

Great and Little Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



**Church and Community together
June 2023**

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent can be found on page 38 and the churchwardens on page 38.

Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 37.

Magazine copy see page 22.

Parish Clerks

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

The Maplesteads

The Maple Leaves	Angela Davis	01787 236007	angeladavis99@outlook.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
Dance & Keep Fit	Judy Cowell	01376 561757	judy.cowell@btinternet.com
Carpet Bowls	Janice Chaplin	01787 469600	bobandjanicechaplin@btinternet.com

Gestingthorpe

Village Hall	Steve Bagby	07840 367182	
Village amenities	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
Tower bell ringing	Valerie Fullman	01787 462755	
Cricket Club	Chris Ponty	07494 883632	

Football Club

Fun Fit Fab	Nic Smith	07908 445239	nicsmithpe@gmail.com
History Society	Gill Webb	01787 581836	gillwebb880@gmail.com
Book Club	Penny Bagby	07840 367172	pbagby1@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	steveharris@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Lt Maplestead	Geraldine Holloway	01787 476530	geraldineholloway2017@gmail.com
Gestingthorpe	Penny Bagby	07840 367172	pbagby1@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	
Benefice Choir	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
Scouts	Stuart Carter	01787 461149	
Guides	Kathy Hoy	01787 280200	
Molly's Wood			https://www.mollyswood.org/contact

Otter's Jotter!



It's another month of great articles and news from each of the villages! Congratulations for the wonderful events arranged and enjoyed for the King's Coronation. Whether you are a royalist or not, the event is historic & after Covid keeping us apart, how lovely to be able to come together as a nation!

I do apologise for the mag hitting a little later this month, I suffered with a nasty eye infection and there was no way I could see what I was doing on the computer!

Maple Leaves this month looks amazing with the visit to Ashley Cooper's farm organised on Thursday 1 June, be ready to start the evening at 6.30pm! I have added this to social media due to timings and print run!

Welcome to JB Plumbing & Heating of Bures it is wonderful to have you join the advertisers in our magazine, thank you for supporting us.

So June is upon us, with it brings Fathers' Day on the 18th and Summer Solstice (the longest day), as well as the hope that the month has plenty of sunshine and warmth! We are looking forward to being sat outside in the garden, on the newly laid patio area, and I love playing with the dogs in the garden too!

Wishing you a wonderful month, full of smiles and opportunity.

Best to you and yours!



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Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

I have been thinking back to this time last year. On 2nd June we all celebrated the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. It was a time of great celebration as our communities hung out bunting and decorated their houses and village spaces. Sadly, just 6 months' later our communities came together to mourn the death of Her Majesty. People queued for hours to pay their respects as her coffin was Lying-in-State, prior to her Funeral. A very different and solemn atmosphere was felt in our communities.

Then fast forward to May this year and once again the mood was one of celebration as we got out the bunting and flags again and joined in the National celebrations of King Charles Coronation.

These events have made me appreciate being part of a community, not just the lunches, tea parties, BBQ's and entertainment but the conversations and the care and concern for one another. We exist in relationship with one another, and we felt the loss of that most keenly during lockdown. The sense of isolation wasn't good for any of us, and returning to these occasions which we now share as a community has been healing. Communities build, develop, and grow all the time, sometimes in obvious places and other times in unexpected circumstances.

In the Church, we have just celebrated Pentecost the time when we recall the Holy Spirit being poured out on the disciples and the crowds who had gathered in Jerusalem and signifies the birth of the Christian Church. These early church communities grew and developed and gave us a model to follow. They supported one another and shared resources. We can read about them in the Bible in the book of Acts. We can all learn from those early church communities, they demonstrated being a community means helping one another, offering hospitality, supporting those in need and the vulnerable, acts of kindness, compassion, and love. These are characteristics that we can translate into our own contexts and communities.

