

## Services for March 2019

	Gestingthorpe	Great Maplestead	Little Maplestead	Pebmarsh
Sunday 3 March	8.15am Holy Communion			
Sunday 10 March	4pm Compline	9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 17 March	11am Morning Prayer (Bcp)	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	
Sunday 24 March	8.15am Holy Communion	11am Family Service	10am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 31 March			10am Mothering Sunday Service	
Sunday 7 April	9.30am Holy Communion	6.30pm Evening Prayer	11am Holy Communion	

### Dates for your diary

Thursday 21st March 7.30pm Gestingthorpe PCC Meeting.

Monday 25th March Pebmarsh PCC Meeting.

Wednesday 27th March 7.30pm Gt. Maplestead PCC Meeting

Thursday 28th March 7.30pm Lt. Maplestead PCC Meeting.

### Parish Council Websites

Gestingthorpe      <https://www.essexinfo.net/gestingthorpe/>

Great Maplestead      <http://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>

Little Maplestead      <http://littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk>

Pebmarsh      <http://parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com>

### Church website

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

This magazine is available electronically on these web sites

**Parish  
News**

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

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**Church and Community together  
March 2019**

**Free**

## Village contacts and information

Neighbourhood watch representatives, see page 26,

Reverend Gay Ellis and the churchwardens see page 25.

Magazine copy and deliveries see page 27

### Parish Clerks

Gt Maplestead	Ann Crisp	01787 460216	anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Lt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	littlemaplesteadparishclerk@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	Frances Wells	01787 379606	gestingthorpepc@gmail.com
Pebmarsh	Philippa Potter	07790 598363	pebmarshpc@hotmail.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
	Susan Rawlinson	01255 815205	

### 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	leslie@crumpton-taylor.entadsl.com
Pebmarsh	Michael Sharp	07725 909986	michael@broomhills-farm.co.uk

### All villages

Book Club	Alison Cantor	01787 462537	acantor@linus.plus.com
Knitting group	Carol Brownlie	01787 461527	carolbrownlie@gmail.com
Handbell Ringing	Wendy Jones	01787 469049	wendy.jones14@btopenworld.com
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>

## February dates for your diary

3 March	5pm	Open Mic Night. King's Head	Pebmarsh
4 March	2.30pm	Solar Society	Castle Hedingham
6 March	7pm	Bowls Club	Pebmarsh
7 March	8pm	Quiz Night. King's Head	Pebmarsh
7 March	7pm	Maplestead WI	Great Maplestead
8 March	10am	Coffee with cops	Halstead
8 March	11am	Repair Cafe	Halstead
9 March	3pm	Jumble Sale	Great Maplestead
12 March	1pm	Ladies Club	Pebmarsh
15 March	7.30pm	Pub night	Great Maplestead
16 March	12pm	Charity Lent Lunch	Great Maplestead
21 March	1pm	Card Making Club	Pebmarsh

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 01787 469628 [sales@paulclarkprint.co.uk](mailto:sales@paulclarkprint.co.uk)

The copy deadline for the March magazine is **Friday 22 March 2019**

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	01787 472159	<a href="mailto:pmeditor@icloud.com">pmeditor@icloud.com</a>
Gestingthorpe	Andy Craig	01787 469687	<a href="mailto:andy@mdamarketing.com">andy@mdamarketing.com</a>
Gt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	<a href="mailto:ann66harris@gmail.com">ann66harris@gmail.com</a>
Little Maplestead	Beverley Bratley	01787 473281	<a href="mailto:beverley.bratley@gmail.com">beverley.bratley@gmail.com</a>
Pebmarsh	Jan Bond	01787269082	<a href="mailto:thebonds.copperfield@btinternet.com">thebonds.copperfield@btinternet.com</a>

## Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

### Hire of Great Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe Village Halls

Each of our village halls is available for hire for all types of functions. In Pebmarsh, tables and chairs can also be hired. Little Maplestead residents can hire Great Maplestead village hall at same rate as Great Maplestead residents. Please contact the relevant booking secretary

Great Maplestead	Liz Newton	01787 461308
Pebmarsh	Christine Nott	01787 269231
Gestingthorpe	Sharon Flannery	07873 238095

### The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett Jill Newton	01787 462786 01787 463893	<a href="mailto:gillpeskett43@gmail.com">gillpeskett43@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:gilliannewton4@gmail.com">gilliannewton4@gmail.com</a>
Little Maplestead	Jane Piper Karen Sunnucks	01787 473933 01787 472145	<a href="mailto:jane-piper@hotmail.co.uk">jane-piper@hotmail.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:karen.sunnucks@btinternet.com">karen.sunnucks@btinternet.com</a>
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda Peter Nice	01787 469688 01787 460126	- <a href="mailto:peter.427nice@btinternet.com">peter.427nice@btinternet.com</a>
Pebmarsh	Belynda Fellows	01787 269986	<a href="mailto:belynda1@btinternet.com">belynda1@btinternet.com</a>

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### Would you like a lift to church?

If you would like to attend any of the church services in the Benefice but have no transport please feel free to approach one of the churchwardens who will be happy to arrange it for you. Service times are shown on the back cover and Churchwardens are shown above.

