

Services for April 2018

	Gestingthorpe	Great Maplestead	Little Maplestead	Pebmarsh
Sunday 1 April Easter Day	8.15am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	10am Easter Morning Service
Sunday 8 April	10.30 am Halstead Team Service. St. Andrews, Halstead. 4pm Compline			
Sunday 15 April	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 22 April	8.15am Holy Communion	11am Family Service	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Pebmarsh
Sunday 29 April	3.15pm Bluebell Service with simple HC in Wiggery Wood, Hill Farm, by kind invitation of Ashley Cooper. All welcome			
Sunday 6 May	9.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	



This magazine is available electronically on
www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk
 and on the parish council web sites

**Parish
News**

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



Church and Community together
April 2018

Free

Village contacts and information

Neighbourhood watch representatives, see page 26

Reverend Gay Ellis and the churchwardens see page 25.

Magazine copy and deliveries see page 27



Parish Clerks

Gt Maplestead	Ann Crisp	01787 460216	anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Lt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	Frances Wells	01787 379606	gestingthorpepc@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Philippa Potter	07790 598363	pebmarshpc@hotmail.com

The Maplesteads

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

Gt Maplestead

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

Gestingthorpe

Village Hall	Sharon Flannery	07873 238095	
Village amenities	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Tower bell ringing	Valerie Fullman	01787 462755	
Cricket Club	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Football Club			
History Society	Gill Webb	01787 581836	gillwebb008@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 269273	
Ladies Club	Pauline Andow	01787 269273	
	Sandra Beaney	01787 222220	
Carpet bowls	Jim Crayston	01787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
Youth club	Carol Parker	01787 269996	taximother@googlemail.com
	Susan Rawlinson	01255 815205	

Footpaths

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

All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537	acantor@linus.plus.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Wendy Jones	01787 469049	wendy.jones14@btopenworld.com
Solar Society	Miles Scrivens	01787 469766	lauri.scrivens@gmail.com
Benefice Choir	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Scouts	Stuart Carter	01787 461149	
Guides	Kathy Hoy	01787 280200	
Molly's Wood	Jane Postma		https://www.mollyswood.org/contact

April dates for your diary

1 April	7.30pm	The Kings Head AGM	Pebmarsh
2 April	10.30am	Village Walk	Great Maplestead
4 April	7pm	Youth Club	Great Maplestead
4 April	7pm	Bowls Club	Pebmarsh
5 April	7.00pm	WI	Great Maplestead
9 April	2.30pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
12 April	10am	Cricket working morning	Gestingthorpe
12 April	7.30pm	Annual Village Meeting	Gestingthorpe
13 April	7.30pm	Quiz	Gestingthorpe
14 April	7.30pm	Wine Tasting	Great Maplestead
18 April	7.00pm	Defibrillator Meeting	Little Maplestead
18 April	7.30pm.	Walk - lunch at the Fox	Gestingthorpe
21 April	3.00pm	Great Village Jumble Sale	Great Maplestead
26 April	6.30pm	Youth Club	Pebmarsh

Parish News is printed by

Deltaprint



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The cover photograph is of three owls: Pauly – found in the road at Wickham St. Pauls; Mauley – found in a garden in Maldon; and Mildey – picked up from the road at Mildenhall. They were all hand-fed until they could feed themselves and, when fully fledged, released back into the wild. The photograph was taken by Stephanie Callister-Jarrold. She has also paid for our cover to be in colour, on behalf of the North East Essex Badger Group. The photograph on the back cover of Pebmarsh Church in the snow was taken by Louise Bradley.

The copy deadline for the March magazine is

Friday 20 April 2018

We need to know who, what, where and when

Submit your copy early to guarantee inclusion. Email me or our village rep's.

Copy

Editor	Jenny Bishop	01787 472159	pmeditor@icloud.com
Gestingthorpe	Andy Craig	01787 469687	andy@mdamarketing.com
Gt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	ann66harris@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Beverley Bratley	01787 473281	beverley.bratley@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Jan Bond	01787269082	thebonds.copperfield@btinternet.com

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

Hire of Great Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe Village Halls

Each of our village halls is available for hire for all types of functions. In Pebmarsh, tables and chairs can also be hired.

For full details of the facilities available in each location, rates, and conditions of hire, booking forms etc. Please contact the relevant booking secretary

Great Maplestead	Liz Newton	01787 461308
Pebmarsh	Christine Nott	01787 269231
Gestingthorpe	Sharon Flannery	07873 238095

The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannewton4@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Jane Piper	01787 473933	jane-piper@hotmail.co.uk
	Karen Sunnucks	01787 472145	
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	peter.427nice@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Belynda Fellows	01787 269986	

Would you like a lift to church?

If you would like to attend any of the church services in the Benefice but have no transport please feel free to approach one of the churchwardens who will be happy to arrange it for you. Service times are shown on the back cover and Churchwardens are shown above.

