

Great and Little Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



Photo Credit: Chris Harman, Harvest Sunset, Gestingthorpe. August 2023

**Church and Community together
September 2023**

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent and the churchwardens on page 40.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 39.

Magazine copy see page 8.

Parish Clerks

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Lt Maplestead	Paula Sillett	07975 571253	littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	Kevin B Money	07810 781509	gestingthorpepc@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Shelley Boydell	07927 775989	pebmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

The Maplesteads

The Maple Leaves	Angela Davis	01787 236007	angeladavis99@outlook.com
WEA	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannnewton4@gmail.com
Autumn Show	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com

Gt Maplestead

Task Force	Dave Pike	07885 788855	davepike@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
Dance & Keep Fit	Judy Cowell	01376 561757	judy.cowell@btinternet.com
Carpet Bowls	Janice Chaplin	01787 469600	bobandjanicechaplin@btinternet.com

Gestingthorpe

Village Hall	Steve Bagby	07840 367182	
Village amenities	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Tower bell ringing	Valerie Fullman	01787 462755	
Cricket Club	Chris Ponty	07494 883632	

Football Club

Fun Fit Fab	Nic Smith	07908 445239	nicsmithpe@gmail.com
History Society	Gill Webb	01787 581836	gillwebb880@gmail.com
Book Club	Penny Bagby	07840 367172	pbagby1@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	steveharris@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Lt Maplestead	Geraldine Holloway	01787 476530	geraldineholloway2017@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	Penny Bagby	07840 367172	pbagby1@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Michael Sharp	07725 909986	michael@broomhills-farm.co.uk

All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537	acantor56@outlook.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Margaret Crudgington	01787 476259	
Benefice Choir	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Scouts	Stuart Carter	01787 461149	
Guides	Kathy Hoy	01787 280200	
Molly's Wood			https://www.mollyswood.org/contact

Otter's Jotter!

Firstly, an apology for the late arrival of Parish News - purely due to the holiday season and gathering the articles up to Saturday 27 August!



It's my favourite month of the year! New academic year & I start working with Schools, Colleges & Universities to bring about real world experiences of careers out there! It is also sports galore, to demonstrate those careers - from supporting the British Disability Darts Association, to a brand new MINI racing team based in Norfolk! Fun and an enjoyable way to build confidence for those we get involved with!

We have a plea for help this month. We need to generate more funds to continue printing the magazine. So, please if you have ideas for fundraising, or can share the magazine with trades you use to encourage them to advertise with us, we would be very grateful. Maybe someone owns a company that would like to sponsor the Parish News - after all, the promotion of the business is allowable expenses to come off the company tax bill, plus we would love to know more about your products or services.

I would like to highlight page 6 & 7, Green Bin Charge & the **F315 Bus Service is under threat of being withdrawn**, consultation is open on the Essex County Council website , to make your views known: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/2023/>

Those in Gestingthorpe, please see page 33 with details of how to apply for the Educational Fund. We have been successful in the past, with my son gaining funds in the past for both his flying (PPL) and driving lessons.

Finally, a thank you Chris Harman & Heidi Page for your additions this month.

Nic

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Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

September – a month of endings and beginnings. As summer draws to a close, and we lament a wet and sometimes chilly summer, the usual rhythm of life returns with children heading back to school, youngsters packing up for university or college, and the TV is full of ads for all the new programmes about to begin. In the church, we look towards all that lies ahead in the next few months – Harvest Festival, All Souls, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and then, of course, the culmination of it all, Christmas!

But before we get to Christmas, we enter the season of autumn a time of thanksgiving. Maybe you want to give thanks to God for a lovely summer holiday, for weddings, for friends and family or for new beginnings.

This month in our churches we give thanks for the harvest and will be holding our harvest service at Pebmarsh church on 17th followed by a 'bring your own' picnic. Weather permitting will be enjoying our food in the beautiful churchyard, if not we will be in church. Do join us as we say thank you for all that is produced for us, especially as we live in a rural area and see farmers going about their work every day to provide the food that sustains us.

In his letter to the Ephesians St. Paul encourages us all to live our lives in an attitude of thankfulness. It is hard and takes a lot of discipline and requires effort. If you're feeling grouchy for no good reason, try smiling - the physical act of smiling makes you feel more cheerful whether you want to or not!

But living lives of thankfulness doesn't mean that we should just ignore our sufferings or the suffering of others and say they don't matter, because they do. The book of Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time to laugh and a time to cry. So many people say they mustn't grumble and imply that their sufferings are too insignificant to be of importance compared to other people's. All our struggles and sufferings matter to God, however small. St. Paul understood that if we can learn to be positive and thankful during the good times, then that will help to sustain us through the bad times. He was in prison when he wrote to the Ephesians, being thankful didn't diminish his hardship, but it did help him to endure it.