Of course, we don't always get it right and I'm sure we can all think of ways we can nurture and support our community more, but rejoicing in what we do well and how we might improve is essential in learning and growing.

Perhaps we can reflect on the words of theologian and priest Henri Nouwen: Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own. *'The question, therefore, is not how can we make community? But how can we develop and nurture giving hearts?'*

Rev'd Beverley



Heddingham Medical Centre

The Castle Heddingham surgery: 01787 461465. 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.

Out-of-hours appointments will be available from 6.30pm to 8pm on weekdays, and from 9am to 5pm on Saturdays.

An out-of-hours appointment might not be at your regular GP surgery. When you book an appointment, you will be told where the appointment will be.



Heddingham Heritage Society

We have two topical summer meetings during the next couple of months for you to enjoy – so do come along to your Local History and Natural History Society for the following:

Thursday 1 June:

Hedgehogs and Their Conservation – a presentation by **Stephany Callister-Jarrold** of the Hedgehog Preservation Society, asking where have all the hedgehogs gone/what is happening to them?
7.30pm Castle Heddingham Memorial Hall



Thursday 6 July:

The Battle of Britain over Essex – a celebratory talk by **Neil Wiffen**, Records Manager at the Essex Records Office, about this historic summer World War 2 battle in the skies over Southern England.
7.30pm Castle Heddingham Memorial Hall

Do join our Society – annual membership for 2023: £15.00

All walks and talks: Members free - Non-Members £5

Everybody Welcome

Rob Worley 01787 460 664: Trudi Cullum 01787 462 889 Peter Bayes 01787 469 953

www.heddinghamheritage.org.uk heddinghamheritage@gmail.com

F315 Sudbury to Halstead / Halstead to Sudbury - Operated by Essex & Suffolk DaRT.

Flat Fare: £3 Single, £5 Return (between any two stops). Concessionary bus passes are accepted after 0900 Monday to Friday and all day on Sundays.

For more information 01621 874410 / 01621 874411

or info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk

SUDBURY - BULMER - GESTINGTHORPE - WICKHAM ST. PAUL - PEBMARSH - GREAT AND LITTLE MAPLESTEAD - HALSTEAD							
F315		To book on this service call: 01621 8744111					From 01/12/2021
Sudbury, Bus Station		09:00	11:00	13:00	15:30	17:30	19:15
Ballingdon, Kings Head		09:03	11:03	13:03	15:33	17:33	09:18
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22
Bulmer, Cross Roads		09:10	11:10	13:10	15:40	17:40	19:25
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		09:16	11:16	13:16	15:46	17:46	19:31
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		09:21	11:21	13:21	15:51	17:51	19:36
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter		09:26	11:26	13:26	15:57	17:57	19:43
Pebmarsh, War Memorial		09:27	11:27	13:27	15:58	17:58	19:44
Little Maplestead, Corner		09:32	11:32	13:32	16:03	18:03	19:49
Great Maplestead, Church		09:36	11:36	13:36	16:07	18:07	19:53
Little Maplestead, Pump		09:40	11:40	13:40	16:11	18:11	19:57
Halstead, High Street		09:44	11:44	13:44	16:14	18:15	20:01
F315		To book on this service call: 01621 8744111					From 01/12/2021
Halstead, High Street		07:30	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	18:30
Little Maplestead, Pump		07:35	10:05	12:05	14:05	16:35	18:35
Great Maplestead, Church		07:38	10:08	12:08	14:08	16:38	18:38
Little Maplestead, Cock		07:42	10:12	12:12	14:12	16:42	18:40
Pebmarsh, War Memorial		07:47	10:15	12:15	14:15	16:45	18:42
Pebmarsh, Bus Shelter		07:48	10:16	12:16	14:16	16:46	18:43
Wickham St Paul, The Victory		07:54	10:21	12:21	14:21	17:01	18:45
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner		08:02	10:27	12:27	14:27	17:07	18:48
Bulmer, Cross Roads		08:08	10:33	12:33	14:33	17:13	19:03
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane		08:10	10:35	12:35	14:35	17:15	19:09
Ballingdon, Kings Head		08:16	10:41	12:41	14:41	17:21	19:11
Sudbury, Bus Station		08:20	10:45	12:45	14:45	17:25	19:14

