hair cut' with a pair of shears to remove the old flower stalks. If you want to reduce the bush or hedge, cut back with secateurs just before the old wood; this will make a stronger plant and stop it getting top-heavy.

In the vegetable garden continue picking courgettes, outdoor cucumbers and marrows. Reduce feeding tomatoes; the fruit needs to ripen and the plants do not want encouragement to make new leaf growth. Pick any runner or French beans otherwise they tend to become 'old' very quickly.

Continue watering hanging baskets and containers. This will help maintain colour until we replace summer bedding plants with pansies, violas, wallflowers and bellis – the list is endless...

I have noticed how most rose types have survived the long hot dry conditions with little or no watering, a point to remember with bare root stock becoming available over winter months.

If you have a pond, thinning out of some aquatic plants can be carried out so that you can see the water and not a mass of leaves. If you have a heap of spent plants just leave the muddy mass on the side of the pond for a few days so that any pond creatures can escape back into the water.



Rhododendrons and Azaleas in pots need watering more often at this time of year to encourage flower buds to form for next spring.

My recommended plant this month is Callicarpa, sometimes referred to as the Beauty Bush. The leaves will turn to a reddish hue, followed by small purple berries that last for several weeks. Enjoy the forthcoming autumn colours

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' Coffee Mornings.

We had a smaller turnout at our coffee morning on 9th September. That may have been down to many people feeling sombre following the tragic death of our Queen the day before. The intermittent and heavy rain showers on Friday morning would have also had an effect. Two villagers arrived soaked through to the skin and left buoyed up after having a piping hot drink and some delicious slices of cake.

Our coffee mornings during October and November will be held on the Fridays of 7th and 21st October and 4th and 18th November. All Friday 'gatherings' start at 10am and run until 12 noon.

Funds raised at our coffee mornings usually go towards the upkeep and running of our village hall, but, on Friday 9th all monies from that morning were raised for MacMillan Cancer Support and we were pleased to make a donation to them of £62.48.

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

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

Community Speed Watch

"The Gestingthorpe Community Speed Watch group successfully carried out their first speed watch on Sudbury Road on 30th August, the group noted a considerable reduction in traffic speeds during the period of the watch. It is intended that further speed watches will be planned for the future, in various police approved locations within the village.

This would appear to be an effective way of making residents safer and giving a message to motorists that speeding in Gestingthorpe is not acceptable.

However to continue the speed watch programme we would like to have more volunteers, so if anyone is interested in giving up a small part of their time to assist, would they please contact me on 01787 469187. Full training will be provided.



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More Gestingthorpe

Skittles

Our skittles evenings will restart on Wednesday 26th October at 7.30pm with the next one being at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30th November. Please come along for a light-hearted and fun evening with your friends and fellow villagers. Who will get the first 'Strike' of the new season?

Gestingthorpe Village Hall : The roof

The refurbishment and repair of the slate roof is finished. Doesn't it look great?

The work took a longer than we had thought but then the roofers had to do more work than was originally thought. As an old building it had a hidden surprise when the brickwork of the end walls was exposed. The roofers did a great job in having a bricklayer sort out the necessary work whilst working around our need to keep the village hall in use.

Some of the heavy capping stones were found to be in need of replacement so we took the decision to replace a number of those at the same time. We didn't want to 'spoil the ship for a ha'porth of tar'.

The extra and necessary work to the insides of the parapet walls significantly increased the cost of the work and with the replacement of some of the capping stones the estimate for the roofing work increased by over one third!

How did the finances go? Well, with the extra cost for the work we got close to running out of money before the cost of the final bill was taken into account. A big worry. We had discussed the level of our available funds with the roofers. We all knew that we were at a 'point of no return' where; if the work had been stopped the village hall would have had to be closed. We also all knew it would be an even harder job to re-open a village hall with a partly completed roof.

Our committee had a Plan B. Plan B was to see if we could get private loans from villagers. A number of people stepped forward and offered us loans. Thank you; that gave us the support and guarantee we needed to keep going with the work.