Let's try to live a life of thankfulness, look for the positives in a situation and you might be surprised at where you see God at work.

Rev'd Beverley



Hedingham Medical Centre

The Castle Hedingham surgery: 01787 461465. The surgery is open from 11.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 18.00 Monday to Friday to collect pre-ordered prescriptions. Their website is www.hedmed.co.uk.

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

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



Hedingham Heritage Society

Thursday 7th September:

Digging into Castle Hedingham's Past
Mark Baister, an Archaeologist and Historic Environment Consultant will be talking about the archaeology of Castle Hedingham and some recent archaeological investigations at Hedingham Castle.

7.30 pm Meet at The Keep, Hedingham Castle.



Sunday 17th September:

The Great Oaks walk – the Heritage autumn walk in our local countryside- over the parish boundary to the Yeldhams and back, a walk of about 5 miles.

10.00am Meet at the Memorial Hall, Castle Hedingham



Thursday 5th October:

Owls and Birds of Prey – a talk by **Stephanie Callister-Jarrold** from the Owls and Birds of Prey Rescue Centre, Gestingthorpe

7.30pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

For all walks and talks: Members free, non-members £5 Everybody Welcome

Contact information: Rob Worley 01787 460664; Trudi Cullum 01787 462889; Peter Bayes 01787 469953

Website: www.hedinghamheritage.org.uk

E-Mail: hedinghamheritage@gmail.com

The decision by Braintree District Council to charge for garden waste collections from March 2024 was discussed at a meeting of the Council's Scrutiny Committee on 1st August.

During the 2-hour meeting evidence was presented about the additional costs to residents relative to Cost-of-Living pressures, potential difficulties for some vulnerable residents and a likely fall in recycling levels and more diversion of green waste to landfill, giving rise to more greenhouse gas emissions.

However, on a vote of 6-2 it was decided not to refer the Green Bin decision back to BDC's Cabinet, meaning the charge is now likely to be implemented.

In related news, the Government have now also decided to postpone a decision on new recycling regulations until after the next General Election...



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07804 474494 (Pebmarsh)

F315 Bus Service Under Threat – Have Your Say...

The local F315 bus service is an important link to the outside world for residents with little or no access to private transport and who need to travel out of their villages for personal, social or work purposes.

Essex County Council is currently reviewing the future of its bus service provision, undertaking a **Public Consultation** into a strategy for 'Supported Local Bus Services 2024–2028'.

The **Consultation** covers **three service groups**, based on passenger volumes:

- **The vast majority of services**, where there will be no changes until at least 2028.
- **An 'At Risk' group**, which **ECC** will support until at least 2026 but where passenger numbers will need to increase.
- **A 'Low Use' group**, which appears not to be meeting local needs and therefore faces either major changes or a **complete withdrawal**.



The **F315** on-demand service between Halstead and Sudbury, that visits all the main villages in the four parishes covered by this magazine, is considered to be in the '**Low Use**' group and is being proposed for withdrawal. A possible alternative, Braintree's **Dart3** service, is also under threat – as can be seen from the Strategy Document extract below:

List of low use services

These services are being reviewed and consideration may be given to re-design them. For example, reducing frequency of days or times of operation, changing of routes, merging of services, replacing with an alternative service, implementing a devolution pilot, or withdrawing them.

The district-wise services are organized alphabetically for easy reference

Service number	Origin	Destination	Days of operation	District	Current Operator	Proposed Changes
DaRT 3	Braintree	Braintree	Monday to Saturday	Braintree	Essex and Suffolk Dart	Withdraw Service
F315	Sudbury	Halstead	Monday to Saturday	Braintree	Arrow Taxis	Withdraw Service

Some of the villages in **Braintree District** are already designated as '**Tier 3**' in **BDC's Local Plan**, meaning they are in a '*deprived area*' of the rural district and therefore '*unsustainable through a lack of social infrastructure*'. Loss of the **F315** service will only make this situation worse – with a resulting adverse impact on many parishioners.

Contrary to the Government's '**Levelling-Up**' agenda, withdrawing the bus service will inevitably:

- restrict any future local village demographics just to car owners
- be a disincentive for some families looking to move into the area
- increase the number and frequency of car journeys, substituting for those that would have been undertaken by bus
- have a greater detrimental effect on local air quality and consequently the rural environment in general
- be a potential rationale for reducing the gritting of local roads in winter

The **Public Consultation** is open until **5th October 2023**. **Have your say** by completing the survey on-line – go to the **ECC** website and search for '**2023 Bus Consultation**'.

Hard copies of the survey document can be obtained by contacting:

passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk

F315 Sudbury to Halstead / Halstead to Sudbury - Operated by Essex & Suffolk DaRT.

Flat Fare: £3 Single, £5 Return (between any two stops). Concessionary bus passes are accepted after 0900 Monday to Friday.