Nature Notes

Well, first off the rank this month was the answer to the puzzle of which little bird was nesting in my garden shed, accessing it through a partly opened window. Was it a wren or a great tit? The answer ... neither! I went into the shed yesterday and, hopping around on the floor, were two newly fledged robins! They had left the nest but were unable to find the open window. It was raining heavily yesterday so I left them in there. It is finer today so I will open the door and they will be free.



The juvenile robin lacks the red breast of the adult and is brown with spots, almost like a small thrush. This is probably no coincidence, as the robin belongs to the same family as the larger thrushes and blackbirds. Other birds in the group include chats, wheatears and redstarts, all of which have at least one species in the UK. Wheatear, redstart and whinchat pass through Essex as migrants, while stonechat is resident and breeds in coastal situations.

Taking the public footpath through Alderford Farm to the pond, this time with a telescope, revealed the little grebe, whose nest I spotted last month, has hatched at least two chicks. The bird was still on the nest, sitting tightly but there was one chick on her back which tumbled off before nestling under her wing, where the second was already sheltering. The normal clutch size is 4-6 so she may well be sitting tight until all the brood hatches. This species is found from Britain right across Europe and Asia and into south-east Asia and its islands. It is also resident throughout sub-Saharan Africa, so is very widely distributed indeed. There is a closely related, almost identical, species in Australia and New Zealand but no equivalent in the Americas.

The spring has been one of the poorest on record for moths, mainly due to cold temperatures. I have only run my trap on a couple of occasions, with disappointing results. This led me to re-examine some unidentified specimens I had saved, and a visiting friend was able to identify a quite large (40mm wingspan), nondescript brown job as a Bordered White. The key feature was silver streaks on the underside of the wings – most guides only illustrate the upper sides, hence my confusion. Turns out it is reasonably frequent in Essex but had slipped under my radar. I was delighted to have added it to my garden list.



Patch Patroller

Gardening Corner

Whether we shall have a 'flaming' June remains to be seen but this month is about maintenance: early flowering shrubs to prune, sheds to clear out and paint [not my favourite job!], fish to regularly feed in ponds and weeding! The list goes on...



My recommended shrub this month is *Viburnum opulus* [Snowball bush] or Guelder rose. This fantastic plant is quick growing and the flower heads can start as a lime green ball, turning to white before fading away with just a hint of pink. There is also the benefit of red berries in the autumn and, as the leaves fall, they show a red hue.

We should, hopefully, be past any late frosts so plant out any remaining summer bedding. Also, if you wish, you can stand house plants outside in a sheltered spot for the remainder of the summer.

In the vegetable garden have a look under the haulm of early potatoes – with the wet spring, the tubers may be ready to lift. Continue to sow radish, lettuce, spinach, chard and spring onions. Runner bean plants can be planted out but do keep an eye open for slugs. Try crushing egg-shells around tender plants – this will deter molluscs from crossing over to them.

Hostas are also prone to slug damage, so try growing them in pots; they are far more protected that way and you can move the containers around [preferably out of direct sunlight, as the leaves can scorch] to make a feature with other potted plants.

Dahlias also need planting. If you have started the tubers in a green house or shed, apply feed to the ground or pot them but note, these plants are vigorous.

And, as I have said previously, if there is an area in your garden that you can leave for the grass and any wild flowers to grow, your wildlife will benefit.

Make the most of the warm long evenings, they're ideal for pottering in the garden!

The Arborist.