The Reverend Gay Ellis

Email	gayellis@aol.com
Phone	01787 460273
Mobile	07749 838769
Website	www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk
Twitter	@knightsparishes
Facebook	Knights Hospitallers Parishes Little Maplestead Church Gestingthorpe Church Pebmarsh Church

Letter from the editor



Our second free edition. We hope it is of value to you.

We have a generous sponsor, Stephanie Callister-Jarrold, who has paid for a colour front cover, on behalf of the North East Essex Badger Group and a second generous sponsor, Louise Bradley, who has paid for a colour back cover. It makes such a difference to the appearance of our magazine.

The weather last month was atrocious and several events were cancelled, such as the Little Maplestead Litter Pick, the Great Maplestead Jumble Sale and the Great Maplestead WI. The litter pick is being rescheduled for June, watch this space, and the Jumble Sale will now be held on 21 April. So go and support the village.

All the best

Jenny

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Letter from the Rectory

This is a very strange month to write the letter from the Rectory because I don't have much news I can give you. By the time you read this copy of the magazine, Easter Day will be here, also all the Annual Church Meetings will be over but I can't tell you the results because at the time of writing, we have not started the meetings.

It's the month when we can look forward to the beautiful Bluebell Service, the primroses and daffodils are just coming out and later in the year, in September we shall be having the lovely Flower Festival in Lt. Maplestead on the same week-end as the Ploughing Match and all the pre-work for that is underway.

Also it is a time when the schools are so busy and they will be looking forward to school trips but exams will also be around the corner. The ones who joined in September, so small so excited but also apprehensive are now fully into being school children and working hard and getting tired, and starting to understand what school holidays are all about.

Do we ever change? I keep thinking we are creatures of dreams and hopes, we look to the future, sometimes with great joy and sometimes with apprehension, and that happens at whatever age we are. I know that during the annual meetings there will be a few changes of volunteers who have done so much to help the parishes over the years and we are so grateful to them and to all the people who still do so much in our parishes to make the communities a wonderful place to live. There are hidden treasures who go round caring and visiting those in need. They would hate to be named and certainly don't want to be thanked but I am often told of how they care for those in the villages.

We have also recently had the funeral of one very caring man, John Davey, who had always lived in Halstead but was a part of Lt. Maplestead. He was churchwarden for 18 plus years and did so much for the village.

We have got used to always hearing the bad news on the news programmes or in the papers, we never seem to hear the good news. God showed us that to Love our Neighbour is one of the most important things we can do, and I thank God that we do see that happening in our communities. We also see it across the boundaries of our villages and it is out there in the wider world.

Look forward with confidence.

God bless. Gay Ellis



Fancy a cup of coffee and a chat?

Come to the Tower Room in

St Giles Church, Great Maplestead

Open every Wednesday Morning 10.30am to 12noon

No charge, this is a social get together, not a fund raiser

Everyone is welcome - for more details please ring

Dorothy on 01787 829963 or Gill on 01787 462786



1914 – 1918 We Shall Remember Them

Stanley Frank Harrington b: 1897 died: 13th April 1918, Private Essex Regiment. Buried in Bouchoir New British Cemetery, France. Son Of Harry And Jessie Harrington Of Cross End, Pebmarsh, , In the 1911 census he was still at school

WALTER NICE son. of the late Walter Nice, of Gestingthorpe, Blacksmith ; b. Gestingthorpe, co. Essex, 2 Jan. 1890 ; educated there ; enlisted in the 3rd Battn. The Essex Regt. 11 Feb. 1916 ; was transferred to the Royal Engineers the following Dec ; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from June, 1917, and died at Dover Hospital 29 April, 1918, of wounds received in action at Arras on the 7th. He married at Gestingthorpe, 14 April, 1917, Edith (Audley End, Gestingthorpe), daughter. of C. A. Downs. In the 1911 census he was employed as a Gas Fitter



Entries from the Registers

Baptisms

17 March	Pebmarsh:	Lewis Ian Pearson
24 March	Gestingthorpe:	Llewelyn Henry Andrew Jones
25 March	Pebmarsh:	Max Joshua Peacock

Funeral

26 March	Lt. Maplestead:	John Davey
26 March	Ipswich for Gestinathorpe.	Douglas Bell.

Date for the Diary

29th April Bluebell Wood Service at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe. All Welcome, please follow the signs in the village. Beautiful location.

Spring has sprung – what crime does it bring?

Well spring has sprung and the migration into the garden has commenced with all the extra jobs that it brings. Unfortunately, with the spring season also comes seasonal crimes.

When working in the garden it is easy to get engrossed in what you are doing, if the house is empty it is wise to close and lock the door (don't forget the key though!). Put tools away after use, "it add insult to injury" if your tools are used to break into your house.

Be mindful of how you dispose of the packaging to new tools and lawnmowers; don't advertise it to the thieves and burglars with your empty boxes on display outside for roadside collection. Fold boxes inside out or break them up and put them in a bag for collection.