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### The Reverend Gay Ellis

Email  
Phone  
Mobile  
Website  
Twitter  
Facebook

The Rectory, Church Street  
Great Maplestead CO9 2RG  
[gayellis@aol.com](mailto:gayellis@aol.com)  
01787 460273  
07749 838769  
[www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk](http://www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk)  
@knightsparishes  
Knights Hospitallers Parishes  
Little Maplestead Church  
Gestingthorpe Church  
Pebmarsh Church

## Letter from the editor

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Welcome to the March issue.

The wonderful photo of our countryside, on the cover, was taken by Valerie Gibbons, a stalwart supporter of the community wood, Mollies Wood.

I have a steering committee (Gay Ellis, Steve Harris, Jane Stone, Ashley Cooper and Jan Bond ) who meet twice a year, which is really helpful to me.

Two ideas have come up.

One is to offer colour advertisements to our advertisers, this would pay for a colour cover. I shall be emailing our advertisers with this offer.

The other is flyers. The residents of Little Maplestead have a flyer in this issue regarding the PCC proposal for the church rooms and next month we will be inserting a laminated card giving the VETS information, again for the residents of Little Maplestead. The cost per village is in the order of £10-£15 for a single sided, black and white A5 flyer.

Hopefully this could be of use to any of our volunteer or church groups?



Jenny

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### Braintree Area Food Bank

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#### Urgent Items

- Cold tinned meats
- Warm up tinned meats
- Tea (packs of 80)
- Coffee (small jars)

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#### Food that we are short of

- Long life milk
- Pasta sauce
- Chocolate bars (Kitkats or Penguins)
- Fruit juice (1litre)
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned sponge puddings
- Sugar
- Coffee (small jars)
- Instant mash
- Breakfast cereal
- Packet soups, ie Cuppa soup
- Tinned rice pudding
- Rice
- Jam

Donations can be made via the libraries in Braintree, Witham, and Halstead.

On behalf of all our visitors we thank you for your generosity.

T: 01376330694

E: [info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk)

W: [www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food](http://www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food)

## Letter from the Rectory

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This year the church season of Lent starts on 6 March, with Ash Wednesday, Lent is a time when we prepare ourselves for Easter and this year we shall be holding a series of short services, one evening a week during Lent when we shall be focusing on the person of Christ and looking at what those few days and weeks before the first Easter were really like.

The services will be at Gestingthorpe mainly on Wednesdays and will last for approximately 30 minutes. Each of the services will be simple and will follow a theme for that week and will contain prayer, silence, a reading and a possible hymn. The service will be designed to give us space to be with God and a good way to finish a busy day. Each service will be open to everyone and please do feel welcome and invited to come to one or to come to all of them. The dates and time are as follows:.

Gestingthorpe Church

Wednesday 13th March 7.30pm

Wednesday 20th March 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th March 7.30pm

Wednesday 3rd April 7.30pm

Wednesday 10th April 7.30pm

If you prefer a more structured Lent Course. You will be very welcome to attend any of the courses being run in the team and the details are as follows:

Earls Colne and Colne Engaine are using A York Course called, 'Daring to see God Now'. The course is being held on Wednesday mornings at 10am or Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. If you would like to attend either please contact the following people for venue details. Morning course: Ann Norris on 222015 and Evening course, Sally on 220250

Gay & Nick Ellis.

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## Mothering Sunday.

This year our Mothering Sunday Service will be held in Lt Maplestead Church at 10am on the 31st March. This delightful simple service will be children friendly and there will be small posies for the Mums. Please do come, we would be delighted to see you, and we have not had the Mothering Sunday Service in Lt. Maplestead church for some years.



## Fancy a cup of coffee and a chat?

Come to the Tower Room in

St Giles Church, Great Maplestead

Open every Wednesday Morning 10.30am to 12noon

No charge, this is a social get together, not a fund raiser

Everyone is welcome - for more details please ring

Dorothy on 01787 829963 or Gill on 01787 462786



## Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

All our four villages now have defibrillators, and Little Maplestead, Gestingthorpe and Pebmarsh have a Village Emergency Telephone Service. The purpose of VETS is to 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**

**Pebmarsh 01787 852300**



## Registers

Baptism Great Maplestead 20 January 2019 Roxanne Hook.

## Coffee with cops



Friday March 8, 2019 - 10am to 11am

Coffee Kavern, 26, Bridge Street, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1HT

## Local Authorities

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### **Essex County Council**

Councillor David Finch - [cldr.david.finch@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.david.finch@essex.gov.uk)

### **Braintree District Council**

#### **Great and Little Maplestead**

Councillor John O'Reilly Cicconi - [cldr.jo'reilly-cicconi@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.jo'reilly-cicconi@braintree.gov.uk)

#### **Gestingthorpe**

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

#### **Pebmarsh**

Councillor Chris Siddall - [cldr.csiddall@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.csiddall@braintree.gov.uk)

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

### **Westminster**

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

### **European**

John Flack MEP - [john.flack@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:john.flack@europarl.europa.eu)

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## Parish Council Elections – May 2019

Our respective Parish Councils are nearly at the end of their 4-year terms of office, when they are due to be dissolved and new Councils elected.