News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

June is a lovely month at the Gardens, and there is an ever changing cast list of flowers to look forward to. The roses are in their full first flush, bringing colour to many corners of the Italian and walled kitchen gardens; the waterlilies are in flower; the last wave of blossom is on the trees – the robinia and the Indian horse chestnut; and the shrubs and climbers are also bringing colour, including the periploca, a remnant from the Peto treillage pergola. If you are lucky you might see the splendid vulgarity of the voodoo lily (or be unlucky and smell the rotting flesh scent it puts out for a day!).

Foxgloves and poppies dot the Gardens and other wild flowers we look out for are the common spotted orchids in the Glade, grass vetchling, which we sometimes have, and bee orchids. The bee orchids never seem to be in same place twice, but we think we have seen some coming. The bees, butterflies and damsel flies will be flitting around, hopefully enjoying warm June sunshine! So it is a good month to visit the Gardens: for our Nature Day on Sunday 18 June or on an Open Thursday (except June 22 when the Gardens will be closed for our AGM). On our Nature Day we will have bug hunts, a wildflower walk, fairy stories and a trail for children. We will be joined by the Essex Bat Group, Essex Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. There will be a plant stall and craft sellers and Woodwind of Stortford will play some lovely summer music too. Children also love the treehouse and get free entry; dogs are welcome on leads; and refreshments are available. For more information go to the Trust's website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Open Thursdays, 11.00-3.00, last entry 2.00. £5 on the Gate.

18 June Open Day 11.00-5.00, last entry 4.00. £6.50 on the Gate or £5.50 if bought in advance via the Trust's website or through www.Trybooking.com .

Jill Goldsmith

May 2023



THE
FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF
EASTON LODGE



Our June Meeting will take place on
Thursday 1st June at Ashley Cooper's, Hill Farm,
Gestingthorpe CO9 3BL.

Here we will visit Ashley's wonderful museums, of agricultural and household implements, plus another museum containing Roman Relics excavated on his farm. Weather permitting there will be an opportunity to visit the site of the Roman Villa.

Jacqui will also be on hand to show us her Art Studio where we can purchase greeting cards etc.

The meeting is open to members and their guests & we ask that everyone is seated in the lecture room by 6.30 pm, when Ashley will give us a short talk before we start our guided tour.

Coffee, tea & biscuits will be served at the end of the tour.

Any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.
With best wishes, Pam Corder-Birch

The Maplesteads

Warmer weather is on the way (hopefully!) so now is the perfect time to sow your sunflower seeds for this year's **Tallest Sunflower Competition**, which is **sponsored by Radiant Beauty** and open to entrants of all ages. The winner will be announced at the Show.

This year's subject for the adults **Photographic Competition** is **Reflections**; the subject for children under 16 is **Playtime** – the new play equipment on the Village Playing Field should provide plenty of scope for some wonderful photos of happy children!

More details of the Autumn Show will follow shortly but if you require any further information please contact:

Carol Brownlie

Tel: 01787 461 527 or e-mail: carolbrownlie@gmail.com.

The Maplesteads Autumn Show



will take place in **Great Maplestead Village Hall** on

Saturday 9th September

Please put this date in your diary and start thinking about planting or sowing your vegetables and flowers to help make this show really special

More details nearer the time

In the meantime, if you need any further information, please contact the Chairman, Carol Brownlie, on 01787 461 527

Little Maplestead

The Plant Sale, 20 May 2023

What a wonderful day we had for our Annual Plant sale in Little Maplestead! The weather was wonderful and people turned out in force. Everyone really enjoyed the atmosphere there with the Eukele group playing to entertain us too. After buying their plants people sat in the sunshine with tea, coffee and gorgeous home made cakes and soaked up the much needed sunshine.

We raised an enormous £1500 for The Round Church which is a new record. Huge thanks are due to so many people for their help with growing plants, making cakes and helping on the day. It was a real community effort.