The roofers were kept up to date and very kindly offered to keep going with the work knowing that their final bill may be delayed in being paid but knew we had assured them full payment would be made as soon as possible. We didn't need to delay in paying that final bill. Villagers stepped forward and due to their incredible generosity we had enough money to settle the roofer's final bill shortly after it had been sent to us. On behalf of the Gestingthorpe Village Hall Committee I pass our sincere and grateful thanks to those who, together, donated a sufficient and large amount of money to get us 'over the line'. The roof of our village hall is in considerably better shape and specification than it has been for many many years. We expect that it will outlast us all.

Our village hall committee also deserve a 'Thank you' for, over the last few years, keeping on pushing ahead in raising funds to refurbish the roof.

More Gestingthorpe

More Gestingthorpe Village Hall : The roof

The roof has been an Agenda point for many years and no doubt everyone on the committee will be pleased that the two words 'The roof' won't need to feature again for a very long time!

What next? You can rest assured that the village hall committee won't sit back. They will have plans for further improvement to your village hall. Our funds reached a very low amount and there still isn't enough reserve for future expenses let alone improvement costs. The need for fundraising is still there. There are already some fundraising events planned and we need your support. You have supported us in the past and hope you are pleased with how we have turned that support into solid investment into your village hall. Thank you.



GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

10am -
4pm

AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 29th October

FREE ENTRANCE

**GESTINGTHORPE
VILLAGE HALL
CHURCH STREET,
GESTINGTHORPE
CO9 3BB**



**HANDMADE CRAFTS - JEWELLERY - HANDMADE
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GIFTS FOR ALL AGES - & SO MUCH MORE!**

FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:



HELEN SKERRATT

01787 237297

Gestingthorpe History Group

welcomes

Katherine MacInnes

Author of the critically acclaimed new re-telling of Scott's Fatal Antarctic Expedition from the perspective of the women who were left behind.

St Mary's
Church in

GESTINGTHORPE

Sat 8th October 7.30pm



As part of her promotional tour, Katherine will be giving a thoroughly engaging talk on the 10 years of research that went into the writing of this book together with insights into the women (including our own Mrs Oates), that are featured within its pages. "The narrative is developed exclusively through the eyes of the protagonists. Their views are not mine. Instead of superimposing modern values, this non-fiction account uses carefully researched historical context to time-travel to a bygone era, to understand a mindset that is completely alien to us now."



Katherine MacInnes has been an arts journalist and commissioning editor, and has gained an MSt at the University of Oxford. She has published plays and children's books, as well as a biography of Oriana Wilson (*The Woman With The Iceberg Eyes*). She is a regular on local BBC Radio and her journalism has appeared widely, including in the Times, Telegraph and Country Life. She lives in Gloucestershire with her family.

Tea, Coffee, Wine or a Soft Drink available on entry. Please dress for the weather.



www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk



More Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe Village Hall Committee

The 2022 Annual General Meeting was held in our village hall on Thursday 9th June 2022.

The Minutes of the 2021 AGM were read and approved.

The Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 were prepared and presented along with a report by Penny Bagby the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee who was, unfortunately, unable to attend due to COVID-19. 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 9th June 2022 until the 2023 AGM that is due to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th June 2023.

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 2022 / 2023 are:

Elected members:

Chairman : Chris Harman

Vice Chairman : Roger Goldsmith

Secretary : Steph Prior (who is also a Representative member)

Treasurer : Penny Bagby (who is also a Representative member)

Bookings Secretary : Steve Bagby

Members: Geoff Quick and Myra Quick

Representative members:

Parish Council : Penny Bagby (who is also the Treasurer)

Parochial Church Council : Peter Nice

Cricket Club : Steph Prior (who is also the Secretary)

Gestingthorpe History Group : Andy Craig

Football Club : Vacant post

Pets Corner

Freckle – Watch Out Here I Come!!!

My name is Freckle, or as my humans sometimes call me “The Tasmanian Devil” (can’t think why?!).