It's a good deterrent if your property is visibly security marked with your house number and post code such as www.creproducts.co.uk or labelled if a forensic property marking system is used such as www.smartwater.com or www.selectadna.co.uk. You can also record the serial numbers of any property free of charge at www.immobilise.com. If your property does get stolen with property marking and/or recording on Immobilise there is a greater chance of you getting it back.

With sheds coach-bolt and plate the padlock hasp sections to the frame and door, use a good quality "Close Shackle" padlock or a key operated mortice lock; don't forget the hinges, ensure they cannot be unscrewed. Protect windows with a wire mesh and fit a curtain or white wash the windows to prevent prying eyes. Consider a shed alarm if you do not have one, there are shed alarms available that contact you on the phone when activated and this is a clever device with many applications www.uwatch.co.uk. Products that are fit for purpose can found by looking for the "Secured by Design" or "Sold Secure" logos. .

Larger plants can be secured to land or rootball anchors or plant through chicken wire covering the area with soil. Cement or bolt down containers to the ground. Your local garden centre or DIY store should be able to help.

The rogue trader also takes advantage of the fine weather to con the unsuspecting. Although you may think you would never be taken in by them they can be very convincing especially to the elderly or vulnerable, "I am laying some gravel up the road and see you need some....." "I notice your trees or shrubs need a prune..." so many stories. Look after the elderly or vulnerable near you and step in should you need to with a little advice, also another face sometime puts the rogue trader off. Need a trader and have no personal recommendations, look at www.buywithconfidence for traders checked out by Trading Standards.



Our buses

Unlike a conventional bus, our F315 bus service requires some passengers to pre-book their seat and register as a customer at least two hours in advance of travel using either 01621 874411 or bookings@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk. These are passengers who wish to join the bus at Great Maplestead Church, Pebmarsh War Memorial or Pebmarsh Bus Shelter. These stops are shown in italics on the timetable below.

All other stops will be served within a twenty minute window of the times shown below. (10 minutes either side). They do not require pre-booking.

This latest timetable (20 March 2018) is shown below.

There will be a fare increase from the 1st of April 2018. Single £2.50 Return £4.00.

SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL - <i>PEBMARSH</i> - GREAT AND LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - HALSTEAD								
F315		From 01/03/2018						
Sudbury, Bus Station		9:00	11:00	13:00	15:30	17:30	19:15	
Ballingdon, Kings Head		9:03	11:03	13:03	15:33	17:33	9:18	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
<i>Bulmer Tye, Park Lane</i>		9:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22	
Bulmer, Cross Roads		9:11	11:11	13:11	15:41	17:41	19:26	All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		9:17	11:17	13:17	15:47	17:47	19:32	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		9:23	11:23	13:23	15:53	17:53	19:38	Timings other than those in bold type will vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
<i>Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter</i>		9:32	11:32	13:32	16:02	18:02	19:47	
<i>Pebmarsh, War Memorial</i>		9:33	11:33	13:33	16:03	18:03	19:48	Between any two stops
Little Maplestead, Corner		9:39	11:39	13:39	16:09	18:09	19:54	
Great Maplestead, Church		9:45	11:45	13:45	16:15	18:15	20:00	
Little Maplestead, Pump		9:51	11:51	13:51	16:21	18:21	20:06	
Halstead, High Street		9:56	11:56	13:56	16:26	18:26	20:11	latest arrival time
Halstead, High Street		9:37	11:37	13:37	16:07	18:07	19:43	earliest arrival time
F315		From 01/03/2018						
Halstead, High Street		7:30	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	18:30	
<i>Little Maplestead, Pump</i>		7:35	10:05	12:05	14:05	16:35	18:35	Timings in BOLD are fixed timing points
Great Maplestead, Church		7:41	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:41	18:41	
Little Maplestead, Cock		7:49	10:17	12:17	14:17	16:47	18:47	All timings in Italics need to be pre-booked
<i>Pebmarsh, War Memorial</i>		7:54	10:23	12:23	14:23	16:53	18:53	
<i>Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter</i>		7:55	10:24	12:24	14:24	16:54	18:54	Timings other than those in bold type will vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		8:04	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:03	19:03	
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		8:10	10:39	12:39	14:39	17:09	19:09	Between any two stops
Bulmer, Cross Roads		8:15	10:45	12:45	14:45	17:15	19:15	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		8:19	10:49	12:49	14:49	17:19	19:19	
Ballingdon, Kings Head		8:23	10:53	12:53	14:53	17:23	19:23	
Sudbury, Bus Station		8:07	10:37	12:37	14:37	17:07	19:07	earliest arrival time
Sudbury, Bus Station		8:30	10:56	12:56	14:56	17:28	19:28	latest arrival time

If you have any questions or comments on our new bus service please send them to Jenny Bishop, the Little Maplestead representative on the DaRT 3 Working Group. 01787 472159 or chairlmpc@icloud.com.

