

**Parish  
News**

# **Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe**

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**Church and Community together**  
**July/August 2022**

**Free**

## Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent can be found on page 32 and the churchwardens on page 30.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 30

Magazine copy see page 32

### Parish Clerks

Gt Maplestead	Ann Crisp	01787 460216	anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Lt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	Kevin B Money	07810 781509	gestingthorpepc@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Shelley Boydell	07927 775989	pebmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

### The Maplesteads

WI	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
WEA	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannnewton4@gmail.com
Autumn Show	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com

### Gt Maplestead

Task Force	Martin Elms	01787 461421	martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Village Hall	Liz Newton	01787 461308	lizatlucking@hotmail.com
Playing Field	Joe Newton	01787 461308	lizatlucking@hotmail.com
Mixed Ability Yoga	Victoria Ashworth	07751 911923	justinashworth@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates	Catherine Pawsey	07814 459683	catherinepawseypilates@gmail.com
Dance & Keep Fit	Judy Cowell	01376 561757	judy.cowell@btinternet.com
Carpet Bowls	Janice Chaplin	01787 469600	bobandjanicechaplin@btinternet.com
Youth Club	Myra Jeggo	01787 474285	m.jeggo@sky.com

### Gestingthorpe

Village Hall	Steve Bagby	07840 367182	
Village amenities	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Tower bell ringing	Valerie Fullman	01787 462755	
Cricket Club	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Football Club			
History Society	Gill Webb	01787 581836	gillwebb880@gmail.com

### Pebmarsh

Village Hall	Jonathan Nott	01787 269231	jonathannott44@hotmail.com
Dog Training	Halstead Dog Club	01787 473154	halsteaddogclub@hotmail.co.uk
Card making	Pauline Andow	01787 228790	
Ladies Club	Pauline Andow	01787 228790	
	Sandra Beaney	01787 222220	
Carpet bowls	Jim Crayston	01787 222241	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
Youth club	Carol Parker	01787 269996	taximother@googlemail.com
Baby Sensory Class	Helen Whiting	07703 790273	braintree@babysensory.co.uk

### Footpaths

Gt Maplestead	Steve Harris	01787 462818	steve198harris@gmail.com
Lt Maplestead	Geraldine Holloway	01787 476530	geraldineholloway2017@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	L Crumpton-Taylor	01787 460277	lesliecrumpton-taylor@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Michael Sharp	07725 909986	michael@broomhills-farm.co.uk

### All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537	acantor56@outlook.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Margaret Crudgington	01787 476259	
Solar Society	Miles Scrivens	01787 469766	lauri.scrivens@gmail.com
Benefice Choir	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Scouts	Stuart Carter	01787 461149	
Guides	Kathy Hoy	01787 280200	
Molly's Wood	Jane Postma		<a href="https://www.mollyswood.org/contact">https://www.mollyswood.org/contact</a>

## Letter from the editor



Well, what a fab Jubilee weekend. I had a great time at the Little Maplestead celebrations. Huge congratulations to all the organisers everywhere. The beacon lighting had great weather unlike the Jubilee lunch, but that didn't stop half the village having a great time in the damp in the playing field.

The only problem was the aftermath as I and a couple of others then went down with Covid the following week. Ghastly disease, but quite a good way of losing weight. A disease like Covid makes one so aware of the importance of friends and neighbours, checking up on you, making sure you have everything you need. A big thank you to you all.

Isn't the photo of Pebmarsh church super. Just shows how useful drones can be (unless they found a lucky fairy who flew over).

Again, a plea for a new editor. I shall be retiring at the end of the year, and it is always useful to have a handover period, so please get in touch.

## Contents

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Page 2	Village contacts and information
Page 3	Letter from the Editor
Page 4	Letter from our Vicar
Page 5	Bus service
Page 6-8	Little Maplestead
Page 9	Nature Notes
Page 10-14, 17-19	Great Maplestead
Page 20	Gardening Corner
Page 21-24	Gestingthorpe
Page 25	Pets Corner
Page 26-27	Pebmarsh
Page 28	Cooking Corner
Page 29-30	Local information
Page 31	Church services
Page 31	Braintree Foodbank
Page 32	Coming up, save the date and the Parish News website

## Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

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'One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go. From the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you'. These are words from a much-loved hymn that always comes into its own at this time of year. It is a favourite school hymn and is often used at leavers services, as well as at weddings and baptisms. For me it is not just a hymn, it is very much a prayer because it is, in many ways, a prayer for those who are embarking on a new phase of life. It is a prayer for them that they will always know that God's presence and is love with them wherever they go.

This time of year also often marks a change as summer comes (we hope!). We have seen several joyful occasions marking change in our parishes recently, but other changes are often on the horizon at this time of year, a change of job, particularly for teachers, with children moving schools or those preparing to start school. Change can be a scary thing but it is necessary in order for us to grow. We only need to think of this phrase; 'If nothing ever changed there would be no butterflies'!

Even going away on holiday is a change. It is hopefully a change that will bring us rest and refreshment, widen our horizons, as perhaps when we visit new places, and come into contact with new people. Maybe it will enable us to try out new things, but even if we are not going away it often feels as if there is a change to the pace of life, as the days are longer and perhaps we don't have to rush around quite as much.

Summer is a time of year for us to give thanks to God for all that He gives us, and for all of the challenges and new chapters in our lives that come our way. So, whether or not there are changes ahead for us this summer, let us all echo the chorus of the hymn;

'And it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you'.

*Rev'd Beverley*



Unlike a conventional bus, you need to first register as a customer and you need to book your seat on a journey at least two hours in advance of travel. Flat fare £2.50 single, £4 return. Concessionary bus passes are accepted after 0900 Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays.

For more information 01621 874410 or [info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk](mailto:info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk).