I am a working breed English Springer Spaniel and I absolutely love life - can’t get enough of it and want to be out enjoying life all day, every day. I do not like being still, my body quivers if I sit still for too long. My tail has a life of its own and is like a rudder wagging away. Are you exhausted just reading about me?

Being outdoors, running, bouncing, swimming and especially splashing in muddy puddles and ditches – they are the best.

I am an extremely busy girl and only have two speeds – fast and stop. You will probably see me running for my ball and bouncing my way around my walks (I love bouncing, I am very well sprung). I enjoy nothing better than chasing a ball and jumping up to catch it.

At my human kennel, we often play hide and seek, but my humans are not so good at this game. They hide my toys or treats but I always find them. When I hide their socks or anything they do not want me to have, they seem to have great difficulty finding them!



My humans take me on lots of exciting adventures, as they know I like to explore. I have travelled to lots of places and my favourites are always beaches, where you can run, chase a ball and swim – I could do this all day and often do. I like to show my affection to my humans with special Freckle kisses, just when they least expect it, I give them a good old lick, it always gets a lively reaction – I am sure that the word “YUK!” means do it again!

I do suffer with FOMO (fear of missing out) and have to be involved with everything, from greeting people at the door, sitting at my human’s feet while they are working, helping with housework (I am very good at finding cobwebs in corners) to gardening (I do a lot of pruning and a spot of digging). I am also a great help in the kitchen as I make sure anything dropped on the floor is hoovered up immediately and I often check the work surfaces to make sure nothing has been left behind.



When I do finally stop running around and exploring, I enjoy a good “springer sprawl” (see right), on my super comfy bed. This always gets me some tummy tickles and then I drift off to sleep, with all 4 paws in the air, dreaming about.....running.....bouncing.....swimming.....zzzzzzzz **Freckle**

Crisp

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 your village Volunteer.

Correction to the September issue

Dear Reader, the September issue of the parish magazine incorrectly cited the name of the charity responsible for the Pebmarsh allotments. The announcement is made on behalf of the JOHN NOTT CHARITY, and is republished in its correct form below. I apologise for any confusion caused and my mistake (Luke Brown, Pebmarsh editor):

Absolutely nothing surpasses the flavour of fresh home grown produce or indeed the satisfaction of having grown it yourself.

If you are of a mind to grow your own but maybe don't have enough garden space why not consider renting one of the allotment plots in Pebmarsh.

They are managed by a charity and details can be obtained from Graham Tufnell by e-mailing grahamtufnell@btinternet.com.

JOHN NOTT CHARITY



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More Pebmarsh

St John the Baptist Church Pebmarsh

As we reflect on the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth and follow the official mourning process it is maybe easy to forget that she meant so much to so many. She gave her life to serving our country and the Commonwealth with grace and dignity. For many of us this will be the first time we have seen the funeral of a head of state and the coronation of a new King.

It marks a new chapter in our history in a world that has changed so much in the past 70 years. We have had a book of condolence in the church which some of you have signed and this will be passed on to the diocese.

We have been delighted to hold a number of christenings in September, welcoming a lot of children and their parents into the church, we have been keen on these occasions to make the service as child friendly as possible and make sure parents feel they don't have to take their children out if they make a noise or wish to move around the church. All have been very happy occasions.

28th September Rupert Wright

11th September Pollyanne Frost

25th September Isaac Davidson and Rocco Frost

Unfortunately these very happy occasions have come alongside the sad news of the loss of two more of our older residents. Anne Black died peacefully with her family by her side on 1st September. She and her husband Tim had lived at Hill House in Pebmarsh for many years and Tim was Church Warden at St John the Baptist Church. There will be a thanksgiving service on 7th October in the afternoon. We will post a message on social media when times are confirmed.

Sadly, on the 2nd of September we also received news that David Williams also passed away suddenly aged 92. The funeral service will be at the Three Counties Crematorium in Braintree on the 16th of September at 3.30pm followed by a celebration at the Kings Head Pebmarsh.

Our thoughts are with both families at this difficult time.

The school will hold its Harvest festival service at the church on the 5th of October and we look forward to welcoming them and their parents. They work very hard to put these services together and I'm always amazed at how well they speak in public and are very well behaved and polite.

Our Remembrance Service this year is at St Mary's church, Gestingthorpe. This will be a Benefice Service at 10.45am on the 13th of November.

We will also hold an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Pebmarsh on the 11th of November at 11am with refreshments served at the church afterwards.

More Pebmarsh

The Ladies' Club

The Ladies Club on 11th October will be welcoming Marion along to show some of her hand made dolls and talk through the process.

The Group meet in the Village Hall from 1 pm to 3pm everyone is welcome. Why not come along and enjoy a cuppa/cake and an interesting afternoon.

For those who do not feel confident in coming alone arrangement can be made to link you with one of our small friendly group.

Pauline Andow

Pebmarsh Youth Club

After a long hot summer, Pebmarsh Youth Club is finally back. Doors are open every other Thursday, 6.30pm- 8.30pm at Pebmarsh Village Hall, for our youths aged 8-13 years. We were very pleased to see so many familiar faces back joining us and excited to welcome new children.

Due to our numbers being limited in the hall during wintertime, we may have to operate a waiting list over the next few months, so don't miss out and come and join the fun.

Pebmarsh Youth Club would like to thank the organisers of "A bit of a Do" for the very kind donation of £300. Many thanks to Paula H., who organised a plant pot sale and donated the income to PYC. We also received donations from two anonymous donors who we are also very grateful to.

Here's to another year of fun activities for our local youth to join and to enjoy.

From Carol and Mandy.

Pebmarsh Village Hall

The Pebmarsh Village Hall Management Committee pass our deep condolences to the Royal Family and give thanks for the life time of service of Queen Elizabeth II.

Thank you ma'am.

PVHMC

Pebmarsh Village Hall

The Pebmarsh Village Hall Management Committee are please to announce that Pebmarsh Village Hall is now connected to the internet using WiFi.

The introduction of WiFi will enable users of the village hall facilities to make WiFi telephone calls and enhance their safety.

There is a fair use policy in place, a copy of which can be obtained upon request from PVHMC. Pebmarsh Village Hall Management Committee

Cookery Corner

Greek Briam (baked mixed vegetables)

A very easy-to-make vegetable dish that can be served on its own with some crusty bread or as a side dish to BBQ meats, especially lamb.

Ingredients:

Greek extra virgin olive oil
6 garlic cloves, sliced
2 tbsps dried oregano
3 sprigs of rosemary
2 tbsps chopped fresh parsley
250ml passata
500g waxy potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
2 large courgettes, diced
1 large aubergine, diced
1 large red onion, thickly chopped
1 large red pepper, cut into chunks
1 large green pepper, cut into chunks
6 medium tomatoes, chopped into wedges



Method:

Preheat the oven to gas mark 5 (170oC Fan or 190oC).

Drizzle some olive oil into a large roasting tin and spread the potatoes evenly across the base of the tin. Season with salt and pepper.

Add the garlic & courgettes as your next layer and again season with salt and pepper.

Work up the layers, with the aubergine then the peppers and then the onion, seasoning as before between each layer.

Sprinkle 1 tbsp of oregano and 1 tbsp of parsley over the top, then layer on the chopped tomatoes. Add the rest of the herbs and season again.

Pour passata over the top and add 200ml water. Finish with another generous drizzle of olive oil.

Cover the roasting tin tightly with foil and bake for about 1½ hours, or until vegetables are tender, then it is ready to serve.

Suitable for 4 people as a main meal, or 6 as a side dish.

Kali Orexi!

Ann Crisp: Great Maplestead



We have a new collection point in the Tower Room, at St Giles Church, Great Maplestead, please drop off your donations if you can.

5708 emergency food parcels were provided to people between April 2021 and March 2022. 2596 of these went to children.

And we expect this to rise further, which is why we are asking for stock items so that we can maintain our food parcels.

We currently have good stocks of dried pasta and pasta sauce.

* Please note: We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home we are also unable (for hygiene reasons) to split large size or catering packs.

