



# Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

## More safety improvements on the roads and footpaths...

### Seeing clearly now...

One of the main concerns reported to the Parish Council when it was undertaking the road safety review reported in the last issue was the danger to turning and through traffic at the junction of Gestingthorpe and Monks Lodge Roads caused by limited visibility.

In response, a **Task Force** working party was convened to clear the dense overgrowth around the pond on the western side of the junction.

The aim was to provide sightlines behind the oak tree on the corner apex so that road users either turning right into Gestingthorpe Road when leaving the village, or entering the village from Castle Hedingham, could safely check for oncoming traffic.

The before and after pictures below show the resulting improvements:



### Better for walkers too...

- The fence beside FP23 (the one from Purls Hill to Hulls Mill), which had collapsed, blocking the path, has now been reinstated. 
- The loose planks on the footbridge in the Slype copse, which were making it unsafe to use, have also been reinstated and secured.
- The fallen tree which was blocking FP26 through the wood in the Slype has also been cleared, so the path is now walkable once more. 

### Life's been draining recently...

...especially for the residents of Lucking Street during the protracted drainage work that was carried out in November!

Unfortunately the start of this long-awaited infrastructure project coincided with some of the worst rainfall in months, which helped put the work way over schedule.

Although the workers have now left the site, and the road is open once more, there is quite a bit of remedial work left to do – reinstatement of verges, re-alignment of kerbing and repairs to the Village Hall car park surface being just a few examples.

**It is expected that this work will take place during week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> December. Updates to this schedule will be posted on the Council's website and Facebook page.**

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### It's Christmas!

The lighting of the village Christmas tree took place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December, heralding the start of the village's Advent tree lighting trail.

After the ceremony, participants gathered in the Village Hall for mulled wine and mince pies.



**The Council would like to offer everyone its Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.**

### The Task Force Needs You!

**The Council wants Great Maplestead to be and remain a pleasant place to live – are you able to occasionally offer your time and/or skills to help achieve this aim?**

If so, the **Task Force** would be really happy to hear from you.

It is particularly looking for volunteers who are available during the week to help maintain and improve the environment in which we live.

Your skills, interests, experience, age and gender are completely immaterial – if you feel able to offer any help at all please contact:

**Task Force Leader: Martin Elms**  
**e-mail:** [martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk](mailto:martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)  
**phone:** 01787 461 421

## 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 re-cycling 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.

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

You can find out more about crime-related activity at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/neighbourhood-watch/> and clicking the link to the latest **Neighbourhood Watch** newsletter, which is updated weekly.

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## Defibrillator Update...

The **defibrillator** to replace the one that was stolen has now been installed on the wall of the **Village Hall**, in the old cabinet which has been fitted with a new, locking, door.



The replacement unit has been registered with the **East of England Ambulance Service** who have the code for the door – this will be advised to 999 callers if required to respond to an emergency.

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## Latest Planning News

The **Council** discussed the following planning matters at its meeting on **27<sup>th</sup> November**:

### Application Decisions:

- ✚ **19/00198/TPO** *The Rectory, Church Street. Works to be carried out on a tree covered by a TPO.* **Granted 27/9/19**

### Application Received:

- ✚ **19/01829/FUL** *Land north of Purls Hill Farm, Purls Hill. Erection of agricultural building.*

It was agreed to reiterate the **Council's** previous objections to this application renewal, highlighting its concerns about the proposed change of use.

## Latest Planning News (contd)

For more comments/responses about this, click on: <http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search-and-track-planning-applications>, then go to 'View Current Applications', type in the **planning reference** and open the files.

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## Forthcoming Events

This month, and into the New Year, there are some village events (some at the Village Hall\*) you may wish to note in your diary:

- ✚ **Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec\* Carols Round the Village** – meet at the Church Street triangle at **7.00pm**. Mulled wine and light refreshments afterwards.
- ✚ **Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Dec\* Christmas Village Walk** – meet at **11.00am**. Cost: **£2.50/person** – dogs & children **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments
- ✚ **Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Dec\* Mid-Winter Beer Festival & Christmas Party** – from **7.00-11.00pm**. Beer, Cider, Prosecco, Gin, Wine and soft drinks will be available and dancing may feature! Christmas jumpers optional. Tickets **£16**, including food and drink, must be purchased by **20<sup>th</sup> Dec** from Julie Ingram ((01787 463 637) or Ann Crisp (01787 460 216) 
- ✚ **Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020\* Pub Night** – from **7.30-9.30pm**. Join us, unwind and enjoy an informal social evening, play 'Kurling' or just have a chat. BYO drinks and nibbles + a **£3** donation.
- ✚ **Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020\*: Maplesteads' WEA Spring Course** starts – a seven-week course on **Seven Britishers of Note**. The first session, with complimentary drinks and nibbles, starts at **6.30pm**. For more details contact Jean Bowers (01787 460 181)
- ✚ **Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020\*: Comic Greyhound Racing Night** – back by popular demand. Starts **7.00pm**. Tickets **£12/person**, to include a Fish & Chip supper, from Martin or Jo Watson (01787 469 857). Bring your own drinks, glasses and a good supply of **£1** coins...
- ✚ **Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020\* Pub Night** – from **7.30-9.30pm**. Join us, unwind and enjoy an informal social evening, play 'Kurling' or just have a chat. BYO drinks and nibbles + a **£3** donation.
- ✚ **Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020\* Cards & Curry Evening** – for more details about this Leap-Year day special see the 'Events' page in the New Year.

Further information about these and many other village activities 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](mailto:anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)  
**Website:** <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>