One special thank you must go to Sheila Fulcher for the incredible number of plants that she grew throughout the year. Not only that but she brought hot sausage rolls and cheese straws as well as gingerbread men for the cake stall. We are amazed by Sheila's huge efforts and are truly grateful to her and all of you who support us so well.

Many thanks everyone.

Jane



Road Safety - Alan Pilgrim

'I now have to use a crutch when I walk following nine very bad falls in six months.' So a plea to slow down is not only personal, but essential for all of us to be safe whilst walking or riding through the villages, including the extremely dangerous Little Maplestead bends on the A131 Halstead-Sudbury Road.

The other month I was driving through Pebmarsh to get out onto the Halstead road to go into town to do some shopping, under the speed limit and with care. Passing the Pebmarsh War Memorial and approaching the school which has a 20mph limit at certain times of the day, which was in force at the time I was passing. The car behind me sounded its horn and with great speed passed me outside the school gates and had to cut me up so as to miss a store delivery van which nowadays are quite large that was coming up from the Pebmarsh village street. In fact it was passing the school playing field, so you can imagine there was not a lot of room between me and the delivery van.

Alan explains 'I am constantly aware of the high speed that drivers do through our villages, but are the drivers aware of the law that came into force in January 2022 (which equally apply to the smaller country roads as the larger carriageways)?

Drivers must give a **MINIMUM** of two meters from their vehicle, at a speed no more than **TWELVE MILES AN HOUR** for **CYCLIST, DOG WALKERS, HORSE RIDERS AND PEDESTRIANS**. Now I know that to give the space between vehicle and the above through the country lanes is not always possible, **but you can slow down or stop.**

The other problem I find are **pedestrians, with or without dogs**, walk in dark clothing in our dark roads and expect drivers to see them and miss them. I had abuse from two teenagers when I stopped and asked them, how much is their life worth? I have a HIGH-VIS rap on jacket which cost £1.50 and a HIGH-VIS waterproof long sleeve coat, pockets with zip and button front and built-in-hood that cost £10.00, which I wear if I go out in the dark.



I hope you will be able to find a space in the next Parish News to put **THINK ROAD SAFETY** in, in an effort to try and slow down the speed of vehicles through our villages.' AND to ensure pedestrians consider the **BE SAFE, BE SEEN** initiative!' *It's our pleasure Alan, thank you for your article. Editor.*



Casual Vacancy

Great Maplestead Parish Council... ...needs another Parish Councillor

We are looking to appoint someone with good local knowledge of the Parish, an interest in the local environment and who is keen to serve our community and help to make Great Maplestead an even better place to live.

What do Councillors do?

- **Local Involvement**
Work as a team on behalf of **all** residents to consider, evaluate and undertake actions that will benefit the whole Parish.
- **Monitoring**
Ensure together that grants are sought, awarded and best value services obtained for major projects.
- **Decision Making**
Decide how funding is best spent to improve residents' facilities and, in the common interest, respond to **all** planning applications affecting the Parish.
- **Governance**
Commit to the **Council's Code of Conduct** to undertake the role in an unbiased and lawful manner.

What could YOU do?

DON'T BE SHY! If you have the time, and can make the commitment, then this is a great opportunity to get involved in the Parish's future and become a part of its history.

To be a candidate you must:

- ✓ *be a British, Commonwealth or Irish citizen; and*
- ✓ *be aged 18 years or over.*

Also, you must fulfil at least one of these criteria:

- ✓ *have been on the electoral register for the Parish; or*
- ✓ *during the whole of the 12 months before your appointment, owned or occupied land or property in the Parish; or*
- ✓ *during that same 12-month period, have had your main place of work in the Parish; or*
- ✓ *during that same 12-month period, have lived in the Parish or within 3 miles of it*

If you are interested, please submit a short written application to the Parish Clerk, Ann Crisp – e-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk or deliver it to: New House, St Giles Close, Great Maplestead CO9 2RW

Closing date for applications is 12th July 2023

Great Maplestead Parish Council News

Great Maplestead's Parish Council election on 4th May was uncontested, as only 6 candidates put themselves forward for the 7 available positions.