The elections are due to be held on Thursday 2nd May, when all seats have to be offered for election – the existing Councillors then remain in post until the 6th May, when they officially retire and the new Council comes into office.

Nomination Packs, containing all the necessary information for prospective candidates, are available now to download from Braintree District Council's website ([www.braintree.gov.uk/elections](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/elections)).

The '*Nomination*', '*Address*' and '*Consent to Nomination*' forms in the pack must be completed by candidates and hand-delivered\* to the Returning Officer at Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree CM7 9HB.

Delivery of the forms must take place between 9.30am and 4.00pm on any working day from Wednesday 27th March until the close of nominations at 4.00pm on Wednesday 3rd April.

This deadline cannot be extended – for any reason.

\*Note: Electronic submissions or Royal Mail post are not permitted delivery methods.

If our Parish Councils are to continue to evolve to help the communities they serve they need a regular influx of new people with enthusiasm and good ideas. If you'd like to help make a difference, why not consider standing for election to become a Parish Councillor?

## Local Information

### The F315 Local Bus Service

All buses serve Halstead, Little Maplestead, Wickham St Paul, Gestingthorpe, Bulmer, Sudbury. For these villages the bus is hail and ride, except for the last journey each way, which has to be booked. The route can be extended to Great Maplestead and or Pebmarsh by booking.

Book giving two working hours' notice, on 01621 874411

The timetable gives earliest arrival times. Extensions to the route mean that later in the journey the bus may be several minutes later than the times shown. Adult Flat fare – single £2.50, return £4.

Download the timetable in colour from <http://www.essexinfo.net/gestingthorpe>

Beware of online bus apps. Most are based on ECC timetable. If you miss the note saying the bus might be 10 minutes earlier than shown, you could miss the bus.

#### F 315 Halstead - Sudbury flexible bus service Winter 2018/9 Earliest departure time

A call at Great Maplestead adds 6 or 7 minutes. A call all at Pebmarsh adds about 12 minutes. Easy access.

Mondays to Saturdays							F315	
Halstead, High Street	07:30	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	18:30		
Little Maplestead, Pump	07:34	10:04	12:04	14:04	16:34	18:34	<b>Timings in BLUE are fixed timing points</b>	
Great Maplestead, School	07:38	10:08	12:08	14:08	16:38	18:38		+7 min
Little Maplestead, Cock Road	07:41	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:41	18:41	<b>All highlighted timings MUST be pre-booked</b>	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	07:50	10:20	12:20	14:20	16:50	18:50		
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter	07:51	10:21	12:21	14:21	16:51	18:51		+12 min
Wickham St Paul, The Victory	07:45	10:15	12:15	14:15	16:45	18:45	the earliest times dependent on the number of passengers booked onto the service	
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	07:49	10:19	12:19	14:19	16:49	18:49		
Bulmer, Cross Roads	07:55	10:25	12:25	14:25	16:55	18:55		
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	07:59	10:29	12:29	14:29	16:59	18:44		
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores	08:03	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:03	18:48		
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:07	10:37	12:37	14:37	17:07	18:50	earliest arrival time	
Sudbury, Bus Station	08:26	10:56	12:56	14:56	17:26	19:07	latest arrival time	

#### SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL'S - PEBMARSH - GREAT MAPLESTEAD - LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - HAL

Mondays to Saturdays							F315	
Sudbury, Bus Station		09:00	11:00	13:00	15:30	17:30	19:15	
Ballingdon, opp Strawberry Stores		09:03	11:03	13:03	15:33	17:33	19:18	<b>Timings in BLUE are fixed timing points</b>
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22	
Bulmer, Cross Roads		09:11	11:11	13:11	15:41	17:41	19:26	<b>All highlighted timings MUST be pre-booked</b>
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		09:17	11:17	13:17	15:47	17:47	19:32	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		09:23	11:23	13:23	15:53	17:53	19:38	
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter		09:30	11:30	13:30	16:00	18:00	19:45	the earliest times dependent on the number of passengers booked onto the service
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	+12 min	09:31	11:31	13:31	16:01	18:01	19:46	
Little Maplestead, Cock Road		09:25	11:25	13:25	15:55	17:55	19:37	
Great Maplestead, School	+7min	09:28	11:28	13:28	15:58	17:58	19:43	
Little Maplestead, Pump		09:32	11:32	13:32	16:02	18:02	19:30	
Halstead, High Street		09:37	11:37	13:37	16:07	18:07	19:35	earliest arrival time
Halstead, High Street		09:56	11:56	13:56	16:26	18:26	19:52	latest arrival time

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## More Local Information

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### **Solar Society - Your local adult daytime learning group.**

On Monday 4 March Simon Frampton will give an illustrated talk on 'Julie Christie, her life and films.'

Then on Monday 1 April Doug Newlyn returns to give a talk called, 'Australia Bound: The story of why Britain sent convicts to Australia.'

Both talks will be in The Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Castle Hedingham and start at 2.30pm.