For more information 01621 874410 / 01621 874411

or info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk

SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL - PEBMARSH - GREAT AND LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - HALSTEAD							
F315		To book on this service call: 01621 8744111					From 01/12/2021
Sudbury, Bus Station		09:00	11:00	13:00	15:30	17:30	19:15
Ballingdon, Kings Head		09:03	11:03	13:03	15:33	17:33	09:18
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22
Bulmer, Cross Roads		09:10	11:10	13:10	15:40	17:40	19:25
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		09:16	11:16	13:16	15:46	17:46	19:31
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		09:21	11:21	13:21	15:51	17:51	19:36
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter		09:26	11:26	13:26	15:57	17:57	19:43
Pebmarsh, War Memorial		09:27	11:27	13:27	15:58	17:58	19:44
Little Maplestead, Corner		09:32	11:32	13:32	16:03	18:03	19:49
Great Maplestead, Church		09:36	11:36	13:36	16:07	18:07	19:53
Little Maplestead, Pump		09:40	11:40	13:40	16:11	18:11	19:57
Halstead, High Street		09:44	11:44	13:44	16:14	18:15	20:01
Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked Timings other than those in bold type may vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service. arrival time							
F315		To book on this service call: 01621 8744111					From 01/12/2021
Halstead, High Street		07:30	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	18:30
Little Maplestead, Pump		07:35	10:05	12:05	14:05	16:35	18:35
Great Maplestead, Church		07:38	10:08	12:08	14:08	16:38	18:38
Little Maplestead, Cock		07:42	10:12	12:12	14:12	16:42	18:40
Pebmarsh, War Memorial		07:47	10:15	12:15	14:15	16:45	18:42
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter		07:48	10:16	12:16	14:16	16:46	18:43
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		07:54	10:21	12:21	14:21	17:01	18:45
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		08:02	10:27	12:27	14:27	17:07	18:48
Bulmer, Cross Roads		08:08	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:13	19:03
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		08:10	10:35	12:35	14:35	17:15	19:09
Ballingdon, Kings Head		08:16	10:41	12:41	14:41	17:21	19:11
Sudbury, Bus Station		08:20	10:45	12:45	14:45	17:25	19:14
Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked Timings other than those in bold type may vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service. arrival time							

The copy deadline for the October 2023 magazine is **Friday 22 September 2023**

We need to know who, what, where and when

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

Copy

Editor	Nic Coppen	07743 816725	nicola.coppen@live.co.uk
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Little Maplestead	Jenny Bishop	07906 083999	pmeditor@icloud.com
Pebmarsh	Luke Brown	07919 375341	lhwbrown@hotmail.co.uk

Nature Notes

High summer is a time when views become limited. The roadsides are a riot of vegetation, so much so that you are in a tunnel and distant views are few. Good rain since late June has replenished reservoirs and restored lawns, which therefore demand frequent mowing. Many feel we haven't had much of a summer, but I think we are blessed compared with many parts of Europe that have suffered with extreme heat and fires.

The mistle thrush is the most elusive of our native thrushes, although it is quite common. It is larger than the song thrush and stockier, lacking the warm browns of the former and being greyer with larger spots. They are shy and normally seen in ones or twos but are known to form post-breeding flocks and I was lucky enough to encounter one of these in late July. There were 10 or 12 birds and I was alerted to them by their distinctive flight note, likened to a comb being dragged over a piece of wood. In earlier times they were called storm cocks for their propensity to sing from high perches in wild weather, the song being loud and fluty.



On the 12th of August I heard a snatch of song that was unmistakably that of a willow warbler, a small warbler very like a chiffchaff but an uncommon breeder in our area. I never saw the bird but am confident in the identification. They are abundant the further north you go and are migrants, so I presume this was a bird already moving back south. A little research confirmed that they continue to sing, even once they have returned to Africa, although the song is less intense and somewhat curtailed. I once had a bright juvenile come through my garden in September, but that was the only other time I have recorded them in the patch.

The blockbuster moth event occurred in July, when I discovered a Pine Hawk-moth in my light trap. I regularly see seven species of Hawk-moth but had never (in over 7 years) had a Pine. It is not the largest, although still striking, and is not as colourful as most, but well-marked and distinctive. The caterpillars feed on pine but despite plentiful supplies of the food-plant, it is a scarce resident of Essex. The surprises keep coming.

Patch Patroller

Gardening Corner

Now is the time for 'the harvest home' – there is nothing more satisfying than picking/digging your own produce.

I recently picked the last of my broad beans and, despite the dry weather, I had a decent crop. You can cut the old stalks off at ground level and leave the roots in the ground for a while. Being a nitrogen 'fixing' plant, the root system helps maintain good soil fertility. If you wish to weed and prepare the ground for a late crop I would suggest the following: winter cabbage, radish, chard or lettuce.