## Sudbury - Gestingthorpe - Pebmarsh - Gt Maplestead - Halstead (Demand Responsive Service) F315

	Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)						Saturday						
Operator	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT
Notes	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	BOOK STA	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	BOOK STA
Sudbury, Bus Station (A)	0900	1100	1300	1530	1730	1915	0900	1100	1300	1530	1730	1915	
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores (opp)	0903	1103	1303	1533	1733	1918	0903	1103	1303	1533	1733	1918	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane (adj)	0907	1107	1307	1537	1737	1922	0907	1107	1307	1537	1737	1922	
Bulmer, The Street (adj)	0911	1111	1311	1541	1741	1926	0911	1111	1311	1541	1741	1926	
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner (S-bound)	0917	1117	1317	1547	1747	1932	0917	1117	1317	1547	1747	1932	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory (o/s)	0923	1123	1323	1553	1753	1938	0923	1123	1323	1553	1753	1938	
Pebmarsh, The Kings Head (o/s)	0932	1132	1332	1602	1802	1947	0932	1132	1332	1602	1802	1947	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial (opp)	0933	1133	1333	1603	1803	1948	0933	1133	1333	1603	1803	1948	
Little Maplestead, The Cock (W-bound)	0939	1139	1339	1609	1809	1954	0939	1139	1339	1609	1809	1954	
Great Maplestead, Church (opp)	0945	1145	1345	1615	1815	2000	0945	1145	1345	1615	1815	2000	
Little Maplestead, Little Maplestead Pump (E-bound)	0951	1151	1351	1621	1821	2006	0951	1151	1351	1621	1821	2006	
Halstead, High Street (SW-bound)	0956	1156	1356	1626	1826	2011	0956	1156	1356	1626	1826	2011	
<b>Sunday</b>													
no service							no service						

### NOTES

BOOK Journey must be pre-booked

STA Most times approximate (confirm by booking on 01621 874411, costs apply)

TH Passengers to/from Pebmarsh and Gt. Maplestead must pre-book

### OPERATORS

ARWT Arrow Taxis Essex Ltd 01621 855111

Suffolk 01/12/2021

## Halstead - Gt Maplestead - Pebmarsh - Gestingthorpe - Sudbury (Demand Responsive Service) F315

	Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)						Saturday						
Operator	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT
Notes	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	BOOK STA	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	BOOK STA
Halstead, High Street (NE-bound)	0730	1000	1200	1400	1630	1830	0730	1000	1200	1400	1630	1830	
Little Maplestead, Little Maplestead Pump (W-bound)	0735	1005	1205	1405	1635	1835	0735	1005	1205	1405	1635	1835	
Great Maplestead, Church (opp)	0741	1011	1211	1411	1641	1841	0741	1011	1211	1411	1641	1841	
Little Maplestead, The Cock (E-bound)	0749	1017	1217	1417	1647	1847	0749	1017	1217	1417	1647	1847	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial (opp)	0754	1023	1223	1423	1653	1853	0754	1023	1223	1423	1653	1853	
Pebmarsh, The Kings Head (opp)	0755	1024	1224	1424	1654	1854	0755	1024	1224	1424	1654	1854	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory (opp)	0804	1033	1233	1433	1703	1903	0804	1033	1233	1433	1703	1903	
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner (N-bound)	0810	1039	1239	1439	1709	1909	0810	1039	1239	1439	1709	1909	
Bulmer, The Street (opp)	0815	1045	1245	1445	1715	1915	0815	1045	1245	1445	1715	1915	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane (opp)	0819	1049	1249	1449	1719	1919	0819	1049	1249	1449	1719	1919	
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores (o/s)	0823	1053	1253	1453	1723	1923	0823	1053	1253	1453	1723	1923	
Sudbury, Bus Station (A)	0830	1056	1256	1456	1728	1928	0830	1056	1256	1456	1728	1928	
<b>Sunday</b>													
no service							no service						

### NOTES

BOOK Journey must be pre-booked

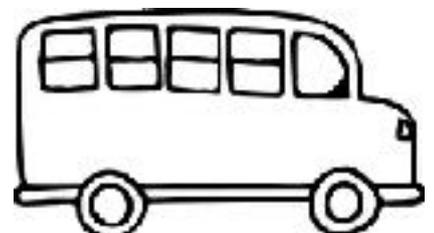
STA Most times approximate (confirm by booking on 01621 874411, costs apply)

TS Passengers to/from Pebmarsh and The Maplesteads must pre-book

### OPERATORS

ARWT Arrow Taxis Essex Ltd 01621 855111

Suffolk 01/12/2021



## Little Maplestead

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We can collect drugs, search the internet if you do not have a computer, or just be a friendly voice on the other end of the phone. If you or others you know feel may need support please contact one of us.

Please contact Bill Piper on 01787473933, Jane Stone on 01787472525, Gemma Frost on 07826523187

### Little Maplesteads' Jubilee Celebrations

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Our village had a marvellous weekend, with two free events for everyone in the village to attend.

We began by borrowing a good deal of bunting and decorating the hedges and entrance of the playing field.

On the Thursday morning the weather looked kind and the marquee was erected on the playing field, together with tables for the food and drink.

Tony Crudginton, who had looked after the beacon since the last Jubilee found a good strong pole and firewood, kindling and straw, together with a lovely firelighter on a very long stick were prepared.

During the afternoon, Diane Smith and Jane Boulden helped to cut up the cheese and set out the biscuits, and at 6 o'clock the cheese and bottles of wine and fizz were set out in the marquee.

A sound system of Gemma Frost's phone and a speaker were prepared for the Jubilee song and the National Anthem to be played near the end of the evening.



# More Little Maplestead

## More Little Maplesteads' Jubilee Celebrations

Geraldine Holloway had baked some outstanding Jubilee tarts and Karen Sunnucks supplied some delicious sausage rolls.

We were expecting around 30- 40 people – in the event over 75 came to celebrate, drink the wine, nibble the cheeses, sing and celebrate such a great occasion.

At 940pm Andrew Sunnucks proclaimed the event with due ceremony and the beacon was lit. The National Anthem was sung with gusto and the evening closed with some very merry villagers wending their way home!

On Sunday the weather forecast was dreadful. Weeks before every house in the village was visited and tickets to the Hog Roast were distributed to those wishing to attend. We needed tickets to be sure only a maximum of 160 people attended and that they were all residents of the village.