There will be free light refreshments provided. Talks finish about 4.15pm.

Entrance : £4.00. No membership fee required. All welcome.

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### **Local Libraries**

Halstead library is open 9-5pm Monday, 9-6pm Tuesday, closed Wednesday, 9-6pm Thursday and 9-5pm Friday and Saturday. Sible Hedingham Library is open 9-1pm Monday, 1-5pm Tuesday, closed Wednesday, 1-5pm Thursday, closed Friday and 9-1pm Saturday. Further information is available on <http://libraries.essex.gov.uk>.

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### **Four Parishes Book Group**

We have room for new members so why not join us to enjoy reading a wide range of books and then discussing them with a friendly light-hearted group. We meet monthly on Thursday evening at members' homes and have wine, tea or coffee.

Recent books read include "Days without End" by Sebastian Barry, "Truly, Madly, Guilty" by Lianne Moriarty, "Washington Square" by Henry James and "The Dry" by Jane Harper. Books are chosen by suggestion or recommendation from members. All books are borrowed from the library so there is no cost to members.

For more information, contact Alison Cantor on 01787 462537 or 07713509445 or by email at [acantor@linus.plus.com](mailto:acantor@linus.plus.com)

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### **Ecclesiastical Insurance**

Ecclesiastical Insurance will make a donation of £130 to our churches for every new home insurance policy taken out. To take advantage of this offer call 0800 783 0130 or visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130).

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### **Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group**

4th Thursday, 7-9pm, The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, CO10 2EU. 2nd Friday, Cafe Club, 12-2pm, The Loft, 3 Gaol Lane, Sudbury CO10 1JL.

For more information, contact Ruth Worsley on [ruth-SACSG@outlook.com](mailto:ruth-SACSG@outlook.com)

## **Looking Forward with our churches**

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This year we shall not have an Ash Wednesday Service in our own parishes but there is an Ash Wednesday evening service at 7.30pm in Gosfield to which we are invited. Church Annual Meetings are coming in April and we would encourage as many of you as possible to attend as the church is there for the entire parish. The Annual report for each church will be posted in the church porch prior to each meeting.

Gestingthorpe – 15th April before Compline Service

Great Maplestead – 18nd April before the Maundy Service

Little Maplestead – 16th April before Compline Service

Pebmarsh – 17th April before Compline Service

Towards the end of Lent we will have our Palm Sunday Walk 14th April. As with last year the walk will be between the two Maplestead churches. Looking ahead to the Spring as it will not be long now, we are hoping to have a Bluebell Service in Wiggly Wood on Ashley Coopers farm on Sunday April 24thth.

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### **Electoral Roll.**

The Church of England requires all churches to maintain a list of those entitled to vote and Annual Church meetings and stand for election to various positions. Every six years a completely new Roll has to be prepared. Therefore if you wish to be on the roll for your parish church you need to complete a form. Forms can be found in all churches and need to be returned by mid-march

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### **The Colne Valley Railway**

The Colne Valley Railway is preparing for the 2019 season which begins on the 23rd March and much has changed. The new entrance is taking shape on the recently acquired field to the South of the original site, the new reception building and car park can be clearly seen as you drive along the road between Castle Hedingham and Great Yeldham. The new entrance road will be joined to the main road very shortly, work on the junction is due to start on 25th February and be completed within a couple of weeks, the boundary screening planting will begin a few days later.

On site a new extension to the exhibition centre has been built, called the Brewster Centre, and it will house a new interactive display that will tell the social and economic story of the development of railways in this area, particularly the Colne Valley and Halstead Railway. The new Reception building will contain the level entrance to the site as well as a new and enlarged shop and toilets, to the rear of the building is the new station for the miniature railway, in addition Steam and Diesel train rides will be running as normal and in addition the model railway shed and garden railway will be open.

## Car Thieves

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Before you turn in for the night check that all doors and easily accessible windows are closed and locked. PVCu doors – don't forget that the door is not fully locked until you have lifted the inside handle, turned the key or thumb-turn, and remember to remove the key and place out of sight but readily available in case of fire. When replacing a Europrofile lock cylinder ensure that you get a TS007 three star anti-snap, anti-bump lock cylinder. If you have an intruder alarm activate the downstairs zone when you go to bed. As a cost effective measure providing a very limited alert there are battery operated PIR sensor alarms that can be sited within the home available from companies such as: [www.redlinesecurity.co.uk](http://www.redlinesecurity.co.uk) and [www.personalarms.com](http://www.personalarms.com).

To stop the burglar getting easy access to vulnerable windows and doors towards the rear or side of a property make sure that the boundaries are secure and that side and rear gates are closed and locked.

Ensure that you put your car keys somewhere safe and out of sight, when you return home. Put your car keys in a drawer (preferably one that is noisy to open) or some other secure place, but to avoid any confrontation don't take the car keys to the bedroom with you.

With some car thefts involving key less entry systems thieves will use an amplifiers to boost the signal from the keys within the house even through brick walls to reach the car; this can be prevented by use of a "Faraday bag" such as [www.redlinesecurity.co.uk/defender-signal-blocker-with-rpf-police-preferred-specification-vehicle-fob-phone-protection-pouch/](http://www.redlinesecurity.co.uk/defender-signal-blocker-with-rpf-police-preferred-specification-vehicle-fob-phone-protection-pouch/) .