This month my suggested plant is *Verbena bonariensis*. It has a mauve coloured mop head of flowers and its long stem means it looks good at the back of a flower border. In the main it is self-supporting and complements grasses and other perennials.



Keep watering annuals in pots and hanging baskets – dead heading is essential, plus a weekly feed should see your plants looking good through to the end of September/beginning of October.

We're occasionally experiencing unseasonable high winds, so it's worthwhile checking that perennials are tied firmly to a stake. Plants like sweet peas need dealing with regularly as they have a thin stem and the tendrils are often not strong enough to provide sound support.

Side shoot Dahlias – this will give you larger flowers on longer stems but again tie the plants in, ideally to a cane.

Keep mowing the lawn at consistent intervals; put the mower blade up a setting, there is nothing worse than a scalped lawn. The grass will soon slow down considerably, growing at half the rate it did in May and June.

Just a reminder: spring flowering bulbs will soon be for sale in the garden centres – there is such a large variety to choose from we are spoilt for choice. Tulips really should not be planted until November but daffodils, hyacinth and iris can be planted from September onwards.

Keep busy out there!

The Arborist

From the Gardens of Easton Lodge

Last September the dahlias were stunning, if rather stunted due to the summer drought, and the cosmos, sunflowers and roses brought colour to other borders. This year they should all be gorgeous, following the showers we have had since June. And with these splashes of colour and the ripening squashes, pumpkins, apples and pears our excitement is building for our **Apple and Bees Day on 17 September**.

The Apple & Bees Day is usually great fun with a host of activities for visitors. The day will tickle the taste buds. There will be apple pressing and the opportunity to take juice home; fresh apples; orchard produce; a range of honeys; and apple and honey cakes. Our tombola of jams and jellies made from our soft fruits is hugely popular. Visitors will also be able to buy cider made from our apples; honey and beeswax items; our garden produce; crafts; and plants. There will be apple and honey craft activities for children and a related trail. Our volunteers and visiting exhibitors love the day and the opportunity to chat with young and old alike about the joys of orchards, fruit and the benefits fruit trees provide for local wildlife.



This year we will be joined for the first time by **Take Note**, a concert band based in Felsted. They have a huge range of instrumentalists and hence a wide repertoire, so it will be exciting to hear what they play at the Gardens! **Tickets will be available in advance through Trybooking or on the Gate**, with the Gate opening at 11.00 and last entry 4.00.

The Trust's volunteers will provide

refreshments: bacon, cheese and hummus rolls and homemade cakes.

For more information go to
www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on
www.Trybooking.com

Jill Goldsmith, July 2023

THE GARDENS OF
EASTON LODGE

The Maplesteads

Saturday 9th September, Autumn Show at Great Maplestead Village Hall.

The Committee hope you received a schedule for the forthcoming Autumn Show in your copy of the July/August Parish Magazine and you have now started your preparations to make this year's show bigger and better than before.

If you didn't receive your schedule, or have mislaid it, printed copies can be found in both Great and Little Maplestead churches. You can also obtain a copy from the Chairman, Carol Brownlie. Otherwise, the schedule is available to read/download from the '*Autumn Show*' page of the Great and Little Maplestead Parish websites.

There are many show categories, including a **Tallest Sunflower** competition – open to all ages – sponsored by Jo Green of **Radiant Beauty**, with the winner to be announced at the show. **To register please contact** Jo (e-mail jo@stgreenbuilders.co.uk).



There is a new competition this year – '**The People's Choice**', where you will be able to vote on the night for your favourite bloom – in memory of the much loved Connie Hume, who was an active member of our committee for many years. Connie lived in Great Maplestead all her life and died in 2022 at the age of almost 96.

The Village Hall will be open for entries on the evening of **Friday 8th** from **6.30 – 7.30pm** and on **Saturday 9th** from **11.30 – 2.30 pm**. The Hall will then be closed from 2.30 – 5.30 pm for judging and will **reopen at 5.30pm** for viewing and refreshments, followed by the prize giving, produce sale and raffle.

Please note: there will be **no admittance** to the Village Hall **until 5.30pm**.

We hope that you and your family will stay for the evening – the bar will be open, serving beer, wine, soft drinks and crisps and there will also be Greggs hot sausage rolls for sale, on a first come first served basis.

The committee are looking forward to seeing you on **Saturday 9th September** for what we hope will be a bumper show!!!

Please return any trophies from last year to Carol Brownlie, thank you!
Tel: 01787 461 527 or e-mail carolbrownlie@gmail.com



The Maple Leaves present...


Doreen's Road Show

Thursday 7th September

Great Maplestead Village Hall : Doors 7.15pm : Starts 7.30pm

Bring along an antique, old or other interesting item and

Guest Presenter Doreen Faulks

will provide more information about a selection of them.