Tables and chairs were set out and extra gazebos erected thanks to Nadine Scurr, Diane Smith and Kevin Caddy and Bill Piper. Geraldine Holloway's son Mark travelled from Kings Lynn to provide the music and announcements and did a brilliant job.

The Hog Roast, provided by the Sible Hedingham butcher D. R. Earey, soon had the lovely smell of roast pork drifting across the playing field.

The new Village Information Board was unveiled by Bill Piper and Councillor Peter Schwier. Instrumental in devising the design for this were Nadine Scurr and Helen Went and the funding for it was arranged by Ann Harris our Parish Clerk.

We could not have had music or refreshments without the kind support of Mia and Andy from Larchmont ,the house next door to the playing field who supplied electricity to the event.

Maureen Garnham won the best decorated cake, Edson won the prize for the best fancy dress and the best decorated garden was Bakersfield in School Road.

The rain held off, (mostly!) and around 150 people had a wonderful time eating, drinking and sampling fabulous cakes.



## More Little Maplestead

### Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee



Great thanks also to Robert and Enid Baines who provided the tables and chairs. Both events were paid for by the Parish Council, but thanks must go to Chairman Bill Piper, who was a tour de force at devising, organising and persuading people to help – I should know!

Jane Piper

### **Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Representative of the Year 2022**

This prestigious award was awarded to our very own Bill Piper. He was presented with a magnificent trophy for his work in raising the profile of the Neighbourhood Watch, which in turn is instrumental in monitoring local crime and deterring criminal activity. If you are not already a member and would like to join the mailing list to be kept informed, please email [littlemaplesteadnw@gmail.com](mailto:littlemaplesteadnw@gmail.com).

Congratulations to Bill.



## Nature Notes

Having been away for most of the past month, there are only a few personal observations that have been made since last writing. My friend in Pebmarsh has now seen her turtle doves and she sent me tantalising snaps of them perched on her garden fence. Unfortunately, my three visits to find them have all ended in disappointment but I will keep on trying.

There was a bonus on my last visit when I spotted a pair of Egyptian geese descending into a field of barley. This is a new 'tick' for my patch list, so quite exciting. They are birds found throughout sub-Saharan Africa and have been introduced to Britain, where they are now established in East Anglia, although not common. Since first breeding in Essex in the 70's, they have gradually increased but remain sporadic. A touch of the exotic.



My friend is doubly lucky as she has just sent me pictures of a couple of bee orchids she found in one of her fields. When I get to see it, this will be another first for the local patch for me. They are not common but do occur in Essex, including on several Essex Wildlife Trust reserves. They are mimics – the lower velvety lip looks like a female bumble bee and males attempting to mate with it pollinate the plant. A mind-boggling evolutionary achievement!



Fields in Pebmarsh have good numbers of swallows and house martins hawking insects above them but other areas seem puzzlingly empty. So far, I have not seen a swift on the local patch although Castle Hedingham usually has a small flock in residence. As usual, as the summer reaches its hottest, bird interest wanes and attention moves elsewhere. Butterflies and moths become the focus and sorting the moth trap can take a full day. The first moth out of the trap last night was a new species for the garden – a Green Oak Tortrix. This micro is one of the easiest to identify, being a delicate green with the leading edge of the wing narrowly bordered in yellow and the cilia whitish. It was followed shortly after by another first – Poplar Kitten, a white furry-looking macro with black spots and a grey band, aptly named.



A final word for the birds; the garden is full of newly-fledged juvenile blue and great tits, sparrows and starlings. They line up to be fed and the adults oblige, working tirelessly to keep them satisfied. Demanding youngsters and stressed parents, not unlike human families.

## Patch Patroller

# Great Maplestead

## Great Maplestead Volunteer Network

Just to let you know that the Great Maplestead Coronavirus Volunteer Support Network is still up and running.

If you would like any help please do not hesitate to contact me by phone on 01787 461002 or 07773 627897, or by e-mail at jacqui.mee62@gmail.com

### Coffee at St Giles

Come to the Wednesday Coffee Mornings the Tower Room at St. Giles. We'll be serving from 10.30am until noon – outdoors if it's warm enough, in the church if not. Also twice a month after the St. Giles services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Please come along and join us if you can.

### 70 Years Celebration in Great Maplestead – *"Thank You Ma'am"*

**2-5 June 2022**

As with many parishes, towns & cities across the UK, Great Maplestead began the weekend of festivities with a beacon lighting ceremony.

This was the first ever such event in the parish and our beacon was also unique, designed and crafted as it was by resident Martin Watson. Our thanks to Martin Watson & Joe Newton for their thought & workmanship in creating and siting the beacon for us all to enjoy.

All who attended enjoyed a free glass of fizz, kindly donated by the Parish Council, and a slice of Platinum Jubilee tart baked by several parishioners following a recipe designed specifically for the occasion.



And then to the beacon lighting itself, announced by the bugle call, "Majesty", played on the trumpet by Martin Elms. As dusk turned to night the beacon was lit at 9.45pm, accompanied by a new song for the

Commonwealth, "A Life Lived With Grace", sung exquisitely by resident Catriona Martin.

It was a truly memorable evening, drawing a crowd in excess of 100 people.

## More Great Maplestead

### More 70 Year Celebration

Friday morning we were able to reflect on the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II at a service of thanksgiving at St Giles Church. Rev. Beverley focused on how, throughout her reign, the Queen has always managed a smile for all. Following the service we were invited to stay for refreshments and to view the wonderful visual display of "70 Years of Great Maplestead History", in the Tower Room.

In the evening villagers met for a party at the Village Hall, which had been beautifully decorated with some wonderful new designs from the village Knitting Circle. The evening included a delicious lamb spit-roast (courtesy of Joe Newton and his team of helpers) followed by strawberries and cream. As the evening progressed revellers danced to music from across 7 decades, accompanied by some rather exuberant singing towards the end! Our thanks to the Beer Festival crew for running the bar and, after the past 2 years, it was just wonderful to see people from the village getting together and enjoying themselves once again.

The final day of celebrations on Sunday 5th June saw events slightly modified, due to inclement weather, but the hardy souls of Great Maplestead did not let this get in the way of an afternoon of fun, games and a picnic both inside and outside at the Village Hall.