Solar Society

Your local adult learning society.

Monday 9 April Very short AGM followed by
'VSO in Ethiopia' A talk by Dr Andrew Cornish.

Monday 14 May

'Introduction to Buddhism' Colyn Boyce

Meetings are held at The Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Castle Hedingham and start at 2.30pm. They last about 90 mins plus a short interval.

Entrance £4.00. All welcome. No membership fees. Free light refreshments.

Please let Miles Scrivens (Chair) or Wanda Sellar (Secretary) know if you would like to join a small committee which sets the annual programme.

Miles 01787 469766 , Wanda 01787 463459



Friend's of Molly's Wood,

Come and join our Easter egg hunt on Sunday 1st of April beginning at 10.30am. Tickets are £2 per child and are available from Darkins Supply store and Sible Hedingham Library.

Halstead Rotary Club

Barn dance and Ploughman's supper on Saturday 28 April at 7.30pm in Earls Colne Village Hall, led by Jacob's Creek Ceilidh Band.

Bring your own drinks. Adults £10.00, under 16's £5.00.

Tickets available available from Keith Brownlie 01787461527 or PeterHaylock 01787460302

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THE
FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF
EASTON LODGE

Memory of the Beast from the East is fading now, as we have returned to spring gardening jobs (planting new trees and shrubs) and keeping our fingers crossed for seasonal weather through the rest of the year.

April 22nd is the first full season open day at the Gardens and we are thrilled that we will be joined by children from St Mary's Great Dunmow. The Countess of Warwick established and funded a secondary school for girls and boys at Bigods Hall in Great Dunmow to help them improve their lot. It was revolutionary for being co-educational and with a practical curriculum – horticulture for the girls and agriculture for the boys. St Mary's Year 6 students have been doing project work based on the history of the Gardens. They will be leading their own guided tours of the Gardens and singing Edwardian songs.

As usual the Gardens will be open from 11.30 to 5.00, last entry 4.00, and we will have the usual excellent fayre (including bacon rolls and homemade cakes). We are hoping our daffodils may still be with us – we have a huge range in the lime walk by the Italian garden and also a swathe in the Glade leading down to the renewed platform looking out over the fishing lake at the bottom. The fruit trees in the walled garden may also be in blossom?

Our Facebook page and Website provide our latest news and dates of open days – why not follow us? Our website is at: <http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/> Or you can contact us about volunteering or visiting the gardens on enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk; or 01371 876979.

Jill Goldsmith



Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group

4th Thursday, 7-9pm, The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, CO10 2EU.

2nd Friday, Cafe Club, 12-2pm, The Loft, 3 Gaol Lane, Sudbury CO10 1JL.

For more information, contact Ruth Worsley on ruth-SACSG@outlook.com.

Parish Council Websites

Gestingthorpe	https://www.essexinfo.net/gestingthorpe/
Great Maplestead	http://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Little Maplestead	http://littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk
Pebmarsh	http://parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com

District and County Councillors, MP and MEP

Essex County Council

Councillor David Finch - cllr.david.finch@essex.gov.uk

Braintree District Council

Great and Little Maplestead

Councillor John O'Reilly Cicconi - cllr.jo'reilly-cicconi@braintree.gov.uk

Gestingthorpe

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

Pebmarsh

Councillor Chris Siddall - cllr.csiddall@braintree.gov.uk

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

Westminster

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

European

John Flack MEP -

Gestingthorpe Educational Foundation

The next meeting of the Trustees will be held on

Tuesday 10th April 2018

Please send your applications in writing by **6th April 2018** including receipts for any payments made, to the Secretary, **Peter Collett, Orchard House, Audley End, Gestingthorpe, Essex CO9 3AU.**
peter@thecollettfamily.co.uk

Consideration will be given to grant applications for anything which the Trustees regard as educational. Applicants must be residents of the ancient parish of Gestingthorpe.

Little Maplestead

Activities include the kick off meeting for the Defibrillator Group on the 18 April, the Spring Craft and Plant Fair on the 12 May and the weekly run.

Monthly copy

Carol Caddy is stepping down from the responsibility of collecting the monthly copy from the village. We thank her for her sterling work over seven years. Beverley Bratley has volunteered to step into Carol's shoes. She can be contacted on 01787 473281 or beverley.bratley@gmail.com.

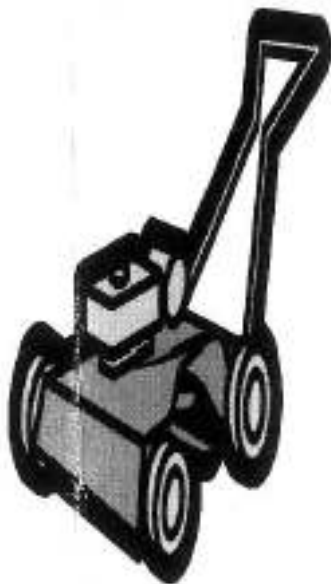
Playing field

Calling all our kids, this is the new piece of play equipment that we have installed in the playing field (along with repairing our other pieces of equipment). Come along and have a go.



