



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Making lots of noise about making lots of noise...

...and why it's necessary

As was amply demonstrated on Bonfire Night, lots of noise, even at a time when it can reasonably be anticipated, is often a cause of neighbourly upsets and concerns.

Most of these could easily be prevented by forewarning neighbours and making them aware of potential situations that could cause annoyance, like having a party or planning to have fireworks, say, to celebrate and welcome in 2024.

If you **are** intending to have a New Year firework celebration or a possibly noisy party, there are a number of ways to let as many of your neighbours as possible know about your plans. Use as many as you can to notify everyone early and help allay their concerns.



You should make as much social media 'noise' as possible by posting the date and at what time the party or firework display will be taking place, using **both** the local **WhatsApp and Facebook** groups. This will give those in these groups time to arrange to either be somewhere else or to make suitable arrangements, as necessary, for their animals.

In your social media posts, give a time limit for the noisy element of the party or fireworks display so people have some idea of when it might all be over.

Of course, **not everyone's on social media** so it's also important to put notes through letterboxes, or talk to your more immediate neighbours, warning them of the time and duration of the party or fireworks display and asking for their forbearance...

Unfortunately, many reasons for noise disputes in general are people simply not appreciating, say, the effect that music and loud voices at their party, or celebration fireworks display, may have on their neighbours or people living nearby.

If noise is regularly causing you annoyance, having an informal chat with the perpetrator about your concerns may be a better way to sort things out rather than just posting about it on social media.

If the problem persists and cannot be resolved and the perpetrator proves unwilling to compromise, more information about what action **BDC** can take under the provisions of the **Noise Act 1996** and other associated legislation, can be found at: https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200250/environmental_health/221/noise

A Grant for the Garden...

The Mindfulness/Sensory Garden Project, the final stage of the Playing Field's development, has received a grant of £3000 to cover its capital and revenue cost requirements.

The garden, located in the south-east corner of the playing field, will be a quiet, tranquil, secluded area in which people will be able to relax and socialise, offering health and mental well-being benefits to residents and visitors alike.

The grant, from **BDC's Community Gardens and Open Spaces Fund**, is being provided as part of the Government's Levelling-Up initiative and will be used to fund planting, seating, signage and other construction elements necessary to bring the project to fruition.



The **Council** has also now approved the installation of a new tyre 'scramble' and re-installment of the original toddler play equipment in the play area.

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A Warm Welcome at St Giles'

The **Warm Haven in the Tower Room of St Giles' Church, which was successfully trialled last winter, re-opened again in November.**

It offers somewhere warm to socialise in a friendly environment, with comfortable chairs, a CD player, tea and coffee making facilities, free Wi-Fi, a small library and a number of table activities to enjoy.

The room is open during daylight hours, **Mondays to Saturdays, 9.30am - 4.00pm**

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Essex EV Chargepoint Strategy

Continuing with this **ECC initiative, the Parish Council recently met Believ, an EV Chargepoint provider, to discuss the feasibility of a chargepoint in the Playing Field car park.**

Essex CC has agreed that a charging provision in the parish would be beneficial for residents, the school and visitors.

Depending on the availability of a suitable power supply, the plan would be for the installation of a **50kW rapid chargepoint**, able to charge two EVs at once.

Updates and more details to follow...



Don't Invite Crime this Christmas

Winter's dark nights and increased seasonal consumer activity make this time of year particularly lucrative for criminals.

Longer hours of darkness have provided cover for a number of recent cases of farm break-ins and the theft of agricultural equipment, which appear to have been specifically targeted. Reviewing security for outbuildings used to store such items is an unfortunate, but necessary, deterrent.

Home and car owners also need to take some common-sense precautions to help mitigate against opportunistic 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 invitation to steal.
- Do not leave gift boxes on display when re-cycling after Christmas – they show that there are now potentially desirable items indoors.
- If you're going away, make sure you advise your neighbours and use timer switches on lights, radios and TV to make it look like your house is occupied.



The village's **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme can help protect you or your property against criminals.

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 local crime-related news at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/neighbourhood-watch/> by clicking the link to the latest **Neighbourhood Watch** newsletter, which is updated weekly.

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Walking the Walk...

During the summer a number of footpaths were reported to the Parish Council as being overgrown, with some being un-walkable.

This was in part due to the exceptional growing conditions that were experienced during the spring and also the maintenance contractor being unable to carry out the early cut at the scheduled time.



This meant the **Task Force** had to perform a couple of major clearing operations in July to reinstate access to those footpaths affected.

The **Council** has taken steps to try and prevent any similar problems by appointing a new contractor from within the village. This will give it greater flexibility in organising *ad hoc* maintenance while allowing a quicker response to seasonal growing conditions and any particular path requirements.

Latest Planning News

The following application was considered by the **Council** at its meeting on 22nd November:

Application Received:

- ✚ **23/02501/FUL** *Rangers Hall, Hosdens Lane* – Change of use of Poll Miles Hall from residential annexe to independent dwelling.

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

The following was also noted, for information:

Appeal:

- ✚ **22/02780/T56**. *Little Lodge Farm, Church Road* – Appeal by **Telefónica** to the Secretary of State following **BDC's** refusal of a pre-planning application for the installation of a 25m tall mobile phone mast and ancillaries.
Reference: APP/Z1510/W/23/3323559

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Forthcoming Events

The following are some of the upcoming village events (*these at the Village Hall) you may want to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Thurs 7th Dec***: **Maple Leaves** present – '**ShantyFolk**' – at **7.00pm**. Come along and enjoy a fun evening of traditional songs and sea shanties with this well-known local group. Audience participation compulsory! Members (**Free**): non-members (**£3**) welcome.
- ✚ **Mon 1st Jan 2024*** **New Year Village Walk**
Meet at **11.00am** in car park. Cost: **£2.50**/person. Dogs & children **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments
- ✚ **Mon 15th Jan 2024***: **Maplesteads' WEA Spring Course** begins – a 5-week course, **Happy Healthy Holidays on the Essex Coast**, looking at the development and heritage of Essex seaside resorts. Sessions start at **7.00pm**. For more details contact Jean Bowers (01787 460 181)

Further social events are currently being planned for next year. More information about these will be posted on **Maplestead Mates** and the 'Events' page of the **Parish Council** website nearer the time.

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Contacting the Council

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

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

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

E-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk

Website: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>