The afternoon began with a jovial Morris Dance 'performance' from The Maplestead Mincers, a surprisingly agile and synchronised group of unlikely dancers! They created a lively atmosphere, with audience participation, which fed nicely into the 'It's a Royal Knockout' games.



## More Great Maplestead

### More 70 Year Celebration

Four teams, consisting of a mixture of children and adults, competed for the coveted prize of a Platinum Jubilee medal but, more than this – pride was at stake! The games were highly competitive, with families competing against each other. The crowd were entertained by some “interesting” Welly Wanging, Royal Waiters sabotaged by opposing teams, Royal Space-Hopper Polo and fast and furious Corgi Racing, to name but a few, all of which we were honoured to have compèred by the ‘Queen’ (aka Keith Brownlie).

Congratulations to Alison & Phil Cantor, winners of the village Royal Scarecrow competition with their display of Elizabeth I. They were presented with a prize of a family hamper (kindly donated by Stuart & Zoe Putt). All the scarecrows around the village have been a joy to see, with some clever and humorous creations – well done everybody!

The village has looked spectacular with all the various floral displays, bunting and flags and I am sure you have all enjoyed the wonderful feature displays, making use of some old farm machinery and some imaginative creative work. These will stay in place for us to enjoy throughout the summer.



Finally, my heartfelt thanks to all who helped with Jubilee planning, organisation and creation. There were so many who were involved – however, a special word of thanks must go to the lovely ladies of the Platinum Jubilee Committee, without whom none of these events and village displays would have happened. They worked tirelessly for the benefit of us all: Liz Newton, Patsy Maile, Zoe Putt, Jo Watson & Claire Tindall.

A full weekend of ceremony, fun and friendship - I am sure this is just as Her Majesty would have wished.

**Ann Crisp**

#### **GREAT MAPLESTEAD PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS PHOTOS**

We hope to create a photo album documenting the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Great Maplestead for future generations to enjoy.

Please share any photos you may have with the Parish Clerk

Ann Crisp: [anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk](mailto:anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)

## More Great Maplestead

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# The Maple Leaves

Maplesteads' Independent Ladies Social and Dining Club

We are actively looking for like-minded ladies from across **The Maplesteads** and beyond to become members of our new, relaxed co-operative social and dining club.

We are planning to create, offer and run interesting events, activities or talks, usually on the first Thursday of each month in Great Maplestead Village Hall. Information about our first two events, Boules in July and an Auction in August, can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

If you're interested in joining **The Maple Leaves** contact Angela Davis (01787 236 007) or simply come along to one of the events.

**We look forward to welcoming you!**



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### The Maplesteads' Autumn Show – Saturday 10 September

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All residents of Great and Little Maplestead should find a copy of the schedule for the forthcoming Autumn Show inside this month's Parish Magazine.

We hope that you find something of interest for the young and not so young and will start your preparations early in order to make this year's Autumn Show even more successful than last year's.

Don't forget the competition to grow the tallest sunflower – the results will be announced at the Show. Contact Jo Green (e-mail [jo@stgreenbuilders.co.uk](mailto:jo@stgreenbuilders.co.uk)) to register.

After the Show there will be a prize-giving, produce sale and a raffle. There will also be refreshments.

Extra copies of the Autumn Show schedule will be available in both the Round Church and St Giles' Church as well as a version on each village website.

If you do not receive a schedule, or require any further information, please contact Carol Brownlie on 01787 461527 or e-mail [carolbrownlie@gmail.com](mailto:carolbrownlie@gmail.com).

And please return any trophies from last year to Carol...

## More Great Maplestead

*The next bumper Maplesteads'*

# JUMBILIE SALIE

*in Great Maplestead Village Hall*

*is on*

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September*

**Please make a note and save the date!**

All contributions will be gratefully received but please hold on to any suitable items yourself until then – the organisers have no storage capacity available.

**More details in the September Magazine**



**The Maple Leaves present...**

*...an entertaining evening of fun with a French  
flavour playing*



# Boules



**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

*on Great Maplestead Playing Field's Boules Court*

(weather permitting : serpet bowls in the Village Hall if not)

*Meet from 6.30pm : Starts at 7.00pm : Entry £2.00 per player*

*Members and guests only : bring your own drinks, snacks and chairs*

*Tea/coffee and biscuits in the Village Hall afterwards*



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## More Great Maplestead

**The Maple Leaves present...**

*...an entertaining evening in Great Maplestead*

*Village Hall, where we'll be hosting an*

# **'In-House' Auction**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**Starts 7.30pm : Members & Guests only**

**Entry £2 (to include refreshments) : Please also bring cash for bidding!**

*Members are kindly invited to donate for auction either good-quality, pre-loved items that they no longer need (or like!) or, alternatively, items such as potted plants, flower arrangements, crafts or cakes they have made. Also welcome would be offers of help (for example: with cooking/gardening/learning basic computer skills etc.) that could be auctioned by our Gentleman Auctioneer*

*This event will hopefully raise some much-needed funds for our new club*

## Great Maplestead Summer Boules Evenings



We are pleased to announce that this year's Friday Summer Boules evenings will commence on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July and run through to the 26<sup>th</sup> August.

Matches will be played on the new boules pitch, and teams created on the night.

New this year is a weekly prize for the winning team and, back by demand, the much-coveted **Summer League Trophy**, to be awarded to the best overall team at the end of the season.



**Player entry fee: £2 per head**

All are welcome, whether you wish to play or watch.  
Please bring along your own chairs, nibbles and drinks.

**Start time 6.00pm.**

**\*\* All proceeds to the Community Playing Field Development Project \*\***

# More Great Maplestead

## The 1000-Mile Cycle Challenge

The Great Maplestead Community Field Project, an ambitious plan to replace the ageing playground equipment and make the field more accessible and inclusive to people of all ages and abilities, was launched in 2021.



Aiming to give a significant boost to our fundraising activities, we hatched the idea of doing a sponsored challenge nicknamed LeJoG – Land’s End to John O’Groats – a cycle ride from the most southwesterly corner of England to the most northeasterly tip of Scotland.

There’s no fixed route for LeJoG – the distance can be as little as 850 miles or as much as a 1000 miles. As we really wanted to challenge ourselves, we planned a 1000 mile route to be completed in 14 straight days of cycling.

We set off from Land’s End on 15th May into a strong headwind en route to Fowey, wondering what the next two weeks would bring. We soon found out – hills, lots of very steep hills and weather, lots of cold, wet weather! We arrived in Fowey exhausted and drenched, just a taster of what would lie ahead of us!

And what lay ahead was indeed a huge challenge, but one that turned out to be one of the most extraordinary experiences of our lives.

Every day was completely different: the near vertical climbs up from Polruan Harbour and the King Harry ferry; the fast sweeping switchbacks into Tintern and Monmouth; the stark beauty and empty roads of the Forest of Bowland; the horrible drag from Carlisle to Glasgow, with bikes feeling that they would rattle apart and we would be sucked under the next logging lorry that flew past; the calm, flat ride along Loch Lomond in the morning, followed by the hurtle into Glencoe through driving sleet in the afternoon;



## More Great Maplestead

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### More of the 1000-Mile Cycle Challenge

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the never ending drag uphill into a headwind to the Crask Inn; the glorious spin down to the golden beaches of Bettyhill; the euphoria and near hypothermia at John O'Groats. What an adventure and what a test of bodies, emotions and machines – indeed a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

We would not have achieved this without our support team and roving bloggers, Julie and Ann, who were always there on the side of the road with cups of hot coffee and jelly babies in our hours of need – of which there were many!

And finally, just as important to our success were our campaign supporters, whose generous donations and messages of encouragement throughout the ride motivated us when our energy and spirits flagged.

We made it! And, most importantly, we exceeded our funding target of £5000!

Thank you!

Simon Last and Martin Crisp.



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*Partners: Thomas & Jonathan Self*

## Gardening Corner

---

A slight change to my normal article this month – instead of a plant I am going to recommend a garden of the month. In fact, four gardens – one from each nation in the UK.

Firstly, a garden close to home: **Fullers Mill, West Stow** just north of Bury. St. Edmunds. Created by the late Bernard Tickner and passed to Perennial (formerly the Gardeners Benevolent Society), this beautiful garden sits on the edge of the River Lark and Culford Brook. Running water is a feature and the garden is well maintained by a dedicated staff. There are always interesting and unusual plants for sale.

Secondly: **Aberglasney Gardens, Carmathenshire**. The Elizabethan origins of this garden are evident from entering the Cloister and there are over 10 acres to walk around, with individual areas. Since my visit to the garden the house has also been opened to the public. I will remember the wonderful show of blue *Mecanopsis* poppies in this superb location.



Next: **Castle Kennedy Gardens, Stranraer**. These stunning gardens have a strong connection with WW2. They sit on the Gulf Stream and have a number of walks, some of which are bordered by rhododendrons influenced by Sir Joseph Hooker. Situated adjacent to a loch, and in a coastal location, there are herbaceous borders and magnificent spring displays of bulbs and magnolias. Garden walks can be booked in advance.

Lastly: **Bangor Castle, Northern Ireland**. I have not been to this attractive walled garden but I gather there is an impressive central fountain. Open from April to November, there are hooped walkways and the garden maintains its 1840's feel. An eclectic mixture of plants, box hedging and cordon fruit trees, the garden is described by visitors as an oasis of seclusion and calm. The café/tea shop is not to be missed, I am told.

If you visit open gardens this summer there is nearly always a plant to see that you are not familiar with, or a design that can inspire you.

Remember to check opening times and dates!

Enjoy your garden – and those elsewhere

**The Arborist**

# Gestingthorpe

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## Support in Gestingthorpe

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Please if you are self isolating, or scared, or lonely or need any help please contact Carrie on 07872 170277 or Helen on 07793 402297 if you live in the Church Street, Sudbury Road and Nether Hill area and Nic 07908445239, Penny 07840 367172 or Kate 07771 535523 for the Audley End, Moat Street and outlying areas. The village is there to help you.

### **Gestingthorpe 'Gathering' Coffee Mornings.**

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Our coffee mornings during July will be held on the Fridays of the 1st, 15th and 29th July. All Friday 'gatherings' start at 10am and run until 12 noon.

We are sure you are all looking forward to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and one of the events will be tea, cakes and savouries in the village hall from 10am until 2 pm on Friday 3rd June. Please come along and enjoy. More details are shown in the separate article about the Platinum Jubilee long weekend.

Our coffee mornings that are held on alternate Fridays are continuing to be enjoyed by all. If the weather is warm and dry we will put a table outside so you can hear the birdsong.

It is great to see so many regulars and some new faces at our 'gatherings' and to hear the buzz and laughter between everyone enjoying a chat with their friends over a hot or cold drink and delicious home baked cakes.

If you haven't yet been to a coffee morning; please come along. We would love to see you and guarantee a warm welcome.

### **Jubilee celebrations**

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June 2nd to the 5th saw several events taking place in Gestingthorpe to honour the Platinum Jubilee of our Queen's 70 years on the throne. Thursday the 2nd saw the lighting of a jubilee beacon made by our Blacksmith Richard Nice, lit by his brother Peter and paid for by subscription by residents of the village. In all, we think there was a turn-out of over 200 villagers to witness the spectacle and hear a specially written dedication by local Farmer and Historian Mr Ashley Cooper.



# More Gestingthorpe

## More Jubilee Celebrations

Friday saw the village hall host an extended Tea Party from 10 am until 2 pm with delicious cakes and savouries as well as teas, coffee and soft drinks such as cream soda and ginger beer - all to the soundtrack of the last 70 years. There was a display of historic photographs in the hall as well as the church supplied by the Gestingthorpe History Group as well as a small batch of unique coasters made from the locally dug Wiggery Wood clay with a stamped dedication.