The previous Chairman Martin Elms, long-time Councillor Peter Haylock and Patsy Maile all stood down but two new candidates put themselves forward to strengthen the team: Barry Vincent, who has a wealth of previous experience from his 8 years on Wethersfield Parish Council (and is also the husband of Beverley, the vicar for the four local parishes) and Dave Pike, who helps run Hopwell's Farm on the borders of the parish and is an ecological and environmental champion.

At the Council's AGM on 17th May Joe Newton presented an engraved carafe to Peter Haylock in recognition of, and to commemorate, Peter's unique contribution to the Council, having been its Clerk for 9 years and either a Councillor or its Chairman during the following 24 years until 2019.

The meeting saw Steve Harris elected as Chairman for the Council's next 4-year term, with Simon Last as Vice-Chairman. It was also agreed to co-opt to fill the Casual Vacancy; a notice outlining the application process appears elsewhere in this magazine and also on the Parish Council's website and Facebook page.

Great Maplestead's Coronation Celebrations

A cornucopia of celebratory village events was arranged for the three-day Coronation holiday weekend by an enthusiastic organising team, led by the indefatigable Ann Crisp.

On the Coronation Saturday evening, following a fizz-and-canapes reception, the centrepiece of the weekend's celebrations was a **Royal Variety Performance** extravaganza in the beautifully decorated Village Hall.



The show, expertly M-Ceed by Simon Last, featured a wide variety of village thespian talent. A multitude of acts included a choir, expertly directed by Jo Watson, sketches, comedy routines, a Mastermind spoof, solo singing performances and a Caribaret *homage*. Sound, visuals and lighting were overseen by James Elms and Martin Watson. A sing-along finale, with audience participation, rounded off what was a wonderful show. Dancing and drinking then

continued until late...



To help cure any hangovers from the night before, teas, coffees and cakes were on offer in St Giles' Church on Sunday afternoon, during which the **'Cake Fit For A King'** and **'Best Decorated House/Garden'** competitions were judged and the winners presented with their prizes.

The weekend of celebrations concluded on Monday with an afternoon of family games on the Playing Field, during which the **official opening of the children's new play area** – the first part of the Parish Council's £110,000 Playing Field Development Project to be completed – took place.



A **National Lottery Community Fund** cheque for **£75,000** was presented to the Council Chairman by the Development Project Working Party, after which Lewis Green cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Children then flooded into the play area to christen and start to enjoy the new adventure play equipment.



A cracking community-led conclusion to a celebratory weekend!

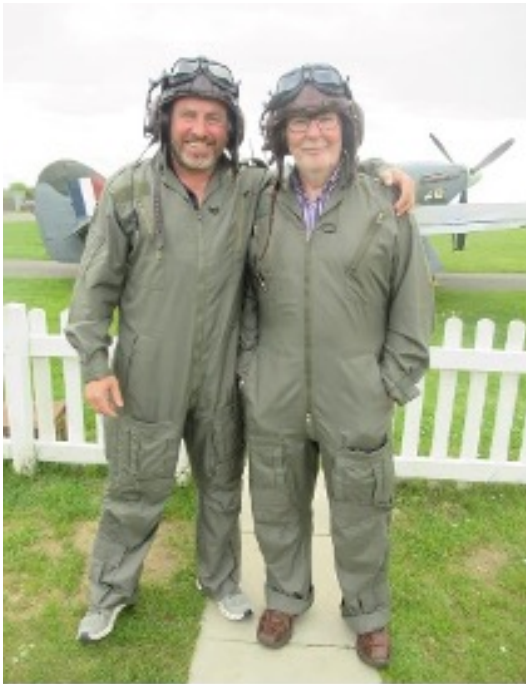


Heavens Above

Christmas Day 2021: I have a 'flight ticket' for a Spitfire experience, a present from my eldest son. "*By the way dad*", he says, "*I'll be alongside you*". I admit a tear ran down my cheek, this has been on my bucket list for a long while.

