



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Playing Field Car Park Resurfaced by Volunteers...

...raking the rough with the smooth

Last year the **Parish Council** secured funding to resurface the playing field car park, as its worsening condition and poor appearance was inhibiting users and detracting from the amenity's previous major improvements.

An enthusiastic team of willing volunteers, armed with rakes, spades and an aptitude for Lego, fuelled by coffee and cake – and with a Manitou, a whacker, a small grader and a digger – undertook the resurfacing during the spring half-term holiday.



In just under 4 days 50 tons of sand were spread and levelled, nearly 5670 interlocking plastic grid panels pieced together and 50 tons of small stones laid and spread across the car park's 630m²

From this:



to this:



via this:



A magnificent effort and a great advertisement for what can be achieved with the right community spirit and people working together for the common good. The playing field now has a car park properly befitting this much-valued village amenity.

--ooOoo--

Council Meeting Dates 2025/26

Following the AGM on 14th May the next five full meetings will be held on:

- ✚ **2025:** 16th July; 17th September; 9th November.
- ✚ **2026:** 14th January; 11th March.

A Vacancy Exists

The Council's long-standing Parish Clerk is retiring at the end of May, so a candidate for this important position is now being sought.

Information about the role and the closing date for application is detailed below:



Great Maplestead Parish Council...

...has a vacancy for a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

The Role:

Great Maplestead Parish Council is looking to recruit an enthusiastic, well-organised and self-motivated **Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)**.

The Council is made up of **7 Councillors** and meets bi-monthly, on Wednesday evenings. The Clerk is responsible for preparing meeting agendas, supporting papers, taking minutes and completing pre and post meeting administration duties and actions.

The Clerk is also the **RFO** and maintains the Council's financial accounts in accordance with proper practices as specified in statutory guidance, and submits the appropriate paperwork for the Council's annual audit – the Council is signed up to the **RIALTAS** Accounting management tool for this purpose. The Clerk acts as the 'Proper Officer', to ensure the Council conducts its business in line with its statutory duties, and is also responsible for maintaining and/or improving the Council's **EALC Quality status** – currently **Foundation Level** – reviewing and applying for reassessment every four years.

The Clerk reports to the Parish Council as a whole, liaising regularly with the Chairman or Vice Chairman as appropriate.

This is a varied, home-based role and a Council laptop and printer will be provided.

Skills/Qualifications:

The successful candidate should have excellent communication, organisational and administrative skills, proven experience of financial management, as well as a good working knowledge of IT. They should be reliable and have the flexibility to work the hours required to fulfil the role and be responsive to both Councillors, residents and industry agencies.

Whilst experience of working in a similar post would be helpful, including completion of the **CILCA** (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification, the Council also welcomes applications from those new to the role and will provide appropriate support and training in addition to a period of handover from the current Clerk.

Salary Range: based on the National Association of Local Councils' salary award framework (**LC2: SCP 18-23**) : **Hours:** 10 per week : **Application:** Please submit a short written application by e-mail or post, together with details of 2 references, to the Clerk:

e-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk

or post to: **New House, St Giles Close, Great Maplestead CO9 2RW**

For a full **Job Description** please contact the Clerk on **01787 460 216**

Closing date for applications is 14th April 2025

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Greater Essex Devolution Consultation

The **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)** is asking local residents, businesses and organisations to contribute to an important, ongoing consultation regarding the proposal to establish a **Mayoral Combined Authority** for the local government areas of **Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea**.

More information and a link to the consultation, which **closes on 13th April**, can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/greater-essex-devolution/greater-essex-devolution-consultation>

VE80 Anniversary Celebration



The poster features a large Union Jack background. At the top, there are three logos: '80 VE DAY' on the left, a crown with 'KEEP CALM & PARTY ON' in the center, and another '80 VE DAY' on the right. Below these is the main title 'GREAT MAPLESTEAD VE DAY 80 CELEBRATION & BEACON LIGHTING' followed by the date 'Thursday 8th May 2025'. The text explains that this year marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day and that the village will host a party with supper and beacon lighting. It mentions a 'Featuring 1940's Vocal Harmony Trio' and 'Fox & Wiggle & Jass' with a small photo of the trio. Ticket information is provided, including a price of £15.00 and contact numbers for Ann Crisp and Julie Last. A programme of events is listed from 6.30pm to midnight.

80 VE DAY **KEEP CALM & PARTY ON** **80 VE DAY**

GREAT MAPLESTEAD VE DAY 80 CELEBRATION & BEACON LIGHTING
Thursday 8th May 2025

This year sees the 80th anniversary of VE Day, marking the end of WWII in Europe on 8th May 1945.

To celebrate this significant occasion **Great Maplestead** will be hosting a **VE 80 party**, including supper and lighting of the beacon

Featuring 1940's Vocal Harmony Trio **Fox & Wiggle & Jass**

Partygoers will be entertained by this wonderful singing trio who will perform some 1940's classics as well as more modern vintage songs

Guests are invited to dress in the style of the day, be it civilian or military clothing

This is a ticket only event
Tickets are **£15.00** each and will include food

Please purchase your tickets and order your food via
Ann Crisp 01787 460 216 or **Julie Last 01787 462 957**

80 VE DAY
Ticket & Food Orders are required no later than **MONDAY 21st APRIL**

Programme

6.30pm Participation in the national celebratory Ringing of Bells, **St Giles' Church**

7.00pm **Village Hall** opens – a cash bar will be available

7.15pm **Fish & Chip Supper** to be served – provided by **The Hook Halstead**

- Fish & Chips
- Battered Jumbo Sausage & Chips
- 2xVegan Sausages & Chips

8.15pm Live Music & Dancing

9.30pm **Beacon Lighting**, together with national tribute, **Village Hall Car Park**

9.45pm Live Music & Dancing

11.00pm Bar Closes

Midnight "Put That Light Out!"

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Getting it all together...

This year's **Parish Assembly** is being held in the **Village Hall** on **16th April** at **7.30pm**.

This is an ideal opportunity to socialise, meet fellow parishioners, find out what is going on in the village and hear about plans for the future. Refreshments will be provided, so do come along and say hello.

The **Parish Council** will be reporting on its actions during the past year and the meeting will include contributions from village institutions and various local event and social activity organisers.

St Giles' Church, along with the **School**, will each be reporting on their past year's activities while contributions from the **Village Hall** trustees, the **WEA** organisers, the **Knitting Circle**, the **Carpet Bowls Club**, the **Maple Leaves** and the **Autumn Show Society** have been invited. PCSOs **John Thorne** and **Joanne Cooper** have also been invited along to report on and discuss rural crime.

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Quiet Lane

Toldishall Road is now officially designated as a 'Quiet Lane'.

Signs installed at the beginning of March ensure that drivers of motor vehicles are made aware that more vulnerable users – horse riders, pedestrians and cyclists – may be on the road and have priority.



Latest Planning News

The following applications were discussed by the **Council** at its meeting on **12th March**:

Applications Received:

- + **25/00302/HH** *Easedale, Lucking Street*. Proposed two-storey rear extension and single storey extension to outbuilding.
- + **25/00341/FUL** *1 Langthorne Cottages, Gestingthorpe Road*. Change of use of land to form an extension to a domestic garden

The **Council's** responses to these applications are at: <https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Aapplication>. Type or copy the **planning reference** into the 'Search' box and open the files.

The following was also noted, for information:

- + **25/00141/ELD** *Monks Lodge Farm, Gestingthorpe Road*. Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use – Change of use of land to residential garden.

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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:

- + **Wed 16th Apr***: **Parish Assembly** – 7.30pm (See article left for details)
- + **Mon 21st Apr***: **Easter Village Walk**. Meet at **11.00am** in car park. Cost: **£2.50pp**. Dogs & children **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments
- + **Sat 3rd/Sun 4th May***: **Great Maplestead Beer Festival** – schedule and further details nearer the time in the May **Parish News**, Facebook and the website's 'Events' page.
- + **Thurs 8th May***: **VE80 Anniversary Party, Celebration and Beacon Lighting**. Village participation in this national event will include **bell-ringing**, a **fish & chip supper** and the **beacon lighting**. (See advert left). More details in the April **Parish News**.
- + **Fridays 6th June to 22nd 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**.

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**:

**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>