



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Going to the ends of the Earth* for Playing Field funding...

*or Britain, more precisely!

A major crowd-funding boost for the **Playing Field Development Project** is being planned by two hardy parishioners, who are intending to undertake a sponsored cycle ride from **Land's End to John O'Groats** to help raise money.

Simon Last and **Martin Crisp** (right) have been in strict training for the past few months, riding up to 100 miles a day, to prepare for this fundraising feat.

In addition to the ride's physical demands, there are also logistical implications to consider – arranging the on-the-road support, overnight stays, the transport of spares to cater for breakdowns and so on.



Simon's and **Martin's** aim is to complete their ride and time their return to the village to coincide with the start of the **Platinum Jubilee** celebrations.

"This ride is something we've had in mind to do for quite a while now", said **Simon**. "We thought it would not only be a tremendous challenge but also a unique opportunity to encourage more people to contribute to the **Development Project** funding".

If you'd like to support this challenge, please send your sponsorship pledge, payment or cheque to the Parish Clerk, marked "Bike".

Project progress to date

In accordance with the legislative requirements on transparency for Parish Councils undertaking major capital projects (over £25,000), an **Invitation to Tender** for the Playing Field work is being placed on the Government's **Contract Finder** website.

While this gives access to a wide range of suppliers, there is no compulsion on the **Council** to accept any quotations submitted through this portal.

In the meantime, the **Working Party's** application to the **National Lottery** for additional funding has reached **Stage 2** of the process. A more detailed explanation of the project, not only looking at its costings but also things like its inclusiveness and the community and social benefits that will accrue must now be articulated and explained at greater length in order for a full evaluation to be made.

More details and an update on the Project's current status, will be presented at the Parish Assembly on 13th April (see over).

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Plans are now well established for the various village activities and events that will be held across the 2nd-5th June Bank Holiday weekend to mark the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**.

In the week leading up to the main event it is hoped to turn the whole village into a colourful **floral tribute** to Her Majesty by encouraging everyone to publically display hanging baskets/pots of flowers.

People will also be invited to create scarecrows with a royal theme and put them outside their houses to form a **Right Royal Scarecrow Trail** around the village in the week prior to, and during, the main bank holiday weekend. There will be a **prize** of a **family hamper** for the best scarecrow (as decided by an independent judging panel).



The celebrations proper start on the evening of **Thursday 2nd** when, along with the rest of the nation, the **Jubilee Beacon** in the Village Hall car park will be lit at **9.45pm**. This will be preceded by a **Bugle Call** ceremony at **9.40pm** and followed by a rendition of the **Song for the Commonwealth**.

On **Friday 3rd** there will be a **Jubilee Supper and Dance** in the Village Hall, from **6.30pm**. After a special supper of Spit-Roast Lamb there will be dancing to music from across the 70 years of the Queen's reign. To make this a night to remember, party-goers will be encouraged to dress in styles from one of the seven decades being celebrated.



Entry will be **ticket only** and numbers are limited. A leaflet (left), with full details of the **Jubilee Programme**, and including a **Ticket Request Form**, will be hand-delivered to each household **w/c 18th April**. **Closing date** for ticket sales is **Monday 16th May**.

Celebrations culminate on the Playing Field on the **Sunday afternoon** with BYO picnics and **'It's a Royal Knockout'** games and activities, plus the presentation of the **Royal** prize-winner's hamper, from **2.00pm onwards**.

Scarecrow Trail

The Platinum Jubilee promises to be a village event to remember. Please keep the dates free, come and participate – and enjoy!

Annual Parish Assembly

There is a legal requirement for the Council to hold a **Parish Assembly** each year; 2020 was an exception, for obvious reasons, and 2021's had to be conducted remotely on Zoom.

As a result, many people were unaware of what was going on in the parish during that time, even though – again, obviously – nothing much was...

Thankfully restrictions have now been lifted and the **2022 Parish Assembly** will be a 'live' event.