Fast forward to Duxford, May 11th 2023: chemo and radiotherapy behind me, Robin and I report for our 13.00 briefing, take off at 16.00. During the briefing we hear aero engines screaming overhead. Outside we see a Spitfire on the tail of an Me109, trailing smoke; a mock dogfight is in progress.

Later we meet our experienced pilots, Stu and Jon. Jon has recently landed from the dogfight; Stu, my pilot, has over 25,000 flying hours. We discuss our flight and agree to buzz Great Maplestead, only 7- or 8-minutes flying time away.



Flying suits and helmets donned, we take a short walk across to our aircraft. Both saw combat in WW2 – mine is a Mark IX. In the cockpit I strap into the parachute, which also cushions the metal seat. Next, tighten all the seat harness straps, then more briefing: the cockpit canopy jettison and parachute release handle locations, and how to open the cockpit door.

After a few coughs the Merlin engine comes to life. Over 1700 hp shakes the airframe as we taxi out. My son's aircraft is to port as we line up for take-off. Duxford control gives the all-clear, our engine revs increase, the brakes come off and we pick up speed across the grass. The tail comes up and we are airborne.

My son's aircraft formats on mine as we climb away, virtually wing tip to wing tip. Jon, his pilot, concentrates solely on the space between the planes, keeping station. Bad news though: the clouds east of Duxford are very dark and threatening rain, so buzzing Great Maplestead is out. Flying through rain clouds is not advisable, as rain strips the paint and can damage the wooden propeller.

Instead we turn westward. I can see the Universities of Cambridge and the American cemetery at Maddingley passes below the elliptical wings. Before long I hear "*You have control*". The iconic control column, with its round

handle and firing button, is in my hands and, with Stu's guidance, I bank left and right, turning the aircraft. A slight climb and descent and I am really flying a Spitfire, well kind of!!

Stu takes back control for some aerobatics: a few wing-overs and tight turns then some barrel rolls, sky and earth spinning around my head. A low pass along the Duxford runway and, all too soon, it is time to land. 40 minutes has just flashed by.



Reunited on the ground, I give Robin a manly hug. What a day, what an experience and just a small insight into what the "Few" – young lads, many barely qualified, who gave their all in the summer of 1940 – experienced. My respect and profound thanks. **Michael Hilton**

Great Maplestead - B-I-N-G-O!

By popular request, I have arranged another evening of **Bingo**.

I am looking for donations of ten 'first line' prizes such as chocolates, wine or a plant, and ten '**full house**' prizes such as a cream tea or a pair of tickets for the cinema. Alternatively a cash donation, so that I may purchase some prizes.

If you are able to donate something like this it would be very much appreciated, and if you would like to reserve your tickets.

Please contact Myra Jeggo on:

01787 474285, 07709635235 or m.jeggo@sky.com



Saturday June 3rd

In

Great Maplestead Village Hall

Doors open 7pm, Eyes down 7.30pm

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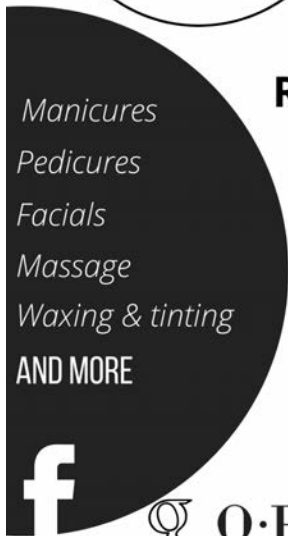


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The copy deadline for the July/August 2023 magazine is **Friday 23 June 2023**
 Submit your copy early to guarantee inclusion. Email me or our village reps.

