



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Peter Haylock – a Clerk, Councillor and Chairman...

...of the Council for over 35 years.

Peter Haylock, who died peacefully at home on 13th October 2024, was a long-serving member of Great Maplestead Parish Council.

During his 35 years on the **Council**, he had uniquely been the Clerk, a Councillor and the Chairman before standing down in 2023

Peter had lived at Mossings in Lucking Street for almost half a century. He was the founder of Haylock Investment and Management Services, managing an extensive portfolio of local properties from their offices in Halstead. HIMS has also been a long-time headline sponsor of the Autumn Show.



A great friend to many, Peter had a collaborative, respectful and professional approach in all that he did in the community and also for the **Council**. The Clerks who served with him when he was Chairman have all remarked on the kindness and support he showed. His dedication, commitment and concern for the well-being of the village was second to none and will be a lasting legacy to all those who follow.

Peter's funeral service was held in St Giles' Church on Tuesday 5th November, attended by over 180 friends, neighbours, colleagues and his family, all there to honour a most remarkable man.

--ooOoo--

Footbridge Replacement

Since the summer the footbridge on Footpath 26, across the brook on the northern side of the Slype copse, has been showing increasing signs of deterioration.

A number of loose decking planks have had to be re-fixed but, such is the poor condition of the plank ends, this is no longer a viable repair.



Although the bridge is on **Essex County Council's** list for replacement, it cannot carry out the work until spring 2025. The **Parish Council** has therefore ordered a 'footbridge replacement kit', which is due for delivery at the end of November and the **Task Force** will undertake the necessary replacement work prior to Christmas.

ECC Household Support Fund

This scheme, introduced under the previous Government, is designed to support vulnerable families across the county.

Essex County Council is replicating much of what it had done previously whilst also recognising the need for additional support following the current Government's decision to remove the **Winter Fuel Allowance** from over 300,000 Essex pensioners.

Funding will be available through different access points, including the **Essential Living Fund**, food support groups, community supermarkets and local voluntary and community sector organisations, including **Citizens Advice Bureaux**.

As well as specific support for pensioners, funding for families in receipt of free school meals will continue, as will targeted support for young carers and care leavers.

With the **£9.4 million** support package, **ECC** is focusing on the following key areas:

- **£1 million** targeted to support low-income pensioners with core costs over the winter month via the **Essential Living Fund**
- **£4.5 million** for the **Essential Living Fund** to help with emergency crisis situations
- **£2.8 million** for winter vouchers for families in receipt of free school meals
- **£100,000** for voluntary and community groups
- **£250,000** for food support groups
- **£150,000** for **Citizens Advice Bureaux** to provide additional support and advice
- **£80,000** for Community Supermarkets
- **£37,500** for young carers in Essex
- **£42,500** for care leavers' winter hampers and vouchers
- **£10,000** to support winter warmth schemes working in collaboration with Essex Libraries
- **£40,000** for marketing and communications to direct residents to find the support available

More information on help with the cost of living can be found at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/help-cost-living>.

Residents are also urged to contact the **Essential Living Fund** if they are struggling financially. You can do this and find out more about what support is available at: www.southend.gov.uk/extra-financial-help/essential-living-fund.

Christmas Crime Prevention

Winter's dark nights and increased seasonal consumer activity make this time of year particularly lucrative for criminals.

Home and car owners need to take certain common-sense precautions to mitigate attempts at opportunistic seasonal crime – following the 12 steps below will hopefully help lead to a happier, crime-free Christmas:

1. If you store Christmas food and drink, presents or other goodies in garages and/or outbuildings, ensure they are out of sight and any storage places are secured with good quality, well-fitted locks. Treat your shed to a security alarm.
2. Avoid tempting window-shopping burglars; don't leave presents and/or valuables in the house on full view of a window.
3. Ensure windows and doors are closed and locked before leaving the house. Don't attract burglars by leaving your home in darkness; have lights on timers and treat yourself to a TV simulator too.
4. Lock any gates to keep unwanted visitors from getting to the rear of your home.
5. Whether on an evening out or Christmas shopping, keep bags, handbags, wallets and mobiles safe. Busy places make it easier for a sneak thief to go undetected.
6. Park your car safely, check that it is locked and don't leave valuables and gifts on display.
7. Keep car keys hidden in the house, away from doors and windows. Keep keyless car door and ignition remotes in a Faraday pouch to prevent signals from them being hi-jacked to open, start and steal your car.
8. If your car is all iced up in the morning, don't start and leave it unattended with the engine running to de-ice it. It only takes a second to steal a car left like this and, by doing so, any insurance claim for theft is invalidated.
9. If you're attending a Christmas party, make sure you have considered how you are getting home; avoid using unlicensed taxis. Drink responsibly and be aware of your surroundings at all times, whilst keeping your drink and belongings safe.
10. Watch what you put on social media; check your settings to ensure that you are not publically broadcasting to all and sundry about when you are not going to be at home and all the lovely gifts you have received.
11. After Christmas don't advertise your gifts to thieves by putting the empty boxes out for collection in plain view. Disguise them, fold them up inside out or put them inside other, nondescript boxes.
12. Record any new and valuable property free by going to www.immobilise.com and install tracking and security apps on any electrical and computer products.



Great Maplestead's Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator can help with advice on how to protect you or your property against criminals – contact **Ian Johnson** on **01787 461 109**

For further crime prevention advice go to: www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/

Village Bus Service

Central Connect, has now confirmed that the DaRT3 bus service is set to continue until at least June 2025.

The fares are confirmed as **£5** for a single journey and **£10** for a return. **DaRT3** needs to be pre-booked: it does not run to a regular, or published, operating timetable and it is not a taxi service – it only operates if 4 or more passengers want to do similar journeys at broadly similar times.

DaRT3 operates **Mondays to Saturdays** between **6.00am and 8.00pm**. The **Booking Centre** is open between **8.00am and 6.00pm** Mondays to Saturdays. **You must book by 6.00pm on the day before you wish to travel.**

To book, or if you have any questions or need further information, call: 0115 777 3187 or e-mail: dart@central-connect.co.uk.

--ooOoo--

Latest Planning News

The following was noted by the Council at its meeting on 6th November:

Decision:

- ✦ **24/01780/COUPA** – *Monks Lodge Farm Barns, Gestingthorpe Rd.* Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural buildings to three residential dwellings and for associated operational development.

Granted 17/10/2024

--ooOoo--

Forthcoming Events

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

- ✦ **Sat 30th Nov: Festive Coffee Morning** – in **St Giles' Church. 10.30am – 12.00pm.** There'll be a raffle, cake stall, Christmas decorations for sale and lots more...
- ✦ **Sun 1st Dec: Village Christmas Tree Lighting** – on the **Church Street triangle.** Welcome in Christmas by dressing and lighting the tree at **6.00pm** – bring baubles! – followed by mulled wine in the **Village Hall.**
- ✦ **Sun 29th Dec*: Christmas Village Walk** – meet at **11.00am.** Cost: **£2.50/person** – dogs & children **free.** Half-way drinks + refreshments

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

--ooOoo--

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>