Spring Craft and Plant Fair

Make a note in your diaries to come along to our Spring Craft Fair and Plant Sale at the Round Church on Saturday 12th May. There will be summer bedding and vegetable plants for sale together with a varied selection of stalls offering a wide range of local crafts, gifts and produce; Tiger lily bags, DJ Metal work, cards by Flamingo Paperie and Vintage Clothing. There will be refreshments on offer and a raffle. Further details to follow next month.



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More Little Maplestead

Defibrillator

The kick off meeting of the Defibrillator Group will be held on Wednesday 18 April at 7pm at Hampers, Oak Road, Little Maplestead, CO9 2RT. The Defibrillator Group will be chaired by Sarah Ford. The group's purpose is to coordinate with the Community Heartbeat Trust, agree the location of the defibrillators, check that they are working correctly and then to manage the consumables that will be required. Anyone who is interested in joining this group is most welcome to come.

Local Women's Running Group

We now have a small group of women who meet most Sunday mornings at 9am at the Little India Car park in Little Maplestead, to run between 4 and 5km. This is a free, local group for women that want to keep fit and like running this type of distance around our beautiful countryside with some good company. It's a manageable pace so do come along even if you haven't run in a while. Please contact laurabloom@btinternet.com or call/text Laura on 0780 174 9802 if you would like to come along and give it a try or have any questions.

Summer Fete/Flower Festival

Unfortunately the decision has been made not to have a summer fete this year. However we will be having a Flower Festival at the Round Church in September. This will be on the same weekend as the Greenstead Green and District Agricultural Club ploughing competition, which will be held at Maplestead Hall.

A Tribute to John Davey

As many of you will already know, John Davey has recently passed away. I had the privilege of working with him for four years, when I became a churchwarden and he trained me thoroughly. He told me last year that he didn't ever think I would be any good (!) but I hope that I managed to disprove that.

He was what we call "the salt of the earth." A good man, happy in himself, happy with his family and luckily for The Round Church a very devoted man. He held the church together for many years in Little Maplestead and we should all be very grateful to him for the time and trouble he took.

John was very proud to be a serving Brother of the Knights of St. John and was always in attendance at the St. John's service on the first Sunday of each June.

Braintree Area Foodbank

If you want to donate to our foodbank you can donate at Halstead, Witham and Braintree libraries during their opening hours.

This month we are short of:

- Cereal bars
- Cereal (not large packets please as they do not fit in to our boxes)
- Tinned cold meats
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned tomatoes
- Packet mashed potato (no tins please)
- Tinned sponge puddings
- Packet custard (no tins please)
- Sugar 500g
- Tea Bags (40's only please)
- Chocolate bars—KitKat / Penguin etc
- Long-life bags
- Tin openers

They have an abundance of Baked Beans, Pasta, Chocolate spread, Peanut Butter and Toiletries so please, no more at the moment.

For further information see <https://braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>

If you want further information: Maggie Drewett or Vanessa Green on 01376 330694 or email info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk.



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- For every £1 ticket our Badger Group will receive 50p back, a further 10p goes to other great causes in the local area
- Give us a little to make BIG impact and create lasting change. Go to www.essexlottery.co.uk/support/north-east-essex-badger-group
- Whilst it's better to give than receive – you also get the chance to win up to £25,000 every week!

To start supporting - visit:

www.essexlottery.co.uk

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More Little Maplestead

He was a real Halstead boy, brought up there, schooled there and lived there all his life, although he did a stint in the Army and then came back to Halstead to work first for the Cooks and then at Hunwicks for over forty years.

We shall all miss him immensely and all the little extras he organised like bringing Easter eggs for the children on Easter Day and chocolates after the Crib Service, the wonderful service for children that we have, with the knitted Holy Family angels, shepherds etc.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his daughters Margaret and Ann and to all his family, he was a very special man. Judy Gosling

Litter Pick

What weather we had. We had to cancel the Little Maplestead litter pick as well as the Maplesteads WI and the Great Maplestead Jumble Sale.

Watch this space for a revised date for the litter pick.

For your diary

The village Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held in our round church on 29 May 2018.



COLNE VALLEY RAILWAY

The 2018 season has started so come along and visit us

Paw Patrol are visiting on 15th April and we have our Colne Valley at War event on 22nd April. We are open over the Easter weekend and selected dates during the school holidays.

We still have some spaces left on our Pullman Sunday Lunch train on 29th April— special offer of 15% discount to readers who phone to book before 18th April

**Further information can be found on www.colnevalleyrailway.co.uk
Telephone: 01787 461174 email: info@colnevalleyrailway.co.uk**

Great Maplestead

The upcoming activities include the village walk on the 2nd April, youth club on the 4 April, the WI meeting on the 5 April, the wine tasting evening on the 14 April, the jumble sale on the 21 April and don't forget yoga, pilates and dance and keep fit in the village hall.

