



Maplestead Magna Carta

Award-Winning Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

'Stay Well This Winter' – don't be left out in the cold...

The Heat Is On...

A 'Stay Well This Winter' campaign was recently launched by Essex CC's Director of Public Health, Mike Gogarty and Cabinet Member for Health, Cllr Graham Butland.

This campaign is intended to:

- ensure that no one in Essex need suffer because of the cold this winter
- highlight ways in which people can keep themselves well at this time of year
- indicate how to obtain help and support in the local area for those at risk from the cold



As well as encouraging greater awareness about winter health, it is hoped that this campaign will

also help people realise the importance of ensuring their home is ready for winter and how to keep warm when temperatures drop.

To see how best to 'Stay Well This Winter', visit <http://www.livingwellessex.org/health-and-well-being/taking-care-of-yourself/stay-well-this-winter/>. The NHS also have advice at: <http://www.nhs.uk/LiveWell/Winterhealth/Page/s/Winterhealthhome.aspx>.

Keeping your home warm is key to staying well in winter – it should be heated to **at least 18°C** (65°F). Many people worry about the cost of heating, but **Essex Energy Switch** has given residents the means to ensure that, even when turning up the heating, they will still be getting value for money.



Essex CC's collective energy switching initiative helps reduce energy bills. It's a free, easy and secure way to cut costs without wasting time comparing prices on comparison sites. Last year Essex residents saved, on average, **£263** per household from this initiative.

For more information on **Essex Energy Switch** visit www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch. Some people may also be eligible for support for fuel payments – visit <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/overview> for details.

Steppin' Out...

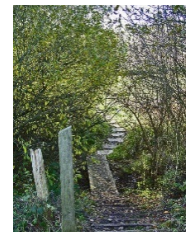
The Parish's footpath network is currently fully open for walking, with just a couple of cross-field paths awaiting reinstatement.

The **Service Level Agreement** that the Council entered into this year with Essex CC – to receive funding for the Parish's maintenance of its own footpaths – has enabled **Task Force** volunteers regularly to keep on top of path overgrowth during the spring and summer.



It has also meant that repairs to footpath furniture, such as the broken **FP7** marker post by the steps at the bottom of **Church Field**, could be effected more quickly.

Work has recently been carried out to improve conditions on **FP26** at **The Slype**; 'stepping stones' have now been installed to help cross the boggy part of the path below the steps, after the plank bridge. These 'stepping stones' need to be treated with care but walkers can now use this path without getting unduly wet or suffering muddy footwear.



The current Parish footpath network status is at <http://www.essexinfo.net/gtmaplesteadpc/footpaths/> – just follow the instructions on the page.

If you wish to report any footpath problems, please notify the **Parish Clerk**.

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Making a clean sweep of it...

The roads in Great Maplestead are due to be swept on **Wednesday 14th December**.



To avoid unduly compromising this operation would everyone, and particularly residents of Church Street, please ensure that there is **no road-side parking** on that day. Future street sweeping dates can be found at: <http://www.essexinfo.net/gtmaplesteadpc/latet-news/>.

Don't Invite Crime this Christmas

Winter, with its dark nights and increased consumer activity, is a particularly lucrative time for criminals.

There are, though, common-sense precautions that you can take to help mitigate the threat and occurrence of seasonal crime:

- Do not leave shopping on display in your car.
- Try not to leave Christmas gifts on show in the house – it's an invite to steal.
- Do not leave gift boxes on display when recycling after Christmas – don't show anyone you may now have potentially desirable items indoors.
- If you're going away, make sure you advise your neighbours and use timer switches on lights so that your house looks occupied.



The village's **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme helps protect you and your property against criminal activity. It is also a source of security equipment, such as 'fake TV' lighting, to make your house look occupied during any absence.

Ian Johnson, the Vice Chairman of Braintree District **Neighbourhood Watch**, is the Local Co-Ordinator for **Great Maplestead**. He can be contacted for advice on **01787 461 109**.

You can find out more about crime-related activity in the local area by subscribing to the **Neighbourhood Watch** Newsletter – e-mail nwnewsletter@btinternet.com for details.

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Latest Planning News

The following Planning Application was received after the agenda deadline date for the Parish Council's last Meeting:

- ✚ **16/01932/FUL** *Erection of a new, off-grid Passivhaus in the garden on the south side of Long Fen. Replaces Withdrawn Application 16/00804/FUL. Long Fen, Church Street.*

This meant that this application could not be discussed as a business item. However, the **Council** was able to rely on its policy decision established on 25th Apr 2016 – "that all proposed changes to the Village Development Boundary will be rejected" – to respond accordingly.

The deadline for all comments is **Friday 16th Dec**. Other responses can be found by going to: http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications, then clicking on 'View Current Applications', typing in the **planning reference** and opening the files.

Bottling it...

More effort and consideration is needed to minimise noise and undue disturbance to people living near the Bottle Bank.

So please endeavour to deposit your bottles **quietly**, and only between **8.00am** and **8.00pm**. And, if the bank is full, **do not fly-tip** – use an alternative site.



Empty beer bottles have recently been found strewn across the playing field, inconsiderate behaviour that is not only a danger to children and adults but also a **criminal offence**.

The **Council** wants to stamp this **anti-social** activity out – so please make a note of suspicious car numbers or any other information and report it to **Martin Elms** on **01787 461 421**.

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Forthcoming Events

During the coming months there are a number of events at the Village Hall* that you may wish to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Sun 18th December* Carols Round the Village** – meet at **7.00pm**. Mulled wine and light refreshments afterwards.
- ✚ **Tues 27 Dec* Christmas Village Walk** – meet at **10.30am**. Entry **£2 per person/** children and dogs **free**. Drinks at half-way + refreshments at end.
- ✚ **Weds 7th Jan* Keep Fit** – new 10-week term starts. **9.30-10.30am**. Contact Judy Cowell (01376 561 757) for more details.
- ✚ **Sat 28th Jan* Cards & Curry Evening** – opens **7.00pm** for **7.30pm** start. Cost **£8 per person/60** places available. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets available from Philippa Mills (01787 460 578)
- ✚ **Sat 18th Feb* Infusion Evening** – starts **7.30pm**. Is your **Blackberry Vodka** the bee's knees, or your **Damson Whisky** to die for? The challenge is on to find the **Best Home-Made Infusion**. More details nearer the time.

Much more information can be found on the 'Events' page of the **Parish Council** website.

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Contacting the Council

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

**Ann Crisp, New House, St Giles Close
Great Maplestead, CO9 2RW**

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

E-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk

Website: www.essexinfo.net/gtmaplesteadpc/