Do join us for what promises to be an enjoyable social evening

Members (free) & Guests (£3) welcome

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

The Maplesteads'
JUMBLE SALE

is in Great Maplestead Village Hall on

Saturday 23rd September at 3.00pm

Admission 30p : Raffle & Refreshments

All donations, especially of clothing and fabrics, toys, books, bric-a-brac and small pieces of furniture (e.g. tables/chairs, even kitchen sinks) welcome
[but **no large furniture**, such as beds, wardrobes or settees, please]


For more information ring: Diane Smith (473 300), Doreen Faulks (460 727) or Liz Newton (460379)

Deliver contributions to the Village Hall only on:

Friday 22nd September : 12.00 noon-6.00pm
or Saturday 23rd September : 8.00am-12.00 noon

All proceeds in aid of the Village Hall

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



The Maple Leaves present...

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

Local Heroes & Villains

Thursday 5th October

*Our Guest Speaker is well-respected author
and historian **Ashley Cooper**, who has fascinating stories
to tell about some legendary locals...*

Starts 7.30pm : Members* (free) & Guests (£3) welcome

**Membership is £20/year. To join contact Angela Davis : 01787 236 007 or come to an event*

Save the Date!

Sunday 15th October

Harvest Village Walk

Saturday 11th November

Village Quiz Night

More information in the October Magazine

Great Maplestead

Playing Field Path – Going the extra mile...

Pupils and teachers from **St Giles' School** gathered on the last day of the summer term to 'officially' open the village playing field's **Coronation Path**, which will now double as a track for the children's '**Daily Mile**' exercise.

After 'cutting' the ceremonial ribbon, the entire school streamed onto the **0.2 mile** path that winds around the field for their inaugural 5-lap mile.



Completed in June as one of the final parts of the **Council's** £110,000 playing field **Development Project**, the new path's cushioned rubber mulch surface reduces stress on joints when walking or running and has already been in regular use by residents as a convenient adult exercise facility.

By providing level, unobstructed access to all areas of the field, the path also enables everyone, of any ability – children, adults, walkers, runners, joggers and people with pushchairs or those using mobility aids, wheelchairs and mobility scooters – to fully enjoy this unique village amenity.

*"We're delighted that **St Giles'** agreed to sponsor the playing field's **Coronation Path**, allowing the children to use it for their **Daily Mile***

exercise” said **Project Leader Simon Last**. “We also understand that use of the new play equipment, will in future, be integrated into the school’s curriculum – its innovative design features enabling the children to improve their balance and co-ordination and also help develop their muscle tone and core strength in a safe, supervised and controlled environment”.



Meet the New Councillor...

In a heartening response to its advertised request, three parishioners applied to be considered for Great Maplestead’s Councillor vacancy.

After a vote in accordance with its Standing Orders, **Dorothy Weight** was duly co-opted on to the Council at its meeting on 26th July.

Dorothy has lived in the village for almost 40 years and, having retired, now feels she has sufficient time and energy to commit to a role that helps support the local community.



At the meeting the hope was expressed that the other two candidates would remain willing to work with the Council, participating in, and making a contribution to, any of its future community actions and initiatives.

*Hi Dorothy, thanks for joining the GMPC & wishing you lots of luck & enjoyment in supporting and representing the community of Great Maplestead. **Ed.***

More Great Maplestead

New Churchwardens in Great Maplestead

The two Gill's (as they are affectionately known) had decided to step down from their long-time roles as Churchwardens leaving a potentially HUGE gap in the ongoing care and service of St Giles' Church. Fortunately (I think?) myself and Denise stepped up to attempt to fill that void. On a beautiful evening in June we were escorted to a wonderful church in Steeple Bumpstead where, along with many other churchwardens, we were officially sworn into role by Archdeacon Robin King.

Since being in role Denise and I have managed to lock a postwoman in the toilet, been invaded by poisonous hemlock and struggle each Sunday with the battle of the candlesticks!

Seriously though, it is a pure honour to be able to serve in this way. We have a steep learning curve ahead but an amazing team of wonderful supportive people around us. We both live directly opposite the church so we have easy access – and as neighbours we can hold impromptu meetings over the garden fence or through the walls as we message each other from the comfort of our sofas.

Paula: *"I first ventured into St Giles' Church for the Christmas carol service the night we moved into the village some 25 years ago. Little did I know then that it would become such a very important part of my life".*

Denise: *"I was brought up in neighbouring Gestingthorpe and felt like I'd 'come home' when I was welcomed into St Giles' after moving to Maplestead 12 years ago.*

We both hope to share more stories with you as we serve the church community in the future.