WI

Sadly last month's WI meeting was cancelled because of the snow. The April meeting will be held on Thursday 5 April at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The Village Walk



The poster features a 'Happy Easter' graphic with colorful eggs and a silhouette of a person walking a dog. The main text is in large, bold, purple letters. The event details are in black and purple text. The pricing is highlighted in pink.

Happy Easter

VILLAGE WALK

Monday 2nd April

Starting at 10.30am from Great Maplestead Village Hall.
Finishing at the Village Hall for drinks and nibbles.

Adults: £2.50 each; Children: free

(Please pay at the Village Hall at the beginning of the walk)

Maplestead Youth Club

The Challenge

Wednesday 4th April 7pm-9pm

£2.00 entry

Drinks and snacks available to buy

11-16 year olds (at secondary school)

Enquiries : Myra Jeggo 01787 474285



The Maplesteads Autumn Show.

This annual event will take place on Saturday 15th September which seems a long way off.

However this gives you plenty of time to start taking photographs for this year's photographic Competition which is entitled

More Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe History Group

Nearly 6 years after we started the project to build a Medieval Brick/Pottery kiln, we have at last documented the project in the form of a website.

Those wishing to learn about our kiln project, the subsequent firings that have taken place or upcoming firings please read and follow the links on this site: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/LTMbz8PAFT1NA/>

Our Facebook page also gives updates on our Saxon Watermill, Saxon Hovel and Bread oven projects as well as local archaeological discoveries and images of past and present Gestingthorpe.

Andy Craig



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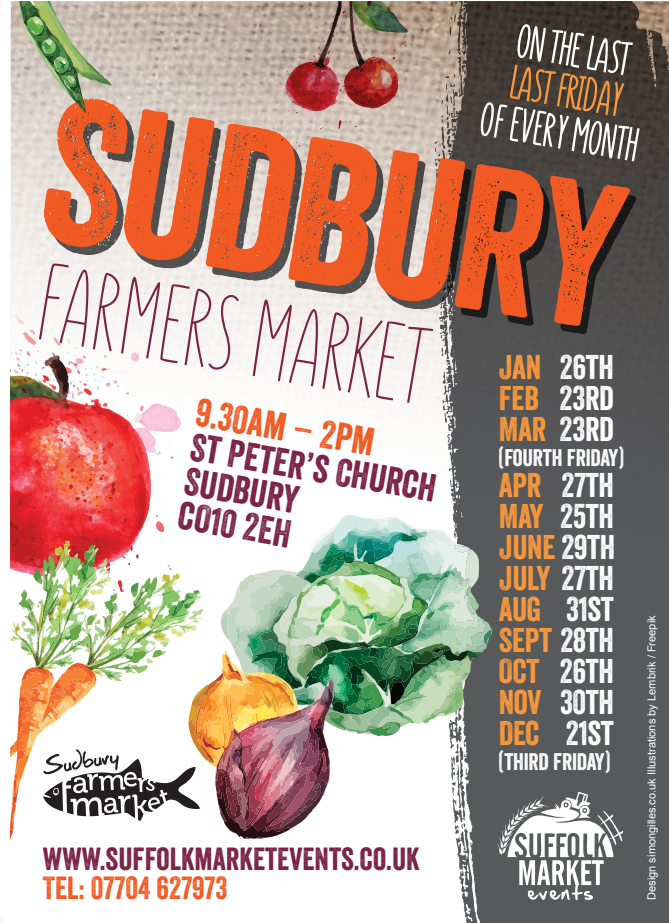
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OCT	26TH
NOV	30TH
DEC	21ST
(THIRD FRIDAY)	

www.suffolkmarketevents.co.uk
TEL: 07704 627973

Suffolk Market events

Design: simongilles.co.uk Illustrations by Lembitk / Freepik

Funeral of Tony Self

Tony's family wish to send their thanks and appreciation to all attending the Funeral and sending cards/message of sympathy. We were pleased to see so many at the Church and felt it was fitting to provide this 'Thank You' notice in the Village Magazine that Tony would always read from cover to cover and then share the village news with us all.

We understand that more than £250.00 has been donated to The Essex Air Ambulance; which is a very worthy cause and one Tony actively supported – so we again pass on our thanks for the generosity shown.

Many thanks

David Self

Gestingthorpe Neighbourhood Watch



A leaflet about Gestingthorpe Neighbourhood Watch, a Newsletter from Braintree & District Neighbourhood Watch and a window sticker have been delivered to every household in Gestingthorpe.

Currently Gestingthorpe Neighbourhood Watch reports incidents by posting them on the village Facebook pages. In addition, they will be posted on the village display board outside the village hall, in the bus shelter and on the lamppost by the letterbox at Church Street / Audley End.

