



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Great Maplestead - 2024 Essex Village of the Year...

...as recognised by the RCCE

Great Maplestead has won the 2024 Essex Village of the Year competition, becoming the inaugural winner of this re-launched event.

At the Rural Community Council of Essex's Annual General Meeting, held on the 3rd July, a Commemorative Shield and Award Certificate were presented to Parish Council Chairman Steve Harris and Clerk Ann Crisp by the RCCE's Patron, Mrs. Jennifer Tolhurst, HM Lord Lieutenant of Essex, in recognition of



the village's strong community spirit and its social achievements.

The RCCE's assessment made particular mention of how the key village organisations work together to ensure residents enjoy living in a cared for and thriving environment. The interesting and varied social activities on offer throughout the year, people's enthusiastic participation in celebrating national events and some unique touches, such as the plant exchange and provision of a church warm room, were also remarked on favourably.



As one of the smallest villages in the competition, Great Maplestead's achievement in fundraising over £100k from local donations and the securing of a National Lottery grant to refurbish the children's play area and install a new, fully accessible pathway on the playing field was commended by the RCCE as being a notable example of cross-community collaboration.

They were also impressed by the way the village has embraced and adopted social media, creating support and chat groups that enable residents to easily connect with one another for advice, support and general conversation.



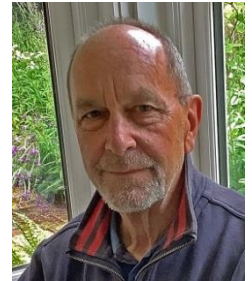
This award serves as confirmation that, for many reasons, Great Maplestead is a great place to live.

Meet the new Councillor

At the Parish Council meeting on the 10th July Rob Brudenell was, following due process, co-opted as a Councillor.

Rob is a relative newcomer to Great Maplestead. Having worked in the agricultural finance sector for more than 40 years, after retiring he and his wife Sarah moved to the village just three years ago.

However, since living here they have both become very active in the community, participating in many village events and activities. As a result Rob now believes he has a good feel for the ways of village life.



Rob is hoping his extensive experience of working with people and achieving results in collaboration with others will help him to make a positive contribution to the Council by bringing enthusiasm and energy to his new role.

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Local Roads and Car Park Work

Long-awaited repairs to damaged drainage kerbing in Lucking St were carried out in June.



The broken sections, along with those that had subsided, were replaced and re-set with a concrete backing to guard against future damage.

Work on repairing the bridge and improving the signage on Hulls Mill Lane, to try and prevent its use by inappropriately-sized traffic, is due to be carried out between mid-July and mid-August.

Finally, the required funding is now in place to undertake resurfacing of the Playing Field car park using durable, eco-friendly materials. In order to keep any disruption to a minimum, the work and necessary car park closure has been scheduled for August, during the school holidays.

Commemorating D-Day

The 80th Anniversary of D-Day, on 6th June, was commemorated in Great Maplestead with a special evening event, organised around the nationally co-ordinated Beacon Lighting.

The evening got underway at 6.30pm, with the bells of St Giles' Church ringing out for peace. Later nearly 100 people from the parish and surrounding villages gathered in the appropriately decorated Village Hall for a Fish and Chip Supper, provided by **The Hook**, Halstead.

After the meal the Maplesteads' Singers, ably



conducted by **Jo Watson**, treated the assembled diners to a well-rehearsed rendition of morale-boosting WWII songs, the audience enthusiastically singing along while tucking into Ann Harris's delicious chocolate brownies.



Later, presentations were made to **Jo and Ann Crisp** (left) in recognition of their sterling efforts, along with their 'A-Team' of willing volunteers (below), in organising this very special evening, which raised nearly **£180** for **SSAFA**, the Armed Forces Charity.



Later on people filed out into the calm, quiet evening air, their glasses charged with fizz, for the 9.15pm **Beacon Lighting** ceremony.

A tribute to the fallen was read by **Charles Tindall**, followed by a toast to their memory. The Last Post, played expertly by **Martin Elms**, preceded a communal singing of the National Anthem, bringing what had been a most memorable village occasion to an appropriately fitting close.



Changes to the Village Bus Service

The village's scheduled F315 local bus service, withdrawn on 29th July, has been replaced by a **DART 3** demand-responsive service.

As before, **DART 3** needs to be booked 2 hours before travelling, using the same telephone or e-mail booking system as previously. Unlike before, however, the service does not run to a regular, or published, operating timetable.

DART 3 is not a taxi service – it will only operate if more than 4 passengers want to do similar journeys at broadly similar times. The service runs from **6.00am-8.00pm** Mondays to Saturdays so regular users for work or school should still be catered for.

For more information about the new service, please call Arrow Taxis on: 01621 874 411

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Latest Planning News

The following was noted by the **Council** at its meeting on 10th July:

Application Decision:

- ✚ **23/02942/FUL 6**, Toldish Hall Road – Erection of 1 x 3 bedroom dwelling.

Application Withdrawn

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Forthcoming Events

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

- ✚ **Fridays through to 23rd Aug: Social Boules Evenings** – on the **Playing Field Boules Court**. From **5.00–7.00pm** (weather permitting). **All welcome**, whether to play or just socialise. **BYO chairs/nibbles/drinks**.
- ✚ **Sun 25th Aug: 2024 Village of the Year Celebration** – on the **Playing Field** from **2.00-5.00pm**. Come and enjoy a **free BBQ** to celebrate the village winning this coveted award. **Bring your own drinks/chairs etc**. Contact Ann Crisp (01787 460 216).
- ✚ **Sat 7th Sep*: Autumn Show** – categories include flowers (and a sunflower competition), fruit and vegetables, cookery and handicrafts. The photography competition is '**Our Church**' (for children under 16: '**Selfie**'). The schedule was issued in the July/August **Parish News**.

More details will be on Maplestead Mates, in Parish News and on the 'Events' page of the Parish Council website nearer the time.

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Contacting the Council

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

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Great Maplestead, CO9 2RW**

Tel: 01787 460 216 (4-6pm Mon-Thurs)

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