**Paula Sillett &
Denise O'Connell
St Giles' Churchwardens**

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 Sat 1st July
 Fri 14th July
 Sun 13th Aug
 Sun 3rd Sept
 Sun 10th Sept



We also have **Jazz in the Vines** on Sunday 27th August from 4-7pm

Please visit www.tuffonhall.co.uk to book or to purchase from our online shop.

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A warm
welcome
awaits



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

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

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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you!



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Craft Fair

Saturday 16th September 10 am – 3.00 pm

at the Round Church

Little Maplestead CO9 2SL



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- Books & bric-a-brac

- Jewellery
- Greeting Cards
- Big Bear Cider



- Ceramics, Pottery
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Snacks, Teas, and Cakes

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



You are cordially invited to

Harvest Lunch



in the Round Church Little Maplestead

Sunday October 2nd at 12noon

Tickets Adults £10 Children £5

Please bring your own beverage and glasses

Our Harvest Lunch is always a very popular and well-attended event. A 3 course meal is cooked from scratch by our volunteers and brought to the church on the day, just in time to be enjoyed.

We would be delighted if you would be one of the many who will volunteer to help before, during and after the event.

If you can help with any of the following please let me know:

- **Preparing the church on Saturday afternoon**
- **Cooking a main or a dessert to serve 6 or 8**
- **Buying cream, cheese, butter, bread or chocolates**
- **Arranging 6 table posies**
- **Washing up... and anything else I have not thought of!**



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

Gestingthorpe

NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY– GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

If you are interested in joining the committee, please email Gestingthorpevillagehall@gmail.com or call Roger Goldsmith 01787 460747 or Penny Bagby 07840 367172 for more information.

'Gatherings' Coffee Mornings

We have had a few near 'sell out' coffee mornings. New faces amongst a lot of villagers and friends. It is great to see so many people and hear the buzz of chatter.

Our fabulous cake bakers willingly supply such great fare to enjoy along with a great cuppa. Thank you everyone who contributes to such lovely and friendly 'gatherings'.

Our coffee mornings during September will be on the **Fridays of 1st, 15th and 29th**.



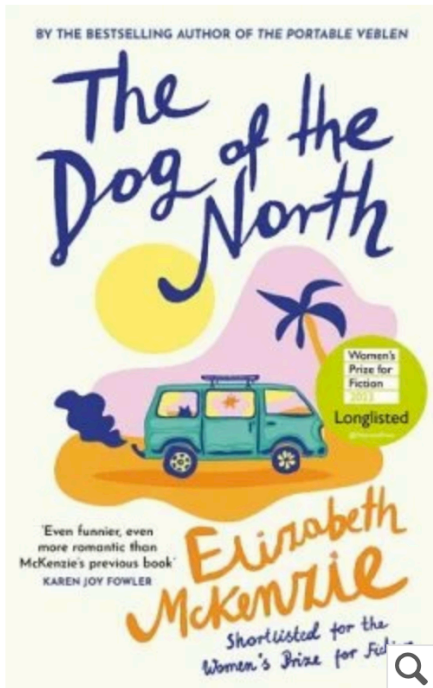
The 'gathering' on Friday 29th September will be one to raise funds for **Macmillan Cancer Support** to help them continue their valuable work.

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

Funds raised at our coffee mornings (with the exception of 29th September) go towards the upkeep and running of our village hall.

More Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe First Tuesday Book Club & Book Exchange



The Gestingthorpe Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall. Our meetings are very informal with lots of chat, laughs, wine & nibbles. We are currently reading *The Dog of the North* by Elizabeth McKenzie. If you would like to join us, our next meeting is Tuesday 5th September @ 7.30pm.

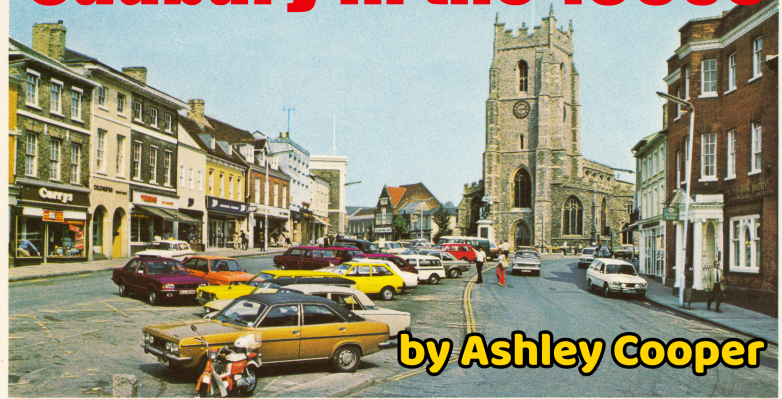
The Book Exchange will be open Fridays 1st, 15th & 29th September 10am to 12 noon in the Village Hall. The bookcase is located next to the big window in the small hall. Bring a book to swap or buy a book for £1. All proceeds to Village Hall Funds.

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

GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

THE TUESDAY TALK
26th SEPTEMBER at 7:30pm

Sudbury in the 1960s



Market Hill
Sudbury



Come on a journey through the Suffolk market town of Sudbury as local farmer, author and historian, **Ashley Cooper** regales us with memories of the town and its people from 60 years ago. Together with a slide show of images Ashley will remind us of those places in and around the town that you thought you had forgotten.

Tickets £5 on the door

to include a glass of wine or soft drink

(all proceeds go to the upkeep of Gestingthorpe village hall)

Gestingthorpe Village Hall Events – September 2023

Date	Use	Time
Friday, 1 September 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 - 12.00
Tuesday, 5 September 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Tuesday, 5 September 2023	Book Club	19.30 - 21.00
Wednesday, 6 September 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 7 September 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Tuesday, 12 September 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 13 September 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 14 September 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Thursday, 14 September 2023	Parish Council Meeting	7pm-9pm
Friday, 15 September 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 - 12.00
Tuesday, 19 September 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 20 September 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 21 September 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Saturday, 23 September 2023	Gestingthorpe Grill	9.45 - 11.00
Tuesday, 26 September 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Tuesday, 26 September 2023	Tuesday Talk - Ashley Cooper	19.30 - 21.00
Wednesday, 27 September 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 28 September 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Friday, 29 September 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 - 12.00

Gestingthorpe Grill

The Gestingthorpe Grills are proving to be very popular with both the Fun, Fit, Fabbers and villagers lured to the hall by the smell of Bacon. Our next grill will be on 23 September from 9.45.

Bacon Sandwiches and Tea or Coffee £3.50

Saturday 15 July between 9.45 to 11.00

Cash only. At your Village Hall

Gestingthorpe Village Hall - Save the Date - Details to follow

Bluff My Cheese – Friday 20 October

Christmas Fun Day & Village Crafts Fayre – Saturday 18 November

Children's Christmas Party – Saturday 9 December

Village Hall Christmas Party – Friday 15 December

GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 14th October

10am - 3pm



AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR

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**FOR ENQUIRIES
CONTACT:**

**Helen Skerratt
01787 237297**



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Find out how to apply from the Secretary, Jane Crumpton-Taylor, Pot Kilns, Pot Kiln Chase, Gestingthorpe, CO9 3BH, or jane@crumpton-taylor.com or 01787 460277 or 07491 690510

Your application must be received in writing (email is fine) by **Thursday 12th October 2023** and will be considered at the next Trustee meeting on Tuesday 17th October 2023

Pebmarsh

Message from the Pebmarsh collator of Parish Magazine – Luke Brown

Through an oversight entirely on my part, I did not send in for publication Sarah's Church Warden's Article for the July/August 2023 edition of the magazine. I send my sincere apologies to Sarah and all those who I know look forward to reading Sarah's article each month. Sarah has kindly provided an update this month, thank you & sorry Sarah! **Luke.**

Pebmarsh Church Warden's Report

Last month unfortunately the magazine didn't have an article from the church so I'm afraid somethings of note were missed but hopefully this month you will find something of interest.

A 'Bit of Do' once again happened in Pebmarsh on the 22nd and 23rd of July and despite rain on Saturday the Sunday was nice and sunny with more people attending. The friends of Pebmarsh had a stand with raffle tickets on sale for a wheelbarrow of wine and their popular dog bola.

For anyone who doesn't know this is the charity that fund raises for the upkeep of the church building for us. Unfortunately, this means I still find myself trying to fund raise to keep our church open for services and everyday costs.

We will be having a busy September with two weddings on the 2nd of September for Antonia and Ben, and Gabriella and Lee on the 8th September.

Our **Annual Rounders Match** will take place on the Pebmarsh football pitch on **3rd September at 2.30pm**, so get your teams ready.

Our Harvest Picnic will take place on the **17th September at 11am**, this follows are harvest service and everyone is invited to bring their own picnic, hopefully we will be outside if the weather is good.

It's a nice time to see friends and enjoy a relaxed lunch together and of course we will have the kettle on for tea and coffee.

The **23rd September at 3.30pm** we have a concert to mark **700 years of William Fitzralph** being laid to rest in our church. I have been lucky enough to have a small preview of the choir for hire who will be performing and I'm very excited. We are looking forward to hearing what interesting information **Ashley Copper** has found about our church and the brass which marks the tomb. It should be a great evening with refreshments served afterwards and a chance to look around the church and view the brass.