URGENT FOOD ITEMS

- SPONGE PUDDING (TWIN PACK)
- TINNED SPAGHETTI
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED RICE PUDDING
- INSTANT MASH
- INSTANT SNACK (POT NOODLE ETC)
- PACKET SOUP
- LONG LIFE JUICE (1 LITRE)
- LONG LIFE MILK (1 LITRE)

URGENT TOILETRY ITEMS

- SHAMPOO
- SHOWER GEL
- TOOTHBRUSHES

URGENT NON-FOOD ITEMS

- STRONG CARRIER BAGS, PLEASE.

OUR GENERAL SHOPPING LIST (TO MAINTAIN OUR STOCKS)

- COFFEE
- SUGAR

Hedingham Heritage Society

The Heritage Society's autumn indoor meetings restart on:

Thursday 6th October – The Essex Coast:

David Simmonds from the National Trust will talk about the ecology and history of the longest coastline of any English county.

7.30pm, Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

All walks and talks: Members – free : Non-Members - £5

Everybody Welcome

Special Note:

Our Christmas Social, with superb food and musical entertainment, is on Saturday 3rd December. Please book your tickets and save the date.

For more information about our events, please contact any of the committee listed below:

Rob Worley 01787 460 664: Trudi Cullum 01787 462 889

Peter Bayes 01787 469 953

Or reach us at:

hedinghamheritage@gmail.com

www.hedinghamheritage.org

THE VERGER'S STORE CUPBOARD

THE CONTENTS ARE ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY FOR EASE OF ACCESS



information

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.

Clare Bridge Club: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/clare/>

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.

From Saturday 1 October 2022, out-of-hours appointments will be available from 6.30pm to 8pm on weekdays, and from 9am to 5pm on Saturdays.

An out-of-hours appointment might not be at your regular GP surgery. When you book an appointment, you will be told where the appointment will be.

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

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	Jim Crayston	07957870340	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
	Sarah Burgess	01787 269092	sarahburgess@btinternet.com

Church Services in October 2022

Sunday 2 October	9:30 Holy Communion Great Maplestead 9:30 Morning Prayer Gestingthorpe 12noon Harvest Lunch Little Maplestead (Tickets required)
Sunday 9 October	9:30 Holy Communion Pebmarsh 10:30 Café Church Great Maplestead 11:00 Holy Communion Gestingthorpe
Sunday 16 October	10:00 Benefice Holy Communion Pebmarsh
Wed 19 October	10:00 Holy Communion Gestingthorpe
Sunday 23 October	9:30 Holy Communion Great Maplestead 9:30 Morning Prayer Little Maplestead 11:00 Morning Worship Pebmarsh 4pm Compline Gestingthorpe
Sunday 30 October	Halstead Area Team Service Colne Engine

Harvest supper celebration

The 4 parishes came together to worship at St Giles Church, Great Maplestead to celebrate Harvest on 18th September.

Ashley Cooper gave a particularly moving and interesting talk, he was able to show us some pictures of ploughs across the ages, as well as a photo of the young Princess Elizabeth aboard a combine harvester.

The weather was kind and we enjoyed a picnic in the churchyard after the service.



Coming up and save the date

- 1 October Maplesteads CPR and Defibrillator course
- 2 October Little Maplesteads Harvest Lunch
- 6 October Great Maplestead Maple Leaves - Stars in the war
- 7 and 24 October Gestingthorpe Coffee Mornings
- 8 October Snow Widows Gestingthorpe
- 9 October Great Maplestead Harvest Village Walk
- 11 October Pebmarsh Ladies Club
- 22 October Great Maplestead Comic Greyhound Racing Night
- 26 October Gestingthorpe Skittles
- 29 October Gestingthorpe Craft Fair

The Reverend Beverley Vincent

khvicar@gmail.com 07944 200132
The Rectory 01787 460273
Church Street
Great Maplestead
Halstead
CO9 2RG



The copy deadline for the September magazine is **Friday 21 October 2022**
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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Parish News Website

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

www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk