



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Community initiatives help deal with COVID-19 outbreak

Village Support Group

Parishioners have rallied round selflessly to support the **Parish Council's** request for action by the community to provide mutual support during the on-going coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, particularly for the more vulnerable and older village residents.

A **Village Support Group**, co-ordinated by **Jacqui Mee**, has been set up to assist people who have either been affected by the virus or who are self-isolating voluntarily to help minimise its spread.

The flyer below has been delivered to every household in the village, giving telephone contact details for your **Local Area Representative** if you're self-isolating and need further assistance.

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, we can help.

We are local residents in Great Maplestead

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 then we would be happy to assist with any of these tasks:

<input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Posting Mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Collecting Prescriptions	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Friendly chat on the phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent Supplies
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify).....	

Call or text your village representative and they will do their best to help you!

Your Village Co-ordinator is: Jacqui Mee Tel: 01787 461 002 or 07773 627 897

Your Local Area Representative is:

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Items will be left on your doorstep #ViralKindness

The **Support Group** also has a **Whatsapp** social media presence to enable concerns to be discussed and actioned more immediately – contact **Jacqui** for an invitation if you'd like to join.

The situation with regard to the development of the outbreak changes on an almost daily basis. The **'News'** page of the **Parish Council** website – <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/latest-news/> – is being updated with links to the latest **Government Health Department** and **NHS** advice as and when it is issued. Links are also being posted on the **Maplestead Mates** Facebook page.

While the duration of this outbreak remains uncertain, the **Council** urges everyone to follow the **Government Health Service** and **NHS** advice, even if it means short-term individual hardship.

Be sensible, stay safe and, most importantly, please let the Support Group know if you need help – don't wait to be asked!

Beware of fake news...

...especially some of the 'information' to be found on social media about COVID-19.

As well as being alarmist and, in some cases, dangerously inaccurate ('gargling with warm water helps prevent infection', for instance), there are also serious concerns that such fake news is being put out there for deliberately malicious purposes.

Please therefore try to avoid sharing anything on social media that looks odd or comes from an unverifiable or anonymous source.

--ooOoo--

The saga of the Lucking St drains...

...drags on, as the work to reinstate verges and finish the channelling on the south side of the hill remains to be completed.

The road was closed periodically during February for a new drain to be installed and a conduit dug across the road into the drainage ditch opposite.



Later heavy rain proved that this new drain works well, doing its job in preventing water washing across the road by The Forge. The possibility of this water freezing and causing an accident was one of the reasons for the original drainage project.

Discussions are still ongoing with Essex Highways however as to when the rest of the work will be completed but, given the current situation, that may well be some time!

--ooOoo--

Parish Council Announcement

Although Councillors will be continuing with their specific responsibilities whilst this situation continues, in line with Government advice all public Parish Council meetings have been suspended until further notice.

As a result, this will be the last Maplestead Magna Carta until normal business resumes.

The Council's website and Facebook page will, however, continue to be updated as usual.

Noise pollution is annoying...

...especially as the evenings get lighter and warmer and windows start being left open, allowing sounds from the radio, TV or even loud conversations to disturb self-isolating neighbours trying to enjoy their gardens.



Of course, it can also be the reverse, with sounds from outside affecting people who are self-isolating indoors, particularly if there is loud talking or music in the garden.

Excessive noise is the cause of most disagreements and arguments between neighbours, rows which can often be avoided by being forewarned about situations that can potentially cause annoyance and appreciating that, in most cases, the causes of many noise disputes are purely down to inconsideration.

Noise pollution is classed as a statutory nuisance and, under the provisions of the **Noise Act 1996** and other associated legislation, **Braintree District Council** has a mandatory obligation to deal with any noise which is deemed to be a nuisance.

However, if your neighbour's noise is causing you annoyance, an informal, calm call to them about your concerns is the preferable way of sorting things out.

If the problem cannot be resolved by discussion, or your neighbour is unwilling to compromise, more information about what action to take can be found at: https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200250/environmental_health/221/noise

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Footpath News

Those who are endeavouring to achieve their permitted daily half an hour of exercise...

...may be pleased to know that the fallen tree partially blocking **FP 14** in Monks Spinney has now been cleared, freeing up an easy 30-minute circular walk from the Village Hall and round by the lake.



Before



After

--ooOoo--

Latest Planning News

The **Council** discussed the following planning matters at its meeting on 11th March:

Application Decisions:

- ✦ **19/02252/HH-19/02253/LBC** Chelmshoe House Farm, Monks Lodge Rd. Reconstruction of brick wall including two gates.

Granted 3/2/20

Latest Planning News (contd)

Application Received:

- ✦ **20/00206/FUL** Orchard House, Dynes Hall Road. Change of use from garden to equestrian ménage and addition of new stable blocks.

The agreed response was "No objections raised, on the condition that the ménage is for private use and there will be no obtrusive floodlighting causing light pollution (RLP65), as stated in the planning application". For other comments/responses go to: http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications, then go to 'View Current Applications', type in the **planning reference** and open the files.

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Forthcoming Events

The Government's advice to self-isolate, not to mix in groups and to restrict movement, coupled with a non-essential travel ban, has affected all the planned village events and activities for the next few months.

Regular activities, such as **Keep Fit, Pilates**, the **Carpet Bowls** sessions and **WI Meetings**, along with the Church services and **coffee mornings**, have been all been **temporarily suspended**, while each of the following events has been **cancelled**:

- ✦ **Sat 11th Apr: Easter Flower Workshop** – in **St Giles' Church**.
- ✦ **Mon 13th Apr: Easter Village Walk**
- ✦ **Wed 22nd Apr: Annual Parish Assembly**
- ✦ **Sun 7th Jun: Maplestead Magna Miglia Navigational Scatter**
- ✦ **Sun 21st Jun/Friday evenings to the end of August: Boules** – on the **Playing Field**.
- ✦ **Sat 25th July: Summer Fete**

The following, which were being linked to the planned **National VE Day Celebrations**, have, until further notice, been **postponed**:

- ✦ **Fri 8th May: VE Day Celebrations & Party**
- ✦ **Sat 9th May: 8th Annual Great Maplestead Beer Festival**

Events being planned from **September** onwards, such as the **Autumn Show**, the **Jumble Sale**, and the **WEA Autumn Course** are currently under review.

Any changes/updates to this information will be posted on the 'Events' or 'Activities' pages of the Council website.

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Contacting the Council

Any comments, requests or correspondence should initially be made to the **Parish Clerk**:

**Ann Crisp, New House, St Giles Close
Great Maplestead, CO9 2RW**
Tel: 01787 460 216 (4-6pm Mon-Thurs)
E-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Website: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>