

Services for February 2018

	Gestingthorpe	Great Maplestead	Little Maplestead	Pebmarsh
Sun 4 Feb	9.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	
Wed 7 Feb		School Ashing 2pm		School Ashing 9.30am
Sun 11 Feb	4pm Compline	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday 14 Feb			8pm Ashing Service	
Sun 18 Feb	11am Morning Prayer (BCP)	10.30 St Andrew's Halstead Bishop Stephen of Chelmsford		
Sun 25 Feb	8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Family Service	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 4 Mar	9.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong (BCP)	11am Holy Communion	

The School Ashing Service for St Giles C of E Primary School in St Giles Church, Great Maplestead and St John the Baptist CEVA Primary School in the St John the Baptist Church, Pebmarsh will be held the week before Ash Wednesday because of the school half term.

All parents are welcome to these services.

This magazine will be available electronically on www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk and (hopefully) on the parish council web sites



Have a happy and peaceful new year

Parish News

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



Church and Community together
February 2018

Free
Welcome to all our new readers

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	gillianneewton4@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
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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		

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@btoopenworld.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

February dates for your diary

1 February	7.30pm	WI	Gt Maplestead
5 February	2.30pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
7 February		Deaner Synod,	St. Andrews, Halstead
7 February	7.30pm	Youth Club	Gt Maplestead
11 February	9.30am	Repair Cafe	Library, Halstead
17 February	7.00pm	Curry and Cards	Gt Maplestead
18 & 25 February	11.30am	Snowdrops	Easton Lodge
20 February	7.30pm	Tuesday Talk	Gestingthorpe
21 February	7.30pm	PCC meeting.	Lt Maplestead
22 February	7.30pm	PCC meeting	Pebmarsh
27 February	7.30pm.	PCC Meeting	Gt Maplestead
1 March	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	Gestingthorpe
3 March	10am	Great British Spring Clean	Lt Maplestead
3 March	3.00pm	Great Village Jumble Sale	Gt Maplestead
Every Monday	10am	Donations to Braintree Food Bank	Halstead
Every Wednesday	10.30am	Coffee and Chat	Great Maplestead

Parish News is printed by

Deltaprint



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01787 370714 info@delta-print.co.uk

The cover photograph is of sheep by the Sudbury Road and the trees on page 21 taken by Joe Burlo. The crab apple in snow on page 3 taken by Kevin Bratley.

The copy deadline for the March magazine is

Friday 16 February 2018

We need to know who, what, where and when

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

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	Carol Caddy	01787 274573	carol.caddy@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Jan Bond	01787 269082	

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

Gestingthorpe	Helen Skerratt	01787 237297
Great Maplestead	Ian Johnson	01787 461109
Little Maplestead	Bill Piper	01787 47393

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 currently 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	Jim Crayston	01787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
	Belynda Fellows	01787 269986	

The Reverend Gay Ellis	The Rectory, Church Street Great Maplestead CO9 2RG
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

Welcome to all our new readers. As you will now be aware we are free and issued to (hopefully) all the members of our communities across the villages of Gestingthorpe, Little Maplestead, Great Maplestead and Pebmarsh.



We have a band of willing volunteers who deliver the Parish News and another willing band of volunteers who co-ordinate the information from the parishes.

This magazine can only be as good as the information it receives so please send us anything that you think may be of interest to our readers.

If we have inadvertently left you out please contact your village co-ordinator.

The email addresses and phone numbers of our village volunteers can be found inside the back cover.

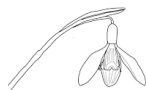
There are implications in becoming free, the main one being a loss of income to our four parish churches. If you are willing, we would welcome donations to make up any shortfall. Our people who deliver would be happy to receive them. We are happy to provide receipts.

All the best

Jenny



Letter from the Rectory



When you read this the Snowdrops will have started to show themselves or not be far off it. It might be the first time that you have seen this magazine as it now goes free of charge to every home in our four parishes and we hope you find it both interesting and helpful as it has much about the different organisations and events that happen in our communities. I am very glad that this is now happening because community is so important and the church and wider community are one.

But I also hope that this is the place where you will find a thought for the day because we are all busy and life is hectic. We have just got over a very busy period with Christmas and with the coming of the New Year and spring we have so much hope for the future. For some the Christmas period was joyous and for others there was sadness and the same will be for 2018. Our churches are always open so you can go and find a space and peace if you wish. But whatever you are doing and wherever you are we do hope that you can find time to rest and renew yourselves as we all need that. We hope you know that Gods love is always with you.

God bless and hope you have a good year. Gay & Nick Ellis.

Looking Forward:

Ash Wednesday 14th February is during the half term break so the schools are coming for their special service on Wednesday 7 February. Pebmarsh School will come at 9.30am to Pebmarsh church and Great Maplestead School will come at 2pm to Great Maplestead Church for their Ashing services. The parish service will still be held on the 14th February at 8pm in Little Maplestead church, all welcome.

The church Annual Meetings are coming in March and we would encourage as many of you as possible to attend as they are not just there for Church Council Members and if you would like to be more involved in the running of the churches.

We hope to be holding a Lent course as usual, please contact us for details and times. Towards the end of Lent we will have our Palm Sunday Walk 25th March. As with last year the walk will be between the two Maplestead churches. Is there a Donkey or little pony that would like to come and help us this year? Please do let us know. We have had good numbers of people on the walks in the last couple of years.

Looking ahead to the Spring as it will not be long now, we are hoping to have a Bluebell Service in Wiggly Wood on Ashley Cooper's farm on Sunday April 29th.

*Fancy a cup of coffee and a chat?
Come to the Tower Room in*



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Dorothy, 01787 829963 or Gill, 01787 462786.*



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. Services Times are shown on the back cover of this magazine and the telephone numbers of the Churchwardens are shown below.



Entries from the Registers

Baptism		
14 th January	Uma Keeble	Lt Maplestead
Wedding		
22 nd December	Howard Bowdler & Susan Harrop	Lt Maplestead
Funeral		
14 th December	Olive Fenner	Pebmarsh
27 th December	Mark Rusdale	Pebmarsh
3 rd January	Brian Read	Three Counties Crematorium
5 th January	Reg White	Gestingthorpe
10 th January	Libby Lawrance	Gt Maplestead
18 th January	Evlyn 'Lyn' Westby	Lt Maplestead
Interment of ashes		
27 th November	Leonard & Irene Harris.	Gt Maplestead
29 th December	Dennis Downey	Gt Maplestead



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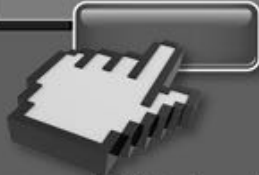
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Vans have been entered and tools have been removed, if you own or know a neighbour, friend or workmate who owns a van make them aware. Think about security. If you have tools on board think about removing them overnight if possible and add signage to your vehicle to indicate you have done so. Also make a point of property marking your equipment both overtly and covertly.

- **Don't** tempt thieves by leaving any items on display.
- **Do clean off the sat nav ring** off the windscreen.
- **Do turn off bluetooth**– it can be detected when on.
- **Do** lock your vehicle at all times, close windows, and set the alarm, even when parked on your driveway or when carrying out any work.
- **Do park rear doors on vans** up against garage doors.
- **Do not just press the button on your fob to lock it** – Look at your car to see the lights flash etc to confirm locking; someone may be nearby with a “remote blocker” and stop your car from locking.
- **Do** try to park in a secure, well lit area where possible, if parking at a hotel try and park within view of reception, CCTV cameras or your room.
- **Do mark tools and property visibly** with your post code and house number, and consider products such as CRE Mark, Selecta DNA and Smart Water.
- **Do** register serial numbers of your property on www.immobilise.com this is completely free service.
- **Do consider** having additional security door locks fitted, they make it harder for the thief and are a great visual deterrent.
- **Do consider** having a safe box secured within the vehicle.
- **Do consider** a PIR alarm that calls you on the mobile phone when activated, intended for sheds work just as well in a van.
- **If using a public car park** – Try to use a “Parkmark” approved car park www.parkmark.co.uk

Empty your car before someone else does.

For further crime prevention advice see <https://www.essex.police.uk/advice/your-property/vehicles/> or dial 101 and ask for your local Crime Prevention Officer. If you know who is committing crime call 101 or contact **Crimestoppers** anonymously on 0800 555 111

General information Braintree District Council

2018/2019 Budget and Council Tax proposals - have your say

Braintree Council is focused on maintaining the services provided to residents and has looked to address its financial challenges by improving the return received on its assets and making efficiencies. Further information of the Council's Budget Proposals and Medium Term Financial Strategy can be viewed online. If you have any comments on matters related to this budget proposal please submit them by email to financialservices@braintree.gov.uk by the 2 February 2018.

Highways

Essex Highways web site:

<http://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads.aspx>

is a useful resource for our four villages. Amongst other things you can report potholes (and track their response), get live information on traffic, find out about winter travel, apply for blue badges and find out about buses throughout the county.

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Calling all Photographers



This month our cover photograph has been chosen to reflect the weather we have been having (as well as being a great photo) and I write this watching more snow falling. Please continue to send in your photo's. We are hopeful that we can create a calendar next year. Also, generous cover sponsors wanted, £35 an issue for a full colour cover, contact Jenny the editor if you would like to help in this way.

Our buses

Unlike a conventional bus, a passenger must 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. The timetable is occasionally revised, please check the Essex Highways web site <http://www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/bus/demand-responsive-transport-dart.aspx> or call the number above before you travel .

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.

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

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



THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

So, what have we to offer you in 2018? As usual the year will start with our fabulous snowdrops. Last year, the snowdrops in the Bosquet at the front of the Gardens were magnificent, some interspersed with aconites which were also in full bloom, on two cold, but sunny February open days. Many of the common single and double blooms were planted in Victorian times or before, whilst we believe others in the Glade and the kitchen gardens were planted more recently. On Sunday 18th and 25th of February our gates will be open from 11.30 -4.00 (last entry 3.00) and we will have hot drinks, soup and bacon rolls and of course home-made cakes. We will also have some of our snowdrops for sale in the green.

Over the rest of the year our aim is to build upon our successes in 2017. We are working hard on the planting in the Gardens: to extend the seasonal range in the Italian Garden; to bring yet more colour to the Walled Kitchen garden; and to establish the planting better in the stumpery in the Glade and the rill pond. For Open Days, we will have tried and tested entertainment, while continuing to introduce new elements – new musicians, exhibitors and of course fun activities for the children.

We hope to welcome you to the Gardens in 2018. If you like what you find, you might like to buy an excellent value season ticket or become a Friend of the Gardens. For more information, ask at the Gate or go to our website

<http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk> . 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.

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Braintree Area Foodbank

If you want to donate to our foodbank you can donate every Monday between 10am and 2pm at the St Andrews Centre, Parsonage Lane, Halstead CO9 2LD.

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

If you need help, or want further information or posters or shopping lists contact: Maggie Drewett or Vanessa Green on 01376 330694 or email info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk



At Halstead Library

What is a Repair Café?

We throw away vast amounts of stuff including things with almost nothing wrong and which could get a new lease of life after a simple repair. The **Halstead Repair Café** is where you can bring items for repair, get advice on how to repair things yourself, or even learn a new skill.

Two volunteers, Alison and George, will run repair sessions at Halstead Library **one Saturday per month**. We are starting with clothing repairs. Next sessions:

Saturday January 14th
Saturday, February 11th
9.30 – 12.00

Please bring along any items of clothing to be altered, repaired, patched etc and other fabric items that need a bit of TLC or come along for advice.

Also, if you can volunteer to help, eg repairing small furniture, household equipment, or other items, please contact us and join in.



For further details talk to library staff or contact us:



Solar Society

Your local adult educational learning group.

The Solar Society meets in the Memorial Hall, Castle Hedingham. The entrance fee is £4.00, light refreshments are provided and all are welcome. For more information phone Miles Scrivens on 01787 469766 or Wanda Sellar on 01787 463459.

Monday 5th February at 2.30pm: Dr Michael Hendry will give a talk on **'Lord Byron's Medicine Chest'**.

Monday 5th March at 2.30pm : Robert Crighton will talk on the subject of **'All the World's a Stage—The Tudor Theatre.'**

The Benefice Choir

The Benefice choir met and performed three times during 2017. The well attended Christmas Carol Service was a highlight, with the choir in excellent voice, rendering 'Of the Father's heart begotten' and Dyke's 'Sleep Holy Babe' with some really moving singing.

Although it is based at St.Giles, the choir is open to all members of the benefice and new members are always welcome.

Jonathan Lindridge

Organist and Choirmaster

If you're new to cycling, or just want to improve your road skills, you can book a private training session with an instructor.

Sessions can be tailored to any level of experience and, best of all, you can get them for £10. Please visit <https://saferessexroads.org/road-users/cycling/>



**Little Maplestead
New Year Resolutions**

Perhaps one of your New Year Resolutions is to try something that helps you cope with the stresses of modern life. Church is a wonderful place to do that! Our church is open every day for private prayer or quiet time, and the services are advertised at the back of this magazine; we would love to see you next Sunday.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to make a contribution to the Easter Lilies for the Round Church, please contact Cynthia Cook on 01787 461482. Thank you.

Christmas Coffee Morning – an update

Although a while ago now, we would like to thank everyone who helped make the Christmas craft fair a great success. There was a wonderful atmosphere on the day and the church looked wonderful with seasonal decorations; in total, after all expenses were deducted, £995.59 was raised.

Coffee and Cobwebs

A huge thank you to everyone who helped clean the church on 12th December. The church looked lovely as a result and ready for Christmas. Thank you also to those who provided tea, coffee and the mince pies.



Another wonderful snow photograph



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Please let Ann know if you are coming by contacting her on 01787 462818 or littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com.

More info on: <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org>





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Little Maplestead Parish Council

The Parish Council are developing an email list to help the Council communicate with their parishioners.

If you would like to join the list please contact the Parish Clerk, Ann Harris, on 01787 462818 or littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com

Carol Service

The Carol Service was held on Tuesday 19th December, and mulled wine and mince pies were served as the congregation arrived. The Church looked stunning by candle light, nearly 100 were lit at the start of the service, and the tree lights and the little lights in the lovely floral displays all added to the magic.

The congregation heard a mixture of Bible and contemporary readings; these were interspersed with traditional carols. Thanks to the readers who all read so beautifully.

Christmas Eve Crib Service

The Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve is always a really lovely service and this year was no exception. The congregation began to arrive early and by 4pm the church was full to overflowing with families, ages ranging from babies to the over 90's – truly a service to suit all ages.

The Nativity figures were chosen by the children as they arrived, and through the service all the figures arrived at Bethlehem to the accompaniment of carols.

Chocolates were given to the well behaved as they left to await the arrival of Father Christmas.

Christmas Day Service

The service on Christmas Morning is always special. Lots of families attended and there was gentle rivalry over choosing which carols to sing, with readings from the Christmas story in between. We left in the pale winter sunshine, thankful to be part of such a good community.

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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**Pebmarsh
Parish Council**

The Parish Council's application to the Public Works Loan Board for a loan of £50,000 mentioned in last month's Edition has now been approved. This loan will be completed in the next few months and will be used to re-finance a loan of the same amount taken out by the Pebmarsh Community Pub Ltd (PCP) to part finance their purchase of the Kings Head pub. Repayments of this loan will be made by PCP to the Parish Council , it will ease their cash-flow at no cost to the Parish Council or rate-payers. Harry Anderson

St John the Baptist

Thanks to everyone who arranged flowers, decorated the Church and dressed the Christmas tree. The Church looked lovely for the Christmas services & beyond.

The next Holy Communion service in Pebmarsh will be Sunday 11th February at 11am, all welcome.

PEBMARSH

Village Emergency Telephone System

A third of all 999 calls are from a person at home whose partner has suffered a serious, life threatening event, so getting help to them *quickly* is vitally important.

VETS is our community run telephone system, and enables 11 Pebmarsh trained volunteers to be contacted at the same time, so one or more of them will be available to assist you quickly, pending the arrival of the emergency services, (and bring the Defibrillator too if necessary.)

The all-important VETS telephone number for Pebmarsh is:

01787 **852 300**

**** But – remember to call 999 first ****

For more information contact Norman Wiseman: **269542**

or email: normanwiseman@btinternet.com



All villages book club

The book club meets on a Thursday at 8pm, once a month. It is rotated between peoples houses. It is currently reading 'Before I go to sleep' by SJ Watson. It was made into a film in 2014 and starred Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth. If you are interested in joining contact Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527 or carolbrownlie@gmail.com.



Lady Runners wanted

If there any ladies in Little Maplestead, or the surrounding areas, who would be interested in running around 5km on a Saturday or Sunday morning each week please email Laura at laurabloom@btinternet.com or call/text her on 07801 749802.



**COLNE VALLEY
RAILWAY**

What's happening in 2018?

We have lots of special events this year with return visits from Chase and Marshall from Paw Patrol, Peppa Pig, Thomas the Tank Engine and Colin the Railway Bear. We also have The Gruffalo and Bing and Flop making their first visits.

Other special events include the Colne Valley at War and the Bus and Commercial Vehicle Rally.

We will be running our Sunday Luncheon Pullman Dining Trains and Steam Driving Experiences from April. New for 2018 – Wine & Dine Evening Pullman Trains and an Evening Murder Mystery

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Great Maplestead

Activities in February and March will include the WI meeting on the 1 February, the Youth Club on the 7 February, Curry and Cards on 17 February and the great village Jumble Sale on 3 March.

Angela Davis

Our Great Maplestead copy representative, Angela Davis, is moving away, Ann Harris has kindly offered to take over. Her details are on page 27 We want to thank Angela for her sterling work for Parish News and wish her good luck in her move.

Easter

1 April is Easter Day and St Giles Church will be having a service of communion at 11am instead of the more usual Evensong at 6.30pm

The Maplesteads WI

President Carol Brownlie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone including our speaker Bob Chaplin and visitors, there were a number of apologies and birthday flowers were presented. The minutes of the last meeting and various items of correspondence were read out by Secretary Janice Chaplin. Carol spoke about our Christmas Party which included the challenge of building the tallest construction made of marshmallows and spaghetti which, after much laughter, the team comprising Dorothy Whyte, Liz Newton, Gill Peskett and Angela Hilton were the winners by being a smidgeon taller than their nearest rivals!

Carol then introduced Bob Chaplin who began his talk of Fast Women in Motorsport by saying probably the most famous woman of all time in motorsport was the cartoon character Penelope Pitstop! Everyone laughed and looked forward to hearing more. Bob's excellent photographs showed us some of the women drivers and their powerful cars that went on to race in many of the world's most famous races including the Le Mans 24 hour race. Over time women overcame discrimination to excel at motorsport, particularly rallying. After a short question and answer session Jill Newton gave the vote of thanks and a warm round of applause followed.

Next month's meeting will be on February 1 2018 and the speaker will be Gary Egerton who will be speaking on "Looking after VIP's & Protection". For further information please contact Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527.

Anne Fletcher



Great Maplestead Jumble Sale

3pm Saturday 3 March

Great Maplestead Village Hall

Admission 30p

Raffle and Refreshments in aid of the Village Hall

Donations can be delivered to the hall on Thursday 1st March between 9am and 12 noon, Friday 2nd between 9am and 5pm or on Saturday morning between 9am and noon.

Clothing particularly needed and small pieces of furniture would be very welcome.

Contact Diane Smith on 473300 or Doreen Faulks on 460727 for more information



Maplestead Youth Club

For all 11 to 16 year olds at secondary school
7pm-9pm 2.00 entry, drinks and snacks available to buy.

Wednesday 7 February - Battle of the bands

Any queries call Myra Jeggo 01787 474285



Maplestead Curry and Cards
Saturday 17 February 2018



Tickets £8

7 for 7.30pm

Everyone welcome.

Please bring your own
drinks and glasses



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Maplestead Village Hall

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Gestingthorpe's Defibrillator

After so many reports in recent Parish News giving updates on the defibrillator project for Gestingthorpe, it is especially good to report that we now have a working system and a defibrillator that can be collected in case of a cardiac emergency from our former telephone box.

The first action that must be taken in any serious emergency is to call 999, when the answering paramedic will guide the caller through potentially life-saving actions and will indicate if the defibrillator is likely to be needed.

On Wednesday, 10 January there was a very good turnout of people from the village to listen to an excellent talk given by Martin Render from the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT). One of Martin's aim was to make us all aware that the defibrillator can save lives and that it is impossible to use it inappropriately - the modern machines will not give the shock if the heart rhythm indicates that it is not necessary.

The CHT has been supporting and helping throughout the project and will indeed, continue to do so. However, the defibrillator is of no use if there is no-one present to fetch it, as the victim of sudden cardiac arrest must not be left alone. We are now in the process of setting up a scheme such as

Pebmarsh has, which will allow another volunteer to go to the victim to help. As soon as the telephone number for that line is available it will be publicised.

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In the meantime, the Management Team would like to express its thanks once more to all of you who have made this happen, by your generous donations and continued support. We should also remind you that the Gestingthorpe Defibrillator Fund remains open for continued maintenance and contingencies, and also that envelopes are available from Wendy to ensure that gifts can be GiftAided. Thank you all very much.

Wendy Jones and the Management Team.



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Wendy Jones

Our Gestingthorpe distributor and copy representative, Wendy Jones, is retiring, Andy Craig has kindly offered to take over the copy and The Rev'd Gay Ellis the distribution. Their details are on pages 26 and 27. We want to thank Wendy for her sterling work over many years for the Parish News and wish her good luck in the future.

Spring Craft Fayre. Saturday 24th March 10am – 3pm

Following on from the success and enjoyment of our two Craft Fayres in 2017 we are pleased to present our third Craft Fayre. There will be a wide selection of stalls from local people displaying and selling their home made items such as Glass, Painting, Pottery, Cards, Needle Felting, Metal and Woodworking and Local Honey. Tea, coffee and lovely home-made cakes will be on sale.

Entrance is free for browsers and customers. Sellers tables are £10 each. Contact Claire Smith / Andy Craig 01787 469687

Quiz. Friday 13th April 7.30 pm to around 10.30pm

Our ever popular quiz run by quizmaster Chris makes its return. Pit your wits against other teams in this test of your grey matter. We know this will be a well-supported fun night so get your table booked as soon as you can! There will be tables of 6 quizzers but if you don't have a team of 6 then never fear as we can team you up with others. A delicious cheeseboard supper will be provided at 'half-time'. Tickets £7.50 per person. Contact Chris Harman 01787 462763.

All proceeds from the above events are for Gestingthorpe Village Hall

Plough Sunday

A special service for Plough Sunday was led by Rev Gay Ellis at Ashley Cooper's farm in Gestingthorpe on 7 January. About 30 people were present for a service of hymns and poems, together with a special blessing for one of Ashley's ploughs and by extension all the farm and garden tools and machinery in the Benefice. We were privileged to have Rev Malcolm Guite present, who is both poet and priest (at Girton College, Cambridge), and he read his own poems, including selections from a sequence inspired by George Herbert's great hymn *Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise Thee*. This was one of the special services to mark the agrarian calendar that have been successfully instigated by Nick and Gay Ellis and it was especially good to see Nick at the service despite the fact that he has been seriously unwell and is still convalescing.

Malcolm Guite, (malcolmguite.com) wrote about the Plough Sunday Service in his weekly column in the Church Times. (where he succeeded the local author, Ronald Blythe)

Taking Community Responsibility for the Environment...

Great Maplestead Parish Council is backing an initiative to encourage parishioners to take personal responsibility for helping to maintain and improve the local environment.

The aim of this initiative is to demonstrate how small individual actions – ones that anyone can undertake with only a little amount of effort – can have a significant impact on improving the environment in which we live.

Here are just a few examples of the sort of things which can make a real difference:

Picking up Litter:

Although the Task Force undertakes regular Litter Picks during the course of each year, the sadly inevitable accumulation of rubbish in between times is both unsightly and a hazard to wildlife.

This could be reduced considerably if everyone walking the local footpaths or roads regularly picked up and bagged any odd pieces of litter they saw and put them in their recycling bins. Taking personal responsibility for such actions would be a tremendous help in minimising the worst effects of littering.



Cleaning/Painting Road Signs:

The Council is also looking for volunteers for an Adopt-a-Sign programme, to be responsible for the occasional cleaning/painting of a road sign near them.



Improving the Surroundings:

Late last year the three road-junction triangles in the village were 'adopted' by volunteers who offered to keep these essentially public spaces tidy and prevent them becoming neglected.

This has already seen positive benefits for the village – the Church Street triangle has been planted with crocuses and its various items of furniture cleaned and varnished whilst the Barretts Hall triangle has also been mowed and tidied.



Elsewhere, volunteers will shortly be planting flowers around the Children's Play Area, to create a more environmentally-friendly border.

The Council is encouraging people to act as Community Custodians and take pride in participating in initiatives such as those outlined above to benefit the local environment.

Gestingthorpe

Activities in February, March and April will include the Tuesday talk on 20 February, the Spring Craft Fayre on the 24 March and the ever popular quiz on the 13 April

Parish Council vacancy

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council which will be filled by Co-option. If anyone is interested, please contact the Clerk on 01787 379606 or any Gestingthorpe Councillor for further information.

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, for further information.

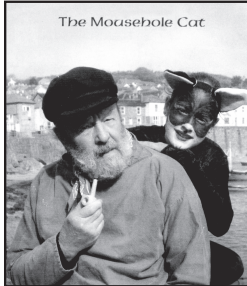
Tuesday Talk

GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL
proudly present a **'Tuesday Talk'** in the Village Hall

A Cornish Folklore Evening

Given by Mike Hall - including a film showing of the 'Mousehole Cat' set for stage & with music too!

Tuesday 20th February at 7:30pm



The Mousehole Cat

Cornwall, with its beautiful coastline, is a county full of legends and myths, which stir the imagination and colour its history.

Hear a few of its tales and watch a film of the story of the 'Mousehole Cat' set for the stage - and with music too!

Can a cat really bring calm to a storm?

Come along and see this Cornish production. You will be surprised!

The charge for the evening will be £5 per person to include a glass of wine on arrival and proceeds will be for the ongoing maintenance of the village hall.

To book your place please call either Chris Harman on 01787 462763 or Andy Craig on 01787 469687

Our series of Tuesday Talks continues with Mike Hall who will, following from his move to Essex from Cornwall, talk about Cornish folklore, myths and legends. Cornwall is a county full of legends and myths which stir the imagination and colour its history. Hear a few of Cornwall's tales and watch a film of the story of The Mousehole Cat that was set for the stage and with music too.

The talk will be on Tuesday 20 February at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Tickets (including a drink on arrival) are only £5.

Contact Chris Harman 01787 462763.



Happy Children Inspiring Education Exceptional Results

- Brand new Nursery building opened September 2017
- 29 scholarships, awards and 11+ places were awarded to the 28 children in Year 6 for 2017/18 Year 7 places
- Specialist music teaching for all children from Nursery to Year 6 - nearly 90% of our Year 3-6 children learn an instrument in school



St. Margaret's
Preparatory School

Gosfield Hall Park, Gosfield, Essex CO9 1SE

01787 472134

www.stmargaretsprep.com