Information and reports

The **Assembly** allows residents to hear, at first-hand, information from various village institutions and the organisers of social activities and events.

This one will also provide **Rev. Beverley Vincent** with an occasion to formally introduce herself to the wider village community as our new vicar and present her first **St Giles' PCC** report.

Representatives from the School, the WI, the Village Hall trustees and the WEA have been invited to participate; contributions have also been sought from the Knitting Circle, the Carpet Bowls Club and the Autumn Show Society

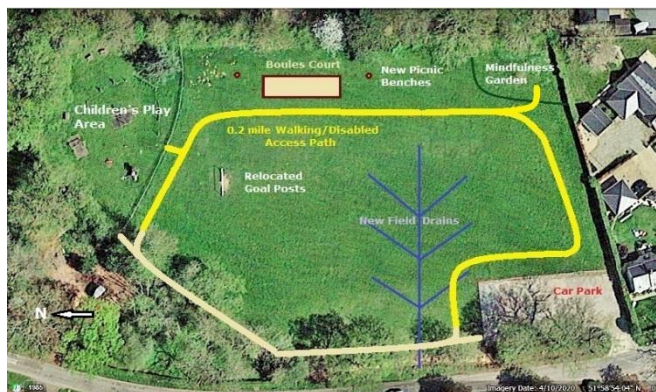
Cllr. Peter Schwier, in his dual role as an **Essex County** and **Braintree District Councillor**, has been invited to explain how both these are planning to deal with the aftermath of the pandemic and subsequently improve residents' lives.

The **Parish Council** will also report on more local village aspects and its recent achievements.

Playing Field Development Presentation

The main item on the agenda will be a presentation on the current status of the Council's ambitious **Playing Field Development Project**.

The **Working Party** will demonstrate what has been achieved to date and show examples of the various playground equipment options available. It will also explain what needs to be addressed or improved before moving to the next stage of the lottery process and the current funding position.



The **Assembly** will afford you the opportunity to input to this project, provide feed-back on the current plans and comment/discuss directly with team members your considered suggestions.

The Annual Parish Assembly takes place in the Village Hall on 13th April, starting at 7.30pm – refreshments will be served.

Latest Planning News

The following planning items were considered by the Council at its 16th March meeting:

Application Decisions

- ✚ **21/03469/HH & 21/03470/LBC** – *Chelmsloe House Farm, Monks Lodge Road.* Conversion of a garage for accommodation. Conversion back to ancillary accommodation of existing outbuilding and repair of fenestration. Demolition and rebuild of brick garden wall.
Permitted 02/02/2022
- ✚ **21/03606/HH** – *7 Stone Cottages, Church Street.* Erection of two storey rear extension, demolition of existing single storey extension and its replacement with a single storey rear.
Permitted 16/03/2022

Applications Received

- ✚ **22/00168/TPO** – *St Giles Church, Church Street.* Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 6/00.
- ✚ **22/00219/HH & 22/00220/LBC** – *The Old Vicarage, Church Street* – Installation of 37 ground-mounted solar panels in garden

The Council's comments can be seen by going to: <https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>. Click on 'View Current Applications', type in the **planning reference** and open the files.

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Forthcoming Events

The following are some village events (*these at the Village Hall) to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Fri 8th Apr* Kurling* Evening** – from **7.30pm** onwards. Bring your own drinks, glasses, nibbles & a **£5/person** donation... *Like Curling, but without the ice. Or the brooms...
- ✚ **Wed 13th Apr* Annual Parish Assembly** – starts **7.30pm**. (See left).
- ✚ **Mon 18th Apr* Easter Village Walk** – meet at **11.00am**. Cost: **£2.50/person** – dogs & children **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments.
- ✚ **Sat 30th Apr/Sun 1st May* 10th Annual Beer Festival**. Sat **12.00-11.00pm**. Entry **£5+free glass/Sun 12.00-4.00pm**. Entry **£3** (or **free** with Saturday glass).

More information about these and other social activities can be found on the 'Events' page of the Parish Council website and on Facebook.

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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>