Use of steering wheel, handbrake and pedal locks are a good visual deterrent to car thieves. Ensure that the product has third party accreditation, such as those on the [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) website.

If you have cars of different values, park the higher value car in your garage. If you are unable to do this, consider parking the lower value car in front of the higher value car, as the thieves are more likely to target high value motor vehicles and will be deterred if they cannot easily drive such a car away from the property with ease.

With high value cars consider the fitting of a tracking system. A word of caution, you get what you pay for, so look for a system that uses RF frequency, 3 or 4G phone networks SIM as well as satellite connection GPS. There are even systems where you can "Geo-fence" the vehicle location so that if it moves beyond this the tracking system is activated.

For further information around Thatcham rated security products please see [www.thatchamfitters.co.uk](http://www.thatchamfitters.co.uk) .

For further advice see: [www.essex.police.uk/advice/vehicle-security/](http://www.essex.police.uk/advice/vehicle-security/)



## **Pebmarsh**

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### **Thank you to The Pebmarsh Litter Pickers**

A great big thumbs up and thank you to all our steadfast Pebmarsh litter picking community who braved the winter weather recently to help keep our lovely village looking as beautiful as ever. And many thanks to Jonathan for rounding up the sacks in his Gator and depositing them at the village hall for Braintree DC to collect.

This was our first litter pick for a couple of years and your help and love of our village is greatly appreciated.

We scoured the hedgerows with our hooped sacks and litter pickers all around the perimeter of the village and out to the main Halstead to Sudbury road, as well as venturing out to Hannah Monk Hill on the road to Countess Cross, where, judging by the 2 sacks of "tinnies" and takeaway wrappers collected, somebody had been having a party - but no sightings of the legendary ghost were reported.

We collected approximately 35 bags of rubbish of all sorts, tyres, car bumpers, mucky DVD's etc, that people had thrown into the verges and ditches. The litterer's beverages of choice are currently Carling and Costa Coffee, with MacDonalds and Sausage Rolls on the side.

So thanks once again to all the ladies and gents, boys and girls who helped out this time around.

### **Open Farm Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

This is a National event aimed at bringing a greater understanding between town & country. As the farming industry's annual open day, it offers a fantastic chance to discover real farming at first hand and see how our food is produced.

This year we will be opening Hunts Hall for the event to raise money for the Church. Details have yet to be finalised but there will be farm rides, a lot of equipment will be on display and the family will be there to explain what it all does & answer any questions. Please hold the date as we would love to welcome you all to Hunts Hall.

Jim, Eileen & Stephen Crayston

### **The Courtyard**

No doubt most people in Pebmarsh have noticed the welcome addition of Courtyard Stores to our village. For those who haven't this is our new local grocery store located alongside Headquarters Hair Design at Le Mote Farm, Cross End. The grocery store is open daily, please see the advert for details of opening times.

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## More Pebmarsh

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### Ladies Club

Ladies Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 1pm until 3pm through the year. The March meeting will be a talk by Susan Tibbett from Sudbury Museum entitled "An ordinary family".

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### Card Making Club

Card Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 1pm, booking is essential with Pauline on 01787 228790. All tools and materials provided.

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### Bowls Club

The Bowls Club meets monthly in the Village Hall; our next meetings will be March 6th at 7pm followed by a meeting on 3rd April.

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## News from St John the Baptist Primary School, Young Voices

On Wednesday 30th January (for the fourth year running) our pupils represented the school at the O2 Arena. It was a very long, but special day being able to participate in one of the world's largest choirs – Young Voices. Our 16 pupils joined another 8,132 pupils from different schools around the country and schools from Luxemburg and China. The sheer size, and the fact that the biggest artists in the World have performed there, made it a sensational place to be. One of the highlights of the whole process was to see the pride that our children have in their own performance, and this was further amplified when their parents were able to share the experience as part of the audience. When the lights went down and all that could be seen were twinkly lights, the whole arena became magical!



After a delicious lunch in 'Frankie and Benny's', the rehearsals started. We practised parts of the songs and the new dance moves with 'Urban Strides'. We also had to practise with BEAU DERMOTT, SHARLENE HECTOR and TONY HADLEY. After a short tea break, we began to see our parents arrive in the audience—our banner was in full view and we waved our school hats furiously to let them know where we were!

### Village Litter Pick

Years 5 and 6 supported the Village Litter Pick by collecting litter around the school environment and along the public footpaths surrounding the school building. The children wore high visibility jackets and disposable gloves. We have our own set of Litter Picker tools which came in extremely handy! Four bags of litter were collected!