St John the Baptist Church,
Pebmarsh

700 year Anniversary
of
Sir Fitzralph of Pebmarsh

Concert with Choir for Hire
(Sudbury Coral Society)
& a talk by Ashley Copper

23rd September 2023 at 3.30 pm

Tickets £10 from
Courtyard Stores, Pebmarsh
or 01787 269092

We sadly said farewell to two residents of Pebmarsh recently, **Susie Daws** sadly passed away on the 24th June after a long illness. She will be remembered for her colourful hair styles and Easter bunny outfit that she wore each year. Sitting outside the Pub on her parents' bench enjoying her favourite drink and laughing loudly. Everyone who wished to attend her service and drinks at the pub afterwards was asked to wear bright colours or dress as clowns and many did, she would have loved it. Susie's parent had run the pub for many years in the past and she had been a resident since that time. A collection has been made to buy a bench in her memory which will go alongside her parents' bench outside the Kings Head.

On the 28th June we had a small service for the family of **Carol Wiscombe (nee Fenner)** to inter her ashes. She and her husband Bill had lived in the village all their married life until ill health saw them move nearer their son Nick. Carol had lived her whole life in Pebmarsh and was known by many. The family has been in the village at least since the 1800s and some continue to live in the village. I would meet Carol when she and Bill helped Mrs Potter clean the church, a job that Meg Pearson and I find ourselves doing before every service these days.

The church finally has Wi-Fi and the password can be accessed by contacting sarahburgess@btinternet.com or calling 01787 269092. We would like this to be for emergency use only as we have to be aware of online security risks and safeguarding.

Pebmarsh - Church Warden's Report (cont).

Dates for your diary

3rd September Rounders Match at Pebmarsh football pitch.

9th September Ride and Stride in aid of Essex Churches

23rd September Fitzralph concert and talk. Tickets on sale at the Courtyard Stores Pebmarsh and sarahburgess@btinternet.com

Services at Pebmarsh

17th September Harvest picnic at Pebmarsh church

24th September 11 am Morning Worship

Sarah Burgess, Church Warden

Pebmarsh Village Hall

Pizza On The Green

Please join us in welcoming "Pizza On The Green" to Pebmarsh every third Tuesday of the month at our village hall from 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

A selection of freshly hand made pizzas will be cooked to order and available to purchase and take away for all to enjoy.

Jonathan, Tricia, Kelly, Alistair and Perry - Pebmarsh Village Hall Management Committee.



More Pebmarsh

Heidi Page's Nature Watch (from Oak Farm)

Just recently I've had the absolute pleasure of watching the Barn Owl babies that have been reared in one of Geoff & Phena Nott's owls boxes. It was originally thought there were only two but it turned out there were in fact three.



Over the few weeks I've been watching them, they have gone from lots of wing flapping and clumsy flying and landing practice to being out and about, flying and landing with ease.



I was very lucky on one occasion when they

landed on machinery, posts and in the field not far from my pop up hide allowing me to get some photos.



I know they have given Geoff & Phena many hours of entertainment and I'm sure they miss them now they have gone, fingers crossed for next year.

Heidi



What great pics and lovely words, thanks Heidi, so lovely to see the nature around the farm & the progress of the barn owls.

Ed.

Pebmarsh Village Hall - What's On?

Mondays **Dog training club** - 17.15 - 21.00
Wendy Beard 07305 195560

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

Ladies Club – 13.00 - 15.00 Every 2nd Tuesday in the Hall
Sandra Beaney

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

*****NEW – PIZZA ON THE GREEN - every 3rd Tuesday** in the month in
the village Hall car park. 5pm - 8pm***

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

Thursdays **"Move Me" exercise class** - 9.15 - 10.00
- jennyjenkins247@gmail.com

Art Group -11.00 - 16.00
Sue Burgess 07443 537569

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

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

Dog training club - 19.00 - 21:30
Wendy Beard

For any further information on any of our club activities or to book the hall
for an event / party please contact Kelly Thompson by
emailing pebmarshvillagehall@gmail.com or calling 07919897592

Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

VETS provide support when a defibrillator is required although the first action must be a 999 call. The telephone numbers of the village VETS are:

Little Maplestead
Gestingthorpe

01787 852252
01787 852850

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

Parish Council Websites

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

Local & National Authority Representatives

Essex County Council

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

Braintree District Council www.braintree.gov.uk

Great and Little Maplestead

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

Gestingthorpe

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

Pebmarsh

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

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

Westminster

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

Church Services around our Parishes

3rd	9:30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9.30	Morning Prayer	Gestingthorpe
	11am	Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
10th	11am	Morning Prayer	Gestingthorpe
	10:30	Café Church	Great Maplestead
17th	11am	Benefice Harvest Service	Pebmarsh
Wed 20th	10am	BCP Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
24th	9:30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Little Maplestead
	11am	Morning Worship	Pebmarsh
	4pm	Compline	Gestingthorpe

The Reverend Beverley Vincent

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The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

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Little Maplestead			
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	peter.427nice@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Jim Crayston	07957 870340	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
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Parish News

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

The website address is:
www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk