

Services for March 2018

	Gestingthorpe	Great Maplestead	Little Maplestead	Pebmarsh
Sunday 4 March	9.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong	11am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 7 March	7pm Evening Service			
Sunday 11 th March	4pm Compline	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion
Wednesday 14 th	7pm Evening Service			
Sunday 18 th March	11am Morning Prayers	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	
Wednesday 21 st		7pm Evening Service		
Palm Sunday 25 th March		10.45pm Finish Service	10am Start Service and Walk	
Maunder Thursday 29 th March		8pm Holy Communion & Stripping the Altar		2pm School to Church end of term
Good Friday 30 th March	2pm Last hour at the Cross		10am Good Friday Morning Service	
Easter Eve 31 st March				8pm Easter Eve Service of Light
Easter Sunday 1 st April	8.15am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Easter Morning Service
Sunday 8 th April		10.30am Halstead Team Service		

Church Annual Meetings

All church members and parishioners are invited to attend the meeting for their parish.

Pebmarsh	Tuesday 13 th March at 7.30pm
Gt. Maplestead	Wednesday 21 st March at 7.30pm
Lt. Maplestead	Thursday 22 nd March at 7.30pm
Gestingthorpe	Monday 26 th March at 7.30pm

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
March 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	gilliannevton4@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



March dates for your diary

1 March	7.30pm	WI	Gt Maplestead
1 March	6.30pm	Youth Club	Pebmarsh
3 March	10.00am	Great British Spring Clean	Lt Maplestead
3 March	3.00pm	Great Village Jumble Sale	Gt Maplestead
5 March	2.30pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
7 March	7.00pm	Bowls Club	Pebmarsh
7 March	7.30pm	Youth Club	Gt Maplestead
13 March	1.00pm	Ladies Club	Pebmarsh
15 March	6.30pm	Youth Club	Pebmarsh
24 March	10.00am	Craft Fair	Gestingthorpe
27 March	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Lt Maplestead
28 March	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Gt Maplestead
2 April	10.30am	Village Walk	Gt Maplestead
13 April	7.30pm	Quiz night	Gestingthorpe
12 May	10.00am	Craft and Plant Fair	Lt Maplestead
Every Monday	10.00am	Donations to Braitree 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 the moon over Pebmarsh Church taken by Mark Fellows (and cropped by the editor to fit). The original is portrait and wonderful.

The copy deadline for the March magazine is

Friday 16 March 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	Carol Caddy	01787 274573	carol.caddy@btinternet.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 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 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	

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	The Rectory, Church Street
Phone	Great Maplestead CO9 2RG
Mobile	gayellis@aol.com
Website	01787 490273
Twitter	07749 838769
Facebook	@knightsparishes
	Knights Hospitallers Parishes
	Little Maplestead Church
	Gestingthorpe Church
	Pebmarsh Church

Letter from the editor



I hope you all enjoyed our first free edition.

I must firstly thank all of you who have donated to the magazine, it is most generous and really helpful. Some of you may not be aware that we cannot cancel a standing order so if you have donated by mistake, please let me know and we will reimburse you. You will also need to cancel your standing order.

We have had another great photograph for the cover, I encourage all you photographers out there to send in photographs. Please remember that the cover is black and white and landscape in shape. We hope to do a calendar if we can get enough photos. 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.

Also all ideas, complements or criticisms are gratefully received.

My apologies to Blossom and Bloom Day Care, ST Green Builders and Ryan Smith Electrical, I inadvertently 'lost' their advertisements in the last issue. I promise I won't do it again

All the best

Jenny

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Letter from the Rectory

This year the calendar does not seem to be playing fair with Lent. Firstly Ash Wednesday fell on Valentine's Day, which led to the Pope saying that this did fall into the Lenten period and thus, for those following a strict programme of Lenten fasting, any meat was off the menu of any romantic meal. The second clash is that Easter Sunday falls on all fools day. One immediate question is "should our Easter message appear in this issue of the magazine or the next"? As you cannot have Easter Sunday without the events of Holy week the answer has to be that the message should appear this month.

At Little Maplestead, with the help of the Friends, we are looking at applying for additional grants to assist with the funding of the ongoing repairs to the church. As some of these grants relate to the windows we have had to take a close look at them. At Little Maplestead the windows are decorative in the round section of the church and the nave.

However the four windows in at the East end do tell a story. A story that starts with Jesus's betrayal by Judas in the garden of Gethsemane and ends with his rising from the dead on Easter morning. Therefore Sunday by Sunday the congregations have been reminded of those basic truths of the Christian faith, that the baby born at Christmas grew up to be a man who did suffer as we might suffer. During those days of Holy week we see a man who has doubts, a man who has an unfair trial, a man who is tortured and like all of us a man who dies. Then the story takes an unusual twist on Easter Sunday Jesus is seen alive by his followers, those are the facts of the story as they might appear in a history book.

For Christians however this is not a history lesson. What happened at Easter is at the core of our beliefs. Every week we proclaim that through the events of Easter Jesus has conquered death and that death is no longer something to be feared. It is the events of Easter that bring into focus Jesus' teaching on prayer and doing good works – indeed it is Easter, and only Easter, that makes us Christian. The simple truth is that without Easter there would be no church. This is no April fool's story. Over Easter there are plenty of opportunities to explore that Easter story please join us during our Easter journey.

Easter Greetings

Gay & Nick



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



We will remember them.

Fredrick Alfred Layzell, born 1896, died 2 March 1918. Able Seaman. Son of Mr. And Mrs. John Layzell, Of Little Maplestead. Remembered on the Chatham Dockyard memorial. Pre war occupation (1911) - scholar

Stanley Frank Harrington, born 1897, died 13 March 1918. Private - Essex Regiment. Buried in Bouchoir New British Cemetery. Son Of Harry And Jessie Harrington of Cross End, Pebmarsh, Bures, Suffolk. Born At Alphamstone, Essex .Pre war occupation (1911) – Stable Lad

Walter Nice, born 1890, died 29 March 1918. Sapper - Royal Engineers. Buried in Gestingthorpe Churchyard. Husband Of Edith Nice, of Audley End, Gestingthorpe. Pre war occupation (1911) – Gas Fitter

We apologise that the entry for Fredrick Layzell did not appear last month this was due to unforeseen circumstances



Entries from the Registers

Funeral

8 February	Tony Self	Gestingthorpe
22 February	Patricia Frith	Gt Maplestead



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Farmhouse Burglary Advice

After a successful few days giving crime prevention advice at this year's Doe Show I thought it was a good time to tailor this month's advice to our rural communities.

Houses in residential areas and isolated areas are equally at risk to burglary and the farm house is no different. The isolated residential house is likely to be empty during the day whilst the owner travels to a city to work, the farm house empty while you work on the land, and not surprisingly most burglaries occur during the daytime.

In some cases farmers like many others believe it won't happen to them "My parents never locked their doors when they went out and I never had a problem" unfortunately times are a changing. I have called at a farm house before now on a prearranged appointment to find no one in and the front door open, moments later a car arrives, they have just dropped a child at school "never thought about shutting the door". It could be said that it would appear that someone is in, but do you want to chance it, and there is strong possibility that your insurance would not pay out for any loss!

There are some things you can do to reduce the risk of being a victim of burglary, here are ten tips to be going on with:

- Ensure that you have **good British Standard locks** on your windows and doors, look for the Secured by Design and Sold Secure accreditation too.
- **Shut and lock** all windows and doors whilst out of the house.
- **Put all tools outside away** – A burglar prefers to use yours than bring his own.
- Consider an **intruder alarm** either self-monitored or by a certified receiving centre, some can even be linked to **CCTV** viewable from mobile phones.
- Where possible **fence and gate the rear** with fencing and gates at least 1.8m, lock the gate too.
- Especially where the public have access to the farm display **rule setting signage** to tell visitors where they are not welcome.
- **External lighting** – Permanently light the house frontage with energy efficient lighting activated by a dusk till dawn sensor. Other areas can be manually lit or PIR activated. If no one overlooks
- With the dark nights **create the illusion of occupancy** with lights on timers in rooms you would normally be in. Leave a radio on, there is a fake TV that flashes lights resembling a TV being on.
- **Have a safe** and lock your valuables in it, failing that with jewellery have two jewellery boxes, one with sacrificial jewellery (needs some good stuff) on display and hide the rest.
- **Don't forget your firearms**, don't risk someone getting their hands on them and you losing your licence – always lock them away in a suitable cabinet.
- **Security mark your property** with your post code and house number or first three letter of your house name, there are also a number of "forensic" marking solutions available. With IT activate or download **security and tracking programs**. Take photographs of treasured property with a scale included.

For further advice see the Essex Police webpage www.essex.police.uk/advise/ or phone your local Crime Prevention Officer On 101.



Our buses

Unlike a conventional bus, our **F315 bus service** requires a passenger to 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.

Following customer feedback, a couple of timetable changes to the service between Halstead and Sudbury were effective from the 12 February 2018. The **first bus** from Halstead now leaves at **7.30am** to enable customers to link with Sudbury trains to London, while the **last bus** leaves Sudbury a quarter of an hour earlier, at **7.15pm**, in order to reduce waiting time.

This revised timetable is shown below. However 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 .

DaRT F315 Bus Service - revised timetable 12th February 2018

SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL - PEBMARSH - GREAT AND LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - HALSTEAD

Monday to Saturdays	F315					
Sudbury, Bus Station	09:30	11:06	13:06	15:26	17:36	19:15
Ballingdon, Kings Head	09:03	11:03	13:03	15:24	17:33	19:18
Bulmer Tys, Park Lane	09:07	11:07	13:07	15:27	17:37	19:22
Bulmer, Cross Roads	09:11	11:11	13:11	15:41	17:41	19:26
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	09:17	11:17	13:17	15:47	17:47	19:32
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	09:23	11:23	13:23	15:53	17:53	19:38
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	09:32	11:32	13:32	16:02	18:02	19:47
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	09:37	11:37	13:37	16:07	18:07	19:48
Little Maplestead, Corner	09:39	11:39	13:39	16:09	18:09	19:54
Great Maplestead, Church	09:45	11:45	13:45	16:15	18:15	20:00
Little Maplestead, Pump	09:51	11:51	13:51	16:21	18:21	20:06
Halstead, High Street	09:37	11:37	13:37	16:07	18:07	19:43
Halstead, High Street	09:56	11:56	13:56	16:26	18:26	20:11

HALSTEAD - GREAT AND LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - PEBMARSH - WICKHAM ST. PAUL - GESTINGTHORPE - BULMER - SUDBURY

Monday to Saturdays	F316					
Halstead, High Street	07:30	10:06	12:06	14:06	16:16	18:36
Little Maplestead, Pump	07:25	10:05	12:05	14:05	16:15	18:35
Great Maplestead, Church	07:41	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:21	18:41
Little Maplestead, Cook	07:46	10:17	12:17	14:17	16:27	18:47
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	07:54	10:24	12:24	14:24	16:34	18:54
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	07:59	10:29	12:29	14:29	16:39	18:59
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	08:04	10:35	12:35	14:35	16:45	19:05
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	08:10	10:36	12:36	14:36	16:46	19:06
Bulmer, Cross Roads	08:16	10:42	12:42	14:42	16:52	19:12
Bulmer Tys, Park Lane	08:19	10:45	12:45	14:45	16:55	19:15
Ballingdon, Kings Head	08:23	10:53	12:53	14:53	17:03	19:23
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:07	10:37	12:37	14:37	16:47	19:07
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:30	10:58	12:58	14:58	17:08	19:28

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.

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News from the Rectory

On Friday the 16 February The Bishop of Chelmsford made a visit to our parishes. He was at St. Giles Gt. Maplestead but it also related to Gestingthorpe. We also had two other people from the Diocese, a Sunday Telegraph photographer, a Sky photographer, the Sky helicopter, a reporter and County Broadband and the churchwardens for Gt. Maplestead, Nick and myself. Why? Well that was the mystery because we were not allowed to know until Sunday the 18th when the church of England announced that it had signed an agreement" with the Government to simplify the process for using church buildings to host wi-fi for the local community.

The Church of England chose the Diocese of Chelmsford to launch this event and the Diocese chose us because they said it was important and we had been instrumental in what was happening. It was quite exciting being on the top of the tower waiting for the helicopter to arrive from Kent. Gay has to admit she did not enjoy the climb up the tower ladders and back down. But what was very apparent was the importance which the church is now taking to communicate to our modern world. And when the journalist asked the Bishop, do you think God would approve how the churches are being used for this, the Bishop asked. God is in the business of communication and communicates with us, this is communication and he would be and is very happy.

It was really good to hear the Bishop and Diocese representative speak about the rural church and our mission. I for one was greatly encouraged.

Gay



Photo by Joe Fairs - Market Hill Photography

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March is a time to enjoy daffodils! We are open for pre-arranged group visits in March, but mostly we have the joy of the daffodils to ourselves, as we prepare for the first main season Open Day, on Sunday April 22.

This year, though, we have designated Thursday March 22 as a special open day for potential new volunteers to come and see what volunteering with us involves. If you are interested in how you might help, come along and meet some of our loyal group of volunteers, who between them have a wealth and variety of skills from their home life and wide-ranging jobs, such as train driving, healthcare, the pharmaceutical industry, public services, the hospitality industry and, of course, gardening!

Your enthusiasm is what we are looking for, as we know you will be able to bring your skills and learn new ones that will help with the gardening, restoration projects, maintenance of the structures in the gardens, archive work, baking cakes and welcoming visitors on open days.

The volunteer open day will run from 10.30am to 2.30pm and involve a tour of the Gardens and illustrative demonstrations of the tasks of the day. Come prepared for all weathers and a little light work. And bring your own lunch – we will provide hot drinks and homemade cake!

To register for the volunteer open day, leave us a message on 01371 876979 – we will not hold you to attending, but letting us know will tell us how much cake will be needed! For the latest news, more information about volunteering and visiting the gardens go to our website <http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/>; or find us on Facebook.

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.

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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 - john.flack@europarl.europa.eu

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

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.

Solar Society

Your local adult educational learning group.

The Solar Society meets in the Memorial Hall, Castle Hedingham. The entrance fee is £4.00. There is no membership fee and light refreshments are provided and all are welcome. For more information phone Miles Scrivens on 01787 469766 or Wanda Sellar on 01787 463459.

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

Monday 9 April at 2.30pm: A short AGM followed immediately by **'VSO in Ethiopia'**. A talk by Dr. Andrew Cornish.

Cruse Bereavement Care Suffolk



Cruse is the largest voluntary organisation providing care to those affected by bereavement. It gives advice via its website (www.suffolkcruse.org.uk) and provides help on the phone and face-to-face sessions with adults, children and teenagers. They depend on trained volunteers to deliver this service and are offering bereavement support training for those who are interested in becoming a volunteer. The course will be held in Ipswich.

For further information, dates and to register your interest please contact Suffolk Cruse at suffolk@cruse.org.uk or via our website at www.suffolkcruse.co.uk



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Gestingthorpe

Upcoming activities include the Spring Craft Fayre on the 24 March and the ever popular quiz on the 13 April.

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 for each team of 6 quizzers but if you don't have a team of 6 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 by us at 'half-time'.

We cannot accommodate any more than 12 teams of 6 so please book as soon as possible because tables will go fast!

Tickets £7.50 per person. Contact Chris Harman 01787 462763.

All proceeds from the above events are for the ongoing upkeep and improvement of Gestingthorpe village hall.

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.

CRAFT FAIR

Gestingthorpe Village Hall

Saturday 24th March
10am until 3pm

Come and visit the Gestingthorpe Village Hall Craft Fair.
Purchase a unique gift made by local crafts people.

Tea, Coffee and Cakes are available throughout the day
and there will be a raffle.

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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)



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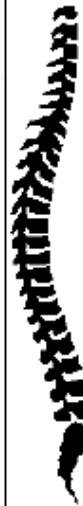


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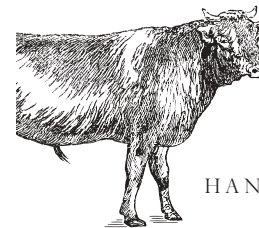
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The legacy continues.....

Hello all from the Friend's of Molly's Wood,

As I write, we at the wood are looking forward to spring and all of its promises, new beginnings, longer days and warmer weather to name a few. I am waiting impatiently to see if the bluebells that we planted in the autumn will grace the wood with their presence this spring, finger's crossed!

Many of you will know that the founder of Molly's Wood, Dr Ronnie Green passed away in 2016, he was an inspirational gentleman and he is sorely missed. A glorious oak bench commissioned by his family has recently been set in Ronnie's favourite place, it is sympathetically carved with concentric circles, rather like the growth rings of a tree. As I watched my young son trace the circles with his fingers whilst exploring the bench for the first time, I was reminded of the life journey we all take and our inter connectedness with nature. The bench is a beautifully fitting memorial to a wonderful man and a fantastic place to sit, enjoy the woodland and daydream, Ronnie would approve.

The wood continues to mature splendidly and most recently some oak saplings have been planted in the meadow, grown from acorns collected locally.

We have a new tree nursery surrounded by hazel hurdles, new habitats for wildlife including a bug hotel and Stag beetle pyramid and plenty of plans for future projects.

The fun in the wood day last year was very successful and we will be hosting a Solstice celebration this year on Saturday 23rd of June. There will be woodland inspired games, crafts and fun for children of all ages. We welcome friends old and new to come and enjoy the day with us.

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.

The Friend's of Molly's wood committee wish to see the wood continue to be used by the community as Ronnie hoped it would be, as a place for people to come and enjoy nature and the tranquillity it offers. We aim to promote wildlife conservation and education and hope to inspire the next generation to love, respect and protect the natural world around them.

We would please ask any member of the community using Molly's wood to become a Friend, for a small annual membership fee you will be able to visit the wood as much as you like. Membership helps towards essential costs such as fuel for the mower and maintenance work. Find out more about the wood, how to become a member and future events by visiting our website www.mollyswood.org or find us on Facebook.

More Gestingthorpe

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.

Tony Self

After 83 overs of accurate, medium paced bowling, yielding countless wickets for very few runs, the skipper has finally asked Tony to take a rest and said - "well bowled"!

Play had commenced at Mill House, Belchamp Walter continuing at Gestup and Hedingham Schools, with brother Jack bowling from the other end.

In the afternoon session, Tony joined the Gardiners XI and after a fine knock on the wickets of Delvyns Farm he retired with a half century on the board.

Tea was taken and Tony mowed and rolled the wicket and re-done the creases.

As the sun dropped behind his Sudbury Road bungalow, the umpire removed the bails, Tony pulled up stumps and put the rope around the square and left the field for St Mary's quiet pavilion for a last look at the scorebook, checked his bowling figures and packed his bag.

Tony will oil his bat well and make sure his whites are whiter than white, for next week he'll surely be opening the bowling for the Presidents XI.



Gestingthorpe Cricket Club

The sun finally shone today and thoughts turned to a new season.

Bobby G reports that he has prepared a full fixture list including the usual local derbies and tough games against Alan Wrights 'Norfolk Boys' and Michael Sharp's 'Irregulars'.

This years awards dinner will be at the Bulmer Fox on the 24 March and the AGM was held on 25 February at The Pheasant. The Foundryman

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

All Gestingthorpe residents are welcome to attend.

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Little Maplestead

Activities in the village include the Village Litter pick on 3 March, the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting on the 22 March, the Parish Council meeting on the 27 March and the Spring Craft and Plant Fair on the 12 May.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM will be held at the Round Church on 22 March; please see the church noticeboard for further information. Everyone is welcome.

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.

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. There will be refreshments on offer and a raffle. Further details will follow.

Great British Spring Clean 2018

Join the Great British Spring Clean on Saturday 3 March. Meet at Little Maplestead's playing field at 10 am to spring clean our village. Equipment provided. Followed by beer, bacon butties, Geraldine's legendary pies and Ann's amazing brownies at Hampers.

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>



Parish Council

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on the 27 March at 7.30pm at Hampers, Oak Road CO9 2RT. All are welcome

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.





Charlotte Moores

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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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More Little Maplestead

Defibrillator News

We have been granted Heritage Lottery funding for 2 defibrillators for the village. Our plan is to put one at the side of the village on Oak/Gestingthorpe Road, adjacent to the post box and the other near the junction of Cock Road and the Sudbury Road. Anyone who is interested in joining the management group should contact Ann Harris our Parish Clerk

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.

Little Maplestead PCC requires a secretary - basically a minute taker and Agenda organiser. There is a small remuneration. If you are interested contact Karen Sunnucks on 01787 472145

Kids, there is now a new piece of play equipment in the village playing field, go and have a go and let us know what you think.

Adults, watch this space, or, more importantly watch the space adjacent to the post box. We are moving the noticeboard there. It will be double sided so we can put up all the local information that we need to. If you want to add anything to it contact our Parish Clerk

Greenarchitect

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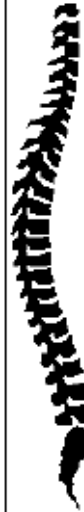
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Great Maplestead

Activities in March will include the great Village Jumble Sale on 3 March, the youth club on the 7 March, the Parish Council Meeting on the 28 March and the village walk on the 2 April.

The Maplesteads WI

President Carol Brownlie warmly welcomed everyone, including our speaker Gary Egerton and then opened the meeting on Thursday 1 February. Secretary Janice Chaplin read the minutes of the previous meeting, various items of correspondence and then birthday flowers were presented.

Carol then introduced Gary who began his talk by letting us know he had been a police officer for 33 years, 28 of those spent in Special Branch guarding VIPs. Gary made us all laugh by saying it was really the "oldest profession" and was first documented in Roman times where the Praetorian Guard ensured the safety of the Caesars but were often the ones who actually "finished them off"! Gary told us of different incidents in his career including the attempted kidnapping of Princess Anne who apparently told the gunman to "naff off"! After a short question and answer session Jane Stone thanked Gary for a great talk on a fascinating subject.

After social time we listened to information regarding the five resolutions currently listed by the NFWI to be voted on and brought to the AGM in June. Flower of the month was won by Connie Hume with a beautiful miniature blue iris. Diane Smith was presented with a pretty plant for being the lady who won the flower of the month most in 2017, pipping Connie Hume by one point!

The next meeting will be on Thursday 1st March 2018 and the speaker will be Michelle from Age UK. For further information please telephone Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527
Anne Fletcher

More Pebmarsh

Pebmarsh Youth Club

The Youth Club meets at the Village Hall on alternate Thursdays from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Children from 8 to 13 years are welcome. The attendance cost is £2.50 per child. This includes 'tuck shop' and refreshments.

The meeting dates this month are the 1 and 15 March and alternate Thursdays thereafter excluding the school holidays. Dates are also posted on the school notice board.

Kings Head News

We have some good news, 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 now 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.

Bowls Club

The Bowls club. is held on the first Wednesday in the month at the Village Hall, 7pm-9pm £3.00 a session. Next meeting 7th March.

St John the Baptist

The next service at St John the Baptist will be Holy Communion on 25th March at 9.30, all welcome.

Ladies club

The next Ladies Club will meet on the second Tuesday of the month; this month's meeting will feature a speaker covering 'How the Ladies of Ballingdon Street' earned their pin money"

PCC changes

After almost 40 years of service Jim Crayston will be stepping down from the role of Church Warden. Our heartfelt thanks for his time and support of our church & his dedication to the Church Warden role which he has undertaken twice.

Additionally Jim Holder will be relinquishing his role as PCC Treasurer, although remaining on the PCC. The role of Treasurer will be taken over by Denzil Fellowes. A further change will see Meg Pearson stand down as PCC Secretary. Their support in the respective roles has been invaluable.



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 March Carpet Bowls
Any enquiries call Myra Jeggo 01787 474285

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

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Pebmarsh

Activities in Pebmarsh include the Youth Club on the 1 and 15 March, the Bowls Club on the 7 March and the Ladies Club on the 13 March.

VETS

I am proud and please to report that Braintree District Council (BDC) have kindly supported the Pebmarsh community VETS project with a £500 grant towards saving lives in Pebmarsh. The payment was made by BDC on the 13th March 2018 into the Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited (PCPL). The VETS team thank all those the shareholders of PCPL in helping to make this possible.

All of this would not have come to pass without the excellent work of Clr Spray whose support for the project has been invaluable and who we thank for all the hard work, belief and support that has been provided to make this possible.

The £500 grant is a great start to buying and running a second defibrillator which will further protect and serve Pebmarsh but with the added emphasis on children and the Cross End area of the village. The addition of a second defibrillator will shave valuable minutes in the response time of a VETS call out be giving a choice of defibrillator locations to collect from and then attend to the person in need. It is a harsh fact that we have a ten minute window in which to call, respond, collect and attend to an incident before someone will suffer irreparable damage.

The VETS team will strive to raise the further £1,700.00 needed to make this a reality. This fund raising will literally save lives in the community.

Lastly, you are all invited to the next VETS meeting to see and learn more on how we get on with the VETS project and join us in celebrating this fantastic news.

Many thanks to all once again.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

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JUMBLE SALE!

Saturday 3rd March 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)



Hall open for deliveries:
Thursday 1st March : 1.30-5.00pm
Friday 2nd March : 9.00am-5.00pm
Saturday 3rd March : 9.00am-noon

All proceeds in aid of the Village Hall

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DEC	21ST
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More Great Maplestead

Patricia Marjorie Frith, nee Finch, who lived with her husband Bernard in Church Street, Great Maplestead in the 1970's, died on 7th February at the home of her younger son.

After moving to Somerset following the early death of her husband in 1980, she and her three children often returned to this village for visits, and these always held fond memories for them all. During this period all the members of her greater family had lived in or were living in Great Maplestead and it still holds a special place in our hearts.

Her Funeral will (took) take place on 22nd February following interment in the Churchyard, to join her husband and parents.

Great Maplestead Village Hall

The Village Hall A.G.M. will be held on Wednesday 28th March at 7.30pm.

All Welcome

Save the date

Saturday 14th April, an evening of Wine Tasting in Great Maplestead village hall. Full details in next month's magazine.

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