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# Little Maplestead

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## Spring Craft and Plant Fair

Make a note in your diaries to come along to our Spring Craft Fair and Plant Sale at the Round Church on Saturday 18 May. There will be summer bedding and vegetable plants for sale together with a varied selection of stalls offering a wide range of local crafts, gifts and produce; Tiger lily bags, DJ Metal work, cards by Flamingo Paperie and Vintage Clothing. There will be refreshments on offer and a raffle. Further details to follow next month

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## Parish Room Update

Members of the PCC met with Historic England on the 1 February. On their recommendation, the number of windows on the south elevation and on the east elevation have been reduced. In addition, the timber frame will sit on a brick plinth to extend its longevity and also to make it more barn like in appearance. A revised set of drawings are on display in the church.

We are still canvassing the residents of our village and although we haven't called on everyone, the overwhelming majority of people are in support. If you haven't been contacted, a member of the PCC will hopefully call on you in the near future. However, you can also register your support or opposition by sending an email to [roundchurchroom@btinternet.com](mailto:roundchurchroom@btinternet.com).

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## Easter Lilies

If you would like to make a contribution to the Easter Lilies for the Round Church, please contact Cynthia Cook on 01787-461482.

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## Defibrillator and VETS

Watch this space in the next magazine. We are preparing a laminated card which will give you all the information you need to access the defibrillator and the explain how the VETS (Village Emergency Telephone Service) works in Little Maplestead. It will be small enough to go in a wallet or handbag and will be inserted into next month's magazine. If you have any ideas about how you would like the VETS service to help the residents please let us know.

## Local Women's Running Group

We now have a small group of women who meet most Sunday mornings at 9am at the Little India Car park in Little Maplestead, to run between 4 and 5km. It's a manageable pace so do come along even if you haven't run in a while. Please contact [laurabloom@btinternet.com](mailto:laurabloom@btinternet.com) or call/text Laura on 0780 174 9802 if you would like to come along and give it a try or have any questions.

# Great Maplestead Jumble Sale

**JUMBLE SALE!**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00pm**

*Great Maplestead Village Hall*

**Admission 30p Raffle & Refreshments**

Clothing & fabrics urgently needed; small pieces of furniture (e.g. tables/chairs) very welcome [but **no** beds, wardrobes or settees please]

**Contributions gratefully received by: Diane Smith (473 300),  
Gill Peskett (462 786) or Doreen Faulks (460 727).  
Please call if collection required.**

**No sale items can be accepted at the Hall on  
either Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> or Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March.  
Deliveries to be made only on  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March between 8.00am-1.00pm**

*All proceeds in aid of the Village Hall*

<https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/events/>

## Let there be (less) light...

Artificial light in the wrong place at the wrong time can be intrusive, especially if it is allowed to illuminate areas outside of its intended scope.

With the increasing use of 'security' lighting using floodlighting with 250-500W tungsten halogen lamps.



If lighting for a particular area is really needed, a better alternative is to use high-efficiency, low-energy lighting controlled by a photo-electric cell – a dusk-to-dawn switch.

More information about what action you may take can be found by going to the Braintree District Council website and entering '*Light Pollution*' in the Search box.

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## **More Pebmarsh**

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### **More St John the Baptist Primary School**

#### **Victorian Schooldays**

During History lessons our Upper KS2 class have learnt about the lives of the Victorians and spent a day as Victorian school children. Each dressed appropriately for their day in role and had to ensure that they doffed their hats or curtsied when they met an adult. The day started with a drill in the playground, marching with high knees, followed by a shoe and hand inspection. Before entering class, boys were separated from girls and seated appropriately in the classroom. Each had to write on slates with chalk practising proverbs and then use pen and ink in books using copperplate handwriting. Everyone had to write with their right hand! The learning of the day included understanding proverbs, arithmetic including chanting times tables, and 'Table Rules for Little Folk'. The afternoon was more enjoyable – making sugar mice and tumbling clowns. Fortunately no one experienced the dunce's hat that day!

Karen De Pietro      Headteacher

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### **Save the Church**

#### **PUBLIC MEETING**

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL, 7.30PM - VILLAGE HALL, PEBMARSH

St John the Baptist Church has diligently served our village for centuries, sadly it's now under serious threat of closure. With this in mind the 'Friends of Pebmarsh Church' has been formed to work in conjunction with the PCC, Parochial Church Council. The task of the Friends will be to raise funds for the fabric of the church, while the general running costs of the church will be the responsibility of the worshipping community.

You are invited to join our mission to promote, preserve and protect our lovely village church at the public meeting on 24th April.

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### **The King's Head Pebmarsh**

February saw the launch of a new evening and lunchtime menu at the King's Head, with some delicious new dishes to try. There's a Trio of Pork served with Crispy Pork Belly, Braised Pork Cheek, Black Pudding Crumb, Hassle Back Potatoes, Buttered Kale & Pearl Onion and Bacon Cream Sauce (GFA) or how about a Bubble & Squeak Burger topped with a Sunny Side Up Egg served with French Fries. The lunchtime menu has a 10% senior's discount on main courses, Tuesday-Thursday.

The hugely popular Open Mic Night returns on Sunday 3 March from 5pm. Hosted by Jay, this is an incredible night with a fantastic atmosphere and some really talented acts.

# More Pebmarsh

## More from the King's Head Pebmarsh

The next Quiz Night is Thursday 7 March, starting at 8pm with Tim Croton as the quizmaster. Teams of six or less, £12 per team. There is a Quiz Menu available for food during the actual quiz or you can book a table to eat beforehand from 6pm. So get your teams together and call the pub on 01787 267942 to reserve your place.

See the full menu and details of upcoming events on the website [www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk](http://www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk)

You can follow the latest news from the King's Head on Facebook @kingsheadpebmarsh or Twitter @pebmarshpub



### At Halstead Library

#### What is a Repair Café?

We throw away vast amounts of stuff including things with almost nothing wrong and which could get a new lease of life after a simple repair. The **Halstead Repair Café** is where you can bring items for repair, get advice on how to repair things yourself, or even learn a new skill.

Repair sessions at Halstead Library **once a month** for **clothing** repairs.

**FRIDAY**, Feb 8th 11.00 -1.00

**FRIDAY** Mar 8th 11.00 -1.00

**FRIDAY** Apr 5th 11.00 - 1.00

Please bring along any items of clothing to be altered, repaired, patched etc and other fabric items that need a bit of TLC or come along for advice.

**For help with mechanical and furniture repairs and restoration,**  
Contact Steve 01787 469390/07713521236 [stevemendit@hotmail.com](mailto:stevemendit@hotmail.com)  
All items mended at owner's own risk.

Also, if you can volunteer to help, eg repairing electrical equipment, or other items, please contact us and join in.



For further details talk to library staff or contact us:

 [repaircafehalstead@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafehalstead@gmail.com)

 [www.facebook.com/repaircafehalsteadessex](http://www.facebook.com/repaircafehalsteadessex)

 01787 462537

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## More Great Maplestead

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### More Great Maplestead Parish Council

- **General Data Protection Regulation:** compliance with the new Data Protection legislation, introduced in May 2018, was undertaken and a revised Privacy Notice and new Data Consent form introduced.
- **Village Playing Field:** the Terms of Use were revised/agreed/published to make public the legal framework for its use and provide a reference document for organisations/bodies wishing to use it.
- **New Regulatory Audit Process:** was adopted to simplify administration and reduce audit costs.
- **Local Council Awards Scheme:** various administrative actions were undertaken to enable the Council to achieve and ensure it maintains its **Foundation Level** accreditation, which recognises it meets a minimum set of standards and delivers effective Parish governance.

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### County Broadband Update

At last November's County Broadband presentation of its household fibre-optic broadband plans for Great Maplestead it was agreed that the programme would go ahead if at least 30% of households expressed an interest, by signing and submitting a Pre-Order Agreement.

County Broadband recently announced that this target has now been reached, so this project, future-proofing the village's broadband requirements, will be going ahead. Initial survey work will take place during the spring, with construction work due to commence later this summer.

The fibre-optic network will be available to every home in Great Maplestead, providing the village with one of the fastest broadband services in the country. It will offer low-cost internet phone calls, up to 1,000 Mbps internet speeds with an unlimited data allowance, and provide instant access to various online services, such as Netflix, for viewing high-definition films on demand.

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### Budgeting for a Secure Future

At its January meeting the Council reviewed its 2019/20 Budget & Precept options. The complete withdrawal of the Local Support Grant for the coming financial year meant that the Precept (the Council Tax portion received by the Parish) needed to be increased just to cover the Council's fixed operating costs. To keep the books balanced an annual Precept increase of £4.50 – or 38p a month – per Band D household was therefore agreed. This has subsequently been accepted and approved by Braintree District Council.

# More Great Maplestead

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## More Great Maplestead Parish Council

- **Footpaths:**
  - **Service Level Agreement:** entered into with Essex County Council to allow for local control of footpath repairs/maintenance.
  - **Water Meadows & Slype Foot-bridges:** broken slats replaced to address safety concerns.
  - **Slype Stepping Stones:** installed to make a boggy footpath negotiable in all weathers.
  - **Church Field Steps:** a handrail installed and steps down a steep bank reinstated to address users' safety concerns
- **20 mph Scheme:** a peak time, 'wig-wag' light-controlled speed limit introduced on roads around the school to increase children's safety at pick-up/drop-off times.
- **Street Lighting:** was upgraded to LEDs for better lighting, improved efficiency, longer bulb life and lower running costs.
- **Lucking Street:** a drainage channel was excavated by the Task Force to alleviate flash flooding problem after heavy rain.
- **Litter Picks:** regular actions are undertaken by the Task Force to maintain a litter-free village environment.
- **Defibrillator:** an installation at the Village Hall was backed up by well-attended CPR training courses.
- **Dog Waste Bins:** new bins were provided and existing ones re-sited to best meet residents' requirements.
- **'Adopt-a-Triangle' Scheme:** this was introduced to encourage wider involvement by parishioners in maintaining a pleasant village environment.
- **Environmental and Conservation Management Scheme:** an initiative to help increase species diversity and fauna habitats in the local area, run in conjunction with local landowners, the Church and the school.
- **Local Development Plan:** a continuing involvement to ensure parishioners' wishes, concerns and ideas are fully represented.