Peter with the help of Charles I and Charles II took many an interested villager to the top of the church tower to take in the wonderful vistas from a unique viewpoint. The hall was wonderfully decorated with flowers, balloons and union jacks. Saturday the 4th saw a Fun Fit Fab exercise class taking place on the village green where 'Fitness through the decades' saw suitably attired locals attempting fitness routines to hit songs from the previous 7 decades, with refreshment breaks in between it was still a good couple of hours on your feet!



## More Gestingthorpe

### More Jubilee Celebrations

To round things off on Sunday there was The Big Jubilee Lunch that was also on the playing field from 12 pm, there was a BBQ with sausages and burgers and beer, tea and soft drinks for a small voluntary donation. Once again Nic from Fun Fit Fab took charge of the children's and adult's games of egg and spoon, and sack race together with a dressing up race for the adults, much to the hilarity of the onlookers. Prizes of Jubilee



Teddy Bears were given to the younger competitors and there were souvenir Jubilee coins for those children present. The weather held good for us despite a dodgy forecast and we were able to round the days off with a group village photo in front of the pavilion at 3 pm. Many thanks must go to everyone involved behind the scenes who helped to organise, put up bunting, serve drinks, provide BBQs, festoon lights, ring bells, load beacons or donate money - all of which (once costs have been deducted) will be split to help with the shortfall in the additional unforeseen cost of the repairs to your village hall roof and to the Church.

### Gestingthorpe Oates Volunteers

10 years ago during the centenary celebrations of the selfless act that sealed Lawrence Oates in the history books, the 'Oates Volunteer Group' was set up in the village. The idea was that any villager could perform a 'selfless act' for a neighbour or villager who was in need, whether it was a spot of shopping, fixing a leaking gutter or mowing a lawn. Fast-forward 8-years and we were all looking out for each other during the pandemic, but now one of our own needed a bit of help.



A resident in her 94th year had not been able to access her garden for over 2 years owing to health, family bereavement and not having any family close-by - recently quoted in the 1000's for a gardening company to come and tidy up

# More Gestingthorpe

## Gestingthorpe Oates Volunteers

I felt the residents of Gestingthorpe could rise to this challenge. I was looking for anyone able to offer 1, 2 or 3 hours on Saturday (18th June) to help me trim back grass, hedges, trees, bushes and general tidying up (the more volunteers we got, the less time we would need).

Needless to say, the residents of Gestingthorpe stepped up!

Jean would personally like to thank each and every one of you who came out to help with what seemed like a mammoth job to her and one that had been playing on her mind. Sue, Peter, Nic, Steph, Mark, Carrie, Damo, Bella, Theo, Keith, John, Lyn, Mick, Rose, Chris, Peter, Karen, Bill & Claire.

I propose a return visit to do a bit more tidying in 2 weeks (2nd July) if there is anyone available as I know there were others unable to attend who wanted to help, you will all be most welcome.



Thank you to Lindsay and David for the biscuits, Mandy for the squash and Keith for the beer and wine to help toast a job well done - and special thanks to Mark for the use of his tractor and scoop to take away some of the many clippings and branches.



## Pets Corner

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My name is Bridget Jones Purdy, and I am a tricolour basset hound. I live with my companion Bruno. Bruno is a liver and white springer spaniel. We share our home with Muffins the cat, and our human family. We love our family very much and our favourite time of day is the evening time when we can all sit together.

I am particularly fond of sitting on the sofa. It didn't take long for me to make it clear that sitting on the floor was not an option. Bruno is quite content to sit on the floor. Muffins loves to cuddle up with me. She is very soft and warm. Bruno does not like Muffins to sit with him in his basket and if she gets in, he gets out!

Bruno and I enjoy taking our humans out for walks. We let them off occasionally as they are quite obedient and keep an eye on where we are. They feel safe if we are nearby. Sometimes, I do get excited, and I can't resist chasing rabbits and birds.

My all-time favourite animals to chase are squirrels. I love it when they run up a tree and I can stand at the tree and bark. I am particularly proud of my bark as it is very loud. Another feature I am particularly proud of is my eyes. I have one brown eye and one blue eye.

Bruno and I have made several friends in the village where we live (Great Maplestead). When we take our humans out for walks, we love to spend time sniffing our friends. Our humans have learned to be patient and wait with our friends' humans while we do our thing. Bruno and I have worked hard to train our humans. There is no doubt that they love us very much and they appreciate living in our home.



**Bridget Purdy**

# Pebmarsh

## Support in Pebmarsh

Pebmarsh Volunteers continue to be here for you during the pandemic. If you need anything, such as if you're isolating/quarantining and need help to collect prescriptions or with shopping, get in touch with Kate Carling (Phone: 267 924) and she will put you in touch with your village Volunteer.

### St John the Baptist Church, Pebmarsh

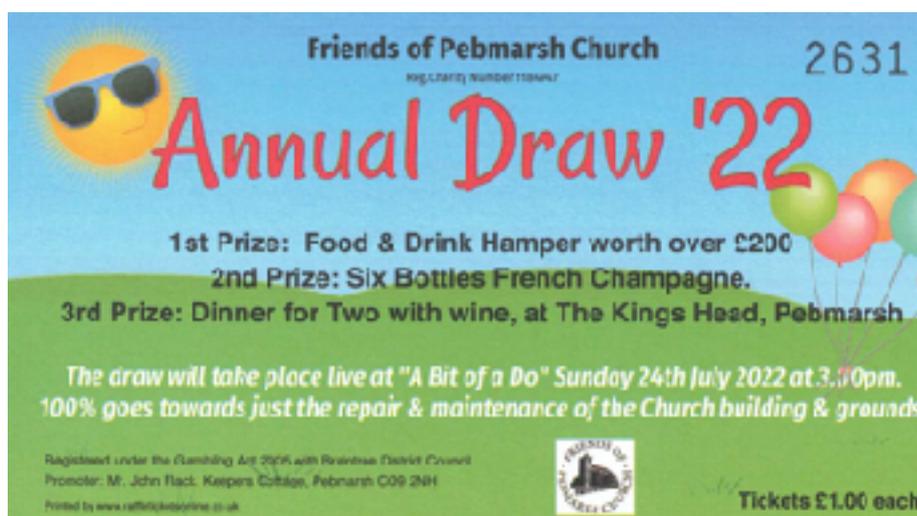
With this month's magazine we are quickly approaching harvest and many fetes and fairs. In Pebmarsh we are looking forward to "A Bit of a Do" on the 23rd and 24th July on the football pitch. We will be joining the Friends of Pebmarsh on a stand so please come and see us.