There is Gestingthorpe Neighbourhood Watch e-mail account Gestingthorpe194@gmail.com If you want to receive emails from Neighbourhood Watch, email this address. All e-mails will be 'blind copied' and no details will be shared.

Cricket Club

The Cricket Club AGM was held on the 25th of February - Officers remained the same. There is a working morning on Saturday April 14th from 10am at the playing field. Nets will be held on Thursday evenings at 18:30 starting on the 19th April, anyone wishing to become involved in any capacity should come along or contact Richard Scillitoe on 07557 850215.

Sun 06 May - home to Castle Hedingham 14:00

Sun 13 May - away to Wickham St Paul 14:00

Sun 20 May - home to Dedham 14:00

Sun 27 May - home to Gestingthorpe Hall 14:00

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More Great Maplestead

'Views of the Maplesteads'. This competition is open to all residents of Great and Little Maplestead, including children.

More details of this year's Autumn Show to follow, but note the date.

Wine Tasting Evening

Saturday 14th April

7.30pm for 8.00pm

Great Maplestead Village Hall



Tickets: £10 per person

Tickets include all wines and nibbles

Tickets available from: Julie Ingram 01787 463 637,

Jacqui Mee 01787 461 002 or Val Castro 01787 462 789

The Hedingham Singers

Will be performing in St Giles Church on Sunday 3rd June 2018 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. More details in next months magazine. Please put this date in your diaries. Tickets are available from Keith Brownlie 01787461527 or Peter Haylock 01787460302

JUMBLE SALE!

Now Saturday 21st April at 3.00pm

Great Maplestead Village Hall

Admission 30p Raffle & Refreshments

All types of clothing, small pieces of furniture (e.g. tables/chairs) welcome
[No beds, wardrobes or settees please]

**For more details contact: Diane Smith (473 300),
Doreen Faulks (460 727) or Liz Newton (461 308)**



Hall open for deliveries:

Thursday 19th April : 1.30-5.00pm

Friday 20th April : 9.00am-5.00pm

Saturday 21st April : 9.00am-noon

All proceeds in aid of the Village Hall

Pebmarsh

Events this month

The Pebmarsh Community Pub will be holding its first Annual General Meeting in Pebmarsh Village Hall on the 23 May at 7.30pm. The Easter Sunday Service will be on the 1 April, at 9.30am, in St John the Baptist Church. The Youth Club meeting will be on the 26 April, from 6.30 to 8.30pm, in the Village Hall. The Bowls Club will be on the 4 April, from 7 to 9pm, in the Village Hall

Date for your diary

The Boxted Silver Band will be playing your favourite hymns at St John the Baptist Church on the 10 June at 4pm. There will be more details next month, including how to nominate your favourite hymn.

Card Making Classes

The Card Club welcomes new members with or without experience. See inside front cover for contact details.

Kings Head

The Kings Head now has a Larder Menu for essential items such as bread, butter, milk, eggs, pet food and much more. Just pop in during pub opening hours and you'll see a list of items up on the wall, or check out their website.

In addition the Kings Head is also offering a Seniors (aged 60 plus) menu of their delicious freshly prepared dishes sourced from local producers. Seniors lunches are available on Tuesday or Wednesday lunchtimes, with a one course or two course option with prices starting at £8.95. Give the pub a call on 01787 267942 for details or to make a booking.

VETS

Pictured are Norman Wiseman and Perry Crimmins, two of the Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) team volunteers in Pebmarsh, proudly putting up the Councillor Community Award certificate from Braintree District Council at the Kings Head, Pebmarsh.

The £500 BDC award organised by local Councillor Spray is helping to raise funds for a new defibrillator in the village. To contribute to the funds please email perrycrimmins@hotmail.com for further details and help save lives. Your help will be much appreciated.



More Gestingthorpe



Gestingthorpe Social Village Walk

Saturday 12th May

Starting at The Pheasant Pub (in Gestingthorpe) at 10.30am.



The walk will be around 3-4 miles ending back up at the award winning Pheasant pub, where lunch and drinks can be purchased.

The walk is free. Sensible footwear is advised.

All welcome, dogs and small children must be supervised at all times

Gestingthorpe Village Hall

To everyone who has supported the village hall by attending, organising or running functions, hiring the hall, made or poured a drink, baked or sold a piece of cake, helped put out chairs, swept leaves, cut grass, painted or cleaned the hall, helped with advertising anything that was happening at the hall or made sure that bills are paid, lights worked, things were clean and anything else that kept the hall going.

"Thank you"

Without you the future of the village hall would not look as rosy. Your support has helped build funds to improve the facilities of the lovely village hall and that support has been boosted by receiving Grants through applications made to Essex County Council (the Community Initiatives Fund) and also from Essex Community Foundation. There is now have sufficient money to go ahead with upgrading the toilet facilities. The work will be completed by this time next year.

In the meantime we also want to say a big "Thank you" to the Grant teams of Essex County Council and of Essex Community Foundation for their keen support of village halls and to the people that use them.

Silas Penfold

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Gestingthorpe

Upcoming activities include the Annual Village meeting on the 12 April, the quiz on the 13 April, the cricket working morning on the 12 April and the walks on the 18 April and the 12 May.

Quiz

Friday 13 April at 7.30pm to around 10.30pm

Our ever popular quiz run by quizmaster Chris makes it's return. Pit your wits against other teams in this test of your grey matter. We know that this will be a well supported fun night so get your table booked as soon as you can! There will be tables for each team of six quizzers but if you don't have a team of six then never fear as we can team you up with others. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. A delicious cheeseboard supper will be provided at 'half-time'. We cannot accommodate more than twelve teams of six people so please book as soon as possible because tables will go fast!

Tickets £7.50 a person. Contact Chris Harman 01787 462763

All proceeds from the above events are for the ongoing upkeep and improvement of Gestingthorpe Village Hall.

Gestingthorpe Annual Village Meeting

Will be held on Thursday April 12th at 7.30pm in Gestingthorpe village hall.

All Gestingthorpe residents are welcome

Strimming/mowing work - Gestingthorpe playing field

Due to the current contractor not continuing with this work, the Parish Council are looking for someone to take on the work. Any new contractor will need to have public liability insurance. Please contact the Clerk on 01787 379606 or any Gestingthorpe Parish Councillor.

Walk-off Lunch at the Fox

On Wednesday 18 April we will take the F315 bus to Bulmer Tye from the Gestingthorpe bus shelter between 12:20 and about 12:35. People can join anywhere on the route (but booking is needed from Great Maplestead or Pebmarsh).

We will then lunch at the Fox and walk back to Gestingthorpe along footpaths, trying to avoid the worst mud (but please wear stout footwear). We will be back in plenty of time for those from other villages wanting to take the 15:12 home. (The church will be open.)

Phone Steve, 01787 461804 or the Gestingthorpe village Facebook page for more details or to check if on in event of heavy rain.

More Pebmarsh

The Kings Head joins the Rural Community Council of Essex.

Pictured are Jonathan Nott and Perry Crimmins proudly pinning the membership certificate for Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited (PCPL) up at the Kings Head, Pebmarsh now that PCPL has been accepted as a member of the Rural Community Council of Essex. (RCCE). Following a meeting in March 2018 with Sue Sheppard of RCCE, the community benefit society became affiliated to and is looking forward to working with, RCCE who aim to provide local communities with the skills, resources and expertise necessary to achieve a thriving and sustainable future.



Mothering Sunday

The Mothering Sunday service was held on 11th March. It was very well attended and 25 beautiful spring posies were distributed to the mothers present. Thanks to all who contributed flowers & made the posies.

The John Nott Charity

The John Nott Charity was created c1926 in Pebmarsh with the sole purpose of providing some financial support to widows and spinsters over the age of 55 years in the form of 1cwt of coal, distributed every Christmas.

John Nott did this by donating 2.1 acres of land off Water Lane for conversion into allotments. The income from the allotment rents provided the finance. Initially the annual rent was 2s 3d rising to 3 shillings in 1930. (one shilling was 5p in today's money). The rent remained at that value until 1961 when interest in the allotments disappeared. At its peak there were 33 plots rented out.

In 1961 the land was rented to one individual until 1964 to 2001/02 when the trustees decided to use the land to grow cereal crops by contract. The charity then relied entirely on donations for its income which was a struggle. In 2008 half the land was sold for affordable housing and the remaining one acre turned back into allotments. Income from the allotment rents and the interest from the invested sale proceeds have put the charity back on a sound footing.

Coal was going out of favour in 1984 and by 1997 the annual distribution became purely monetary and continues to be so. The charity is approaching 100 years old and thanks to our original benefactor, Mr John Nott, back in 1926 and the voluntary work of the trustees over the years our Senior Citizens of Pebmarsh are still able to benefit when the need arises.

More Pebmarsh

Should anyone be interested in renting an allotment please e-mail Graham on grahamtufnell@btinternet.com. Rent is currently £30 per annum.

Trustees: Graham Tufnell (Chair), Penny Quilter & Denise Woodley.

Parish Magazine Distributers

We are now 3 months in to the new look magazine; many thanks to the 19 volunteers who are distributing the magazine each month. If you are aware of any house that is omitted from the distribution list please contact Jan Bond 01787 269082

Tractor tyres

Do you have a use for 2 used tractor tyres? Advertising space, planters?.....the options are endless, just have a look at Google. If so please contact Jenny Animashaun on 07580 364756. Donation to church funds welcome, tyres would need to be collected from Jenny's home.

Greenarchitect

If you are thinking about building your own home or extending your home, particularly if it is a listed building, and you are concerned about the environment, talk to Jenny Bishop at

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