# Gestingthorpe

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## Gestingthorpe Cricket Club

Gestingthorpe CC recently held their A.G.M, fixture secretary Rob Gardiner has organised two new fixtures this season. Ashdon at home and an away game at Edwardstone - a team we haven't played for twenty years or more.

It was decided to send at least two members on a Level 1 Coaching Course with the intention of resuming the junior section in the near future.

Gestingthorpe CC are always looking for new members, they only play friendly games, usually on Sunday afternoons, so age and ability are no obstacle to anyone who fancies either regular cricket or just the occasional game.

If you are interested in joining an 'historic' club with a vibrant social side, please either contact our secretary Nick Duncan on 01787 313558 or come along to a net session which are held on Thursday evenings beginning in late April.

A full fixture list for the 2019 season can be found on [www.gestingthorpecricketclub.com](http://www.gestingthorpecricketclub.com)

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## Early Call for Crafters

If you would like a table at our Easter Craft Fair on Saturday the 13th April, please contact Claire Craig on [thecraigs2018@outlook.com](mailto:thecraigs2018@outlook.com)

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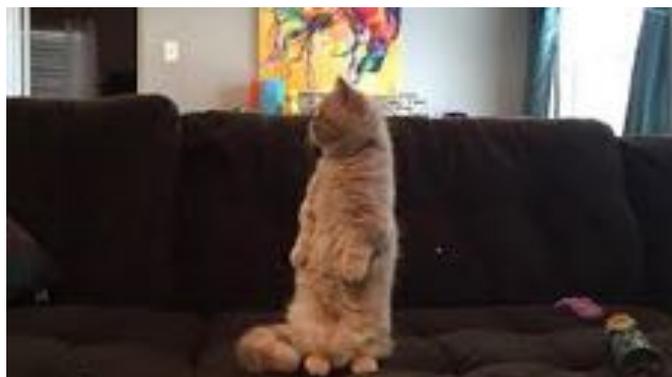
## Early Call for Gestup Fest

Put Saturday 14th September in your diary.

We hope to see you at our 2019 Festival on the playing field and ground that is the home of Gestingthorpe Cricket Club.

We are planning for a great afternoon and evening of family fun with interesting stalls and displays along with food, drink, and music.

Keep a look-out for more information and in the meantime make a note in your diary. We hope to see you there.



# Great Maplestead

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## The Maplesteads WI

President for the evening Gill Peskett welcomed everyone to our meeting on Thursday February 7th 2019. Secretary Anne Fletcher read the minutes of the previous meeting which were signed as correct.

After a number of notices Gill Peskett then introduced Peter Hesketh who would talk about his "Circumnavigation of the World" by container ship! Peter spoke about his adventures on the high seas during the 4 months he was away from home. Peter decided it was the right time in his life to make his journey around the globe and as the accommodations were going to be "ultra basic" his wife decided, rightly so, to stay home! Peter's 38,000 mile journey on The Thalassa, The Georgia and The Illona took him through The Suez and Panama canals, he saw the ship preparing for pirates off the coast of Somalia and encountered very rough seas in the Pacific Ocean. Fortunately Peter's excellent sea legs stood him in good stead! Jill Newton gave a warm vote of thanks and invited Peter to join us for refreshments. Dorothy Whyte won the flower of the month with a lovely Daphne Odora. Jill Newton then presented Gill Peskett with her birthday flowers to warm applause from everyone.

The next meeting is on Thursday 7 March 2019 and the speaker will be Helen Baron with her "Pottery Wheel Demonstration". For further information please telephone Mary Crawley on 01787 237777

Anne Fletcher

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### Date for your diary

Great Maplestead Village Hall  
CHARITY LENT LUNCH  
Saturday 16th March 2019  
12 noon to 2pm  
£5 entry, ploughmans & soup  
raising funds for Essex Air Ambulance

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### Great Maplestead Parish Council

As the present Parish Council nears the end of its allotted term of office it's an opportune time to review those projects that have been undertaken to improve life in Great Maplestead during the last four years.

An immediate priority was to improve the Council's communications with its parishioners, which was behind the launching of the **Maplestead Magna Carta**, an award-winning e-newsletter issued to subscribers after each Council meeting.

# More Great Maplestead

## Great Maplestead Parish Council

This was followed by extensive and on-going improvements to the currency, quality and range of information on the Council's **website**, which is now a 'one-stop' information source not just for Council matters but all village news, events and activities.

Some of the more visible projects completed during the last 4 years were:

- **Children's Play Area:** fenced to protect users against dog waste contamination and equipment renewed/replaced to meet safety standards.
- **Car Park:** extended to allow safe parking for school-run parents and avoid the dangers to children of on-street parking near the school.
- **Village Information Board:** commissioned to provide residents and visitors with details of local points of interest/walks.



## Jumble Sale

Look at page 16 for information about the Great Maplestead jumble sale.

# Great Maplestead Village Hall

# PUB NIGHT!

Come along, unwind, have a chat and then join us for  
an informal social Friday evening playing a really  
enjoyable indoor game.



## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March : Kurling\*

\*Like Curling, but without the ice. Or the brooms...

### from 7.30-9.30pm

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**Bring your own drinks, glasses & nibbles...**

<https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/events/>