On Friday the 8th of July, Saturday 9th and Sunday the 10th I will be taking part in the flower festival at St Andrews church Halstead along with many others. I'm sure it will be worth a visit for anyone who enjoys flowers.

Some of you will have noticed that we have unfortunately lost a hand from the church clock. Be assured it is safely stored away and enquires are being made into the cost of repair. We had hoped it would last a bit longer before needing to be put on the priority list for the Friends of Pebmarsh. We will keep you updated to the fund-raising efforts being made for this and the church wall.

The friends have managed to get grants for the wall repair, but we are currently £6500 short of the figure required and in addition to this we will now need to raise enough for the clock repair. Let's hope it is not too long before we have it up and running again telling and chiming the right time.

Sarah Burgess Church Warden



Feeling lucky ? Please call 269182

Or email [team@friendsofpebmarshchurch.uk](mailto:team@friendsofpebmarshchurch.uk)

for your tickets

## More Pebmarsh

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### The King's Head Pebmarsh - Summer Festival

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Weekend of 22-24 July 2022

The Pebmarsh Community Pub Management Committee and our tenants Ryan, Abigail and Kathy are planning the return of our annual summer festival at the King's Head, over the weekend of 22-24 July.

Entry is free and there's something for everyone, with live music, garden inflatables for children, art and craft stalls, Open Mic and much more.

Invitation to stallholders

Anyone from the local community who is interested in running their own stall with art or craft items, on the Sunday, from 12-4pm, should contact [pcpshareholder@gmail.com](mailto:pcpshareholder@gmail.com) to reserve a space. There is no charge for this. Please let us know by 8 July.

The weekend schedule is outlined below. The event runs on the same weekend as the return of the popular annual "Bit of a Do" to the Pebmarsh football ground – so why not take in both? We hope to see you there!

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#### Friday 22 July

Food service as normal 12-9pm,  
Colchester Morris Dancers 8pm

#### Saturday 23 July

BBQ 12-3pm  
Garden Inflatables 12-5pm  
Open Mic 4-6pm  
BBQ 5.30-8pm

Music with "The Jjarrs" from 7pm

#### Sunday 24 July

Music with "Blueprint" from 2-4pm  
Sunday lunch service as normal  
12-6.30pm (booking advised)  
BBQ 12-5pm  
Art and craft stalls 12-4pm  
Garden inflatable

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Interested in Open Mic? We welcome drop-in performances, but if you would like to reserve a space, please contact [pcpshareholder@gmail.com](mailto:pcpshareholder@gmail.com)

For latest pub event updates and current lunch and dinner menus see [www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk](http://www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk) Facebook [@kingsheadpebmarsh](https://www.facebook.com/kingsheadpebmarsh) or Instagram [@kingshead\\_pebmarsh](https://www.instagram.com/kingshead_pebmarsh). To find out more about Pebmarsh Community Pub Limited see our website [www.pcp.pebmarsh.com](http://www.pcp.pebmarsh.com)

### Pebmarsh Ladies' Club and Tuesday Card Making Club

---

Pebmarsh Ladies Club will be having their yearly **cream tea** on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2022. If you would like to join us, please let Pauline know on 01787 228790

There will be no ladies club during August.

The Tuesday Card Making club has been suspended until further notice.

Your continued support for these activities would be most welcome.

Pauline Andow

## Coconut Slice

---

This recipe was always made by my baby-sitter for my birthday. I now continue the tradition by making it for my son's and his cousins' birthdays. So next time you're having a party, why not try it!

4oz (110g) plain chocolate	2oz (55g) glace cherries – chopped
2oz (55g) margarine	7in (18cm) square shallow tin – lined
4oz (110g) desiccated coconut	
4oz (110g) sugar	
1 egg – beaten	

Method:

Preheat the oven to 320°F/180°C

Melt the chocolate and pour it into the lined tin; allow to set

In a saucepan, melt the margarine then stir in the sugar, coconut and chopped cherries. Then add the beaten egg and mix well.

Spread the mixture over the chocolate and bake for 20mins until golden brown.

## Hedgerow Jelly

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*A mixed harvest of autumn hedgerow fruits in this tangy jelly that can be preserved and enjoyed.*

1lb (450g) blackberries  
1lb (450g) elderberries  
1lb (450g) crab apples  
8oz (225g) sloes  
Water  
Granulated sugar



Prepare the fruit by washing it all and cutting up the crab apples roughly. An easy way to remove the elderberries from the stems is to pull them through the prongs of a fork.

Place the fruit into a thick-based pan and just cover with water. Simmer slowly until all the fruit is very mushy. Strain through a jelly bag – do not squeeze the bag or the jelly will be cloudy – and then leave overnight.

Measure the juice and place in a clean, thick-based pan. Add 1lb (450g) of granulated sugar for each pint of juice extract. Stir over a gentle heat until all the sugar has dissolved and then boil rapidly until the setting point is reached (220°F/120°C on a sugar thermometer or test for setting on a cold plate, when the jelly wrinkles).

Pour into clean, warm jam jars and cover and seal in the usual way.

**Philippa Mills – School Cook, de Vere Primary School, Castle Hedingham**

## Local information

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**Solar Society** will make every effort to restart their meetings when it is appropriate.

Programme to be announced.

In the meantime , take care everybody.

Further info from Miles Scrivens 01787-469766 or Wanda Sellar 01787 463449.

**Local Women's Running Group:** laurabloom@btinternet.com or on 07801 749802

**Local Libraries:** Halstead and Sible Hedingham Libraries, libraries.essex.gov.uk.

**Four Parishes Book Group:** Alison Cantor. 01787 462537 or acantor@linus.plus.com

**Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group:** Ruth Worsley on *ruth-SACSG@outlook.com*

**The U3A Halstead:** [u3asites.org.uk/halstead/welcome](http://u3asites.org.uk/halstead/welcome)

**The U3A Sudbury:** [u3asites.org.uk/sudbury/home](http://u3asites.org.uk/sudbury/home)

**U3A Braintree:** [u3asites.org.uk/braintree/events](http://u3asites.org.uk/braintree/events)

**Halstead & District Photographic Society:** [www.halsteadphoto.org.uk](http://www.halsteadphoto.org.uk)

**Gestingthorpe History Society:** [www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk](http://www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk)

**Community Agents;** Community-based support for an ageing population: [www.communityagentsessex.org.uk](http://www.communityagentsessex.org.uk).

**The Empire Theatre Halstead:** [www.empire-theatre.co.uk](http://www.empire-theatre.co.uk)

Halstead and District Local History Society: [www.halsteadhistory.org.uk](http://www.halsteadhistory.org.uk).

**The Hedingham Singers:** Bob Lilley on 07790 573435 or [www.thehedinghamsingers.com/](http://www.thehedinghamsingers.com/).

**Sudbury Newstalk:** [www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk](http://www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk) or 01787 468535.

### Hedingham Medical Centre

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The Castle Hedingham surgery is triaging all patients so please phone 01787 461465. Do not go to the surgery. The surgery is open from 11.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 18.00 Monday to Friday to collect pre-ordered prescriptions. Their website is [www.hedmed.co.uk](http://www.hedmed.co.uk).

## Local and National Authority Representatives

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### Essex County Council

Councillor Peter Schwier - [cllr.peter.schwier@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.peter.schwier@essex.gov.uk)

### Braintree District Council

#### Great and Little Maplestead

Councillor Peter Schwier - [cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk)

#### Gestingthorpe

Councillor Wendy Scattergood - [cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk)

#### Pebmarsh

Councillor George Courtauld - [cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk)

Councillor Gabrielle Spray - [cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk)

### Westminster

James Cleverly MP - [james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk)

## Parish Council Websites

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Gestingthorpe	<a href="http://www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk">www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk</a>
Great Maplestead	<a href="http://www.greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk">www.greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk</a>
Little Maplestead	<a href="http://www.littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk">www.littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk</a>
Pebmarsh	<a href="http://www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com">www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com</a>

## Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

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VETS provide support when a defibrillator is required although the first action must be a 999 call. The telephone numbers of the village VETS are:

**Little Maplestead 01787 852252**

**Gestingthorpe 01787 852850**

## Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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Gestingthorpe	Helen Skerratt	01787 237297
Great Maplestead	Ian Johnson	01787 461109
Little Maplestead	Bill Piper	01787 473933

## The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

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Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	<a href="mailto:gillpeskett43@gmail.com">gillpeskett43@gmail.com</a>
	Jill Newton	01787 463893	<a href="mailto:gilliannewton4@gmail.com">gilliannewton4@gmail.com</a>
Little Maplestead			
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	<a href="mailto:peter.427nice@btinternet.com">peter.427nice@btinternet.com</a>
Pebmarsh	Jim Crayston	07957870340	<a href="mailto:jim@craystonfarms.co.uk">jim@craystonfarms.co.uk</a>
	Sarah Burgess	01787 269092	<a href="mailto:sarahburgess@btinternet.com">sarahburgess@btinternet.com</a>

## Church Services in May 2022

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Sunday 3 July	9:30am Holy Communion 9.30 Morning Prayer 11am Holy Communion	Great Maplestead Gestingthorpe Little Maplestead
Sunday 10 July	9.30 Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion 10.30 Café Church	Pebmarsh Gestingthorpe Great Maplestead
Sunday 17 July	10:00 Holy Communion	(Benefice Service) Gestingthorpe
Wednesday 20 July	10:00 Holy Communion (BCP)	Gestingthorpe
Sunday 24 July	9:30 Holy Communion 11am Morning Worship 9:30 Morning Prayer 4pm Compline	Great Maplestead Pebmarsh Little Maplestead Gestingthorpe
Sunday 31 July	10:30 Halstead Team Service	St Andrew's, Halstead.

All are welcome to our services. Our churches are open for private prayer during the day, if you need any information please contact the churchwarden.



### February 2022 Shopping List

<b><u>Urgent:</u></b>
<b><u>Food Items:</u></b>
Instant Mash
Coffee
Squash (Small)
<b><u>Non-Food Items:</u></b>
Laundry Detergent (Liquid or Pods)
Nappies Size 5 and 6
<b><u>To Maintain Stocks:</u></b>
Chocolate Bars
Jam
Cold Meat
Juice
Tea Bags (No Larger Than 80)
Tinned Spaghetti
Packet Soup
Instant Noodles

## Coming up and save the date

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For Hedingham Heritage Society see the June issue of Parish News  
1, 15 and 29 July Gestingthorpe Gatherings  
7 July Maple Leaves Boules  
8 July and following Fridays Great Maplestead Summer Boules Evening  
22, 23 and 24 July Kings Head Summer Festival  
4 August Maple Leaves 'in-house' Auction  
10 September the Maplestead's Autumn Show  
17 September Great Maplestead Jumble Sale

The copy deadline for the September magazine is **Friday 19 August 2022**

We need to know who, what, where and when .....

Submit your copy early to guarantee inclusion. Email me or our village reps.

### Copy

Editor	Jenny Bishop	07906 083999	pmeditor@icloud.com
Gestingthorpe	Andy Craig	07970 395640	andy@mdamarketing.com
Gt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	ann66harris@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Beverley Bratley	01787 473281	beverley.bratley@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Luke Brown	07919 375341	lhwbrown@hotmail.co.uk

Parish News is printed by **Paul Clark Printing Ltd**

Suite 6 . Enterprise House . Rippers Court . Sible Hedingham  
Halstead . Essex . CO9 3PY 01787 469628 [sales@paulclarkprint.co.uk](mailto:sales@paulclarkprint.co.uk)

This magazine is now available electronically on the parish council web sites  
and the Parish News website

## Parish News Website

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The Parish News website is a gateway to our four villages and their churches. The website address is:

[www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk](http://www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk)