Copy

Editor	Nic Coppen	07743 816725	nicola.coppen@live.co.uk
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Deadline for Articles!

Friday:

23 June for the

July & August edition

18 August for September

22 September for October

20 October for November

17 November for the

December & January edition

19 January for February 2024 edition!

Advertising in Parish News

Quarter Page (Portrait) £70

Half Page (Landscape) £130

Full Page (Portrait) £200

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Email the Editor : nicola.coppen@live.co.uk

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Sat 1st July
Fri 14th July
Sun 13th Aug
Sun 3rd Sept
Sun 10th Sept



We also have **Jazz in the Vines** on Sunday 27th August from 4-7pm

Please visit www.tuffonhall.co.uk to book or to purchase from our online shop.

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Gestingthorpe Village Hall

Annual General Meeting Thursday 8th June 2023 7.30pm

You are invited to join the meeting in our village hall.

All villagers from the Parish of Gestingthorpe are invited to take part in the AGM to hear what we have done in the last year and what we are planning to do in the future for your village hall.

We need everyone at the meeting to vote on the 31st March 2023 year end accounts and also on who is to represent the villagers by being part of the Village Hall Committee.

If you would like to stand for, or nominate someone for, a position on the Committee please contact Steph Prior (01787 462351) or Chris Harman (01787 462763) by 6th June. We will need your confirmation that a nominee has agreed to stand for election.

If you are unable to join the meeting but want to see the Accounts then please contact Chris by 5th June with your contact details. We will then provide you with a paper copy of the Accounts.

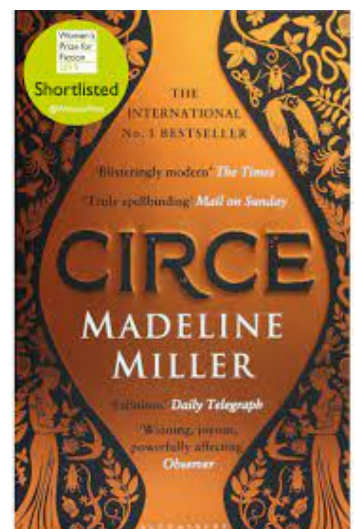
If you wish to submit your comments for notification and discussion at the AGM then please let Chris know. We do want and need to hear from you with your views and thoughts on your village hall and the running of it.

If you can join us for the AGM we will be pleased and look forward to seeing you.

Gestingthorpe First Tuesday Book Club

The Gestingthorpe Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall. Our meetings are very informal with lots of chat, laughs, wine & nibbles. We are currently reading *Circe* by Madeline Miller. If you would like to join us, our next meeting is Tuesday 6 June @ 7.30pm.

Contact Penny pbagby1@gmail.com or 07840 367172 for further details.



Gestingthorpe 'Gatherings' Coffee Mornings

Trees are budding and flowers are brightening up our village. A good time to take a nice gentle stroll to our village hall to join us and enjoy our coffee mornings. We would love to see you and guarantee a warm welcome, good hot tea or coffee and lovely home baked cakes.

Our three (since our coffee mornings started) brilliant home bakers of the delicious cakes that they have unfailingly provided for every coffee morning are now joined by another villager. Thank you ladies.

Our coffee mornings during June will be held on the **Fridays of 9th and 23rd**. The dates during July will be the **Fridays of 7th and 21st**.

Our coffee mornings continue to be a great place for villagers and friends to have a fortnightly 'catch up' over a coffee and cake. Funds raised at our coffee mornings go towards the upkeep and running of our village hall.

If you haven't yet been to a coffee morning; please come along. If you are in Gestingthorpe and you don't want to walk along the roads on a wet and windy day please give Chris or Rose a call on 01787 462763 who would be happy to give you a lift to the village hall.

Gestingthorpe Grill

Bacon Sandwiches and Tea or Coffee £3.50
Saturday 17 June between 9.45 to 11.00
Cash only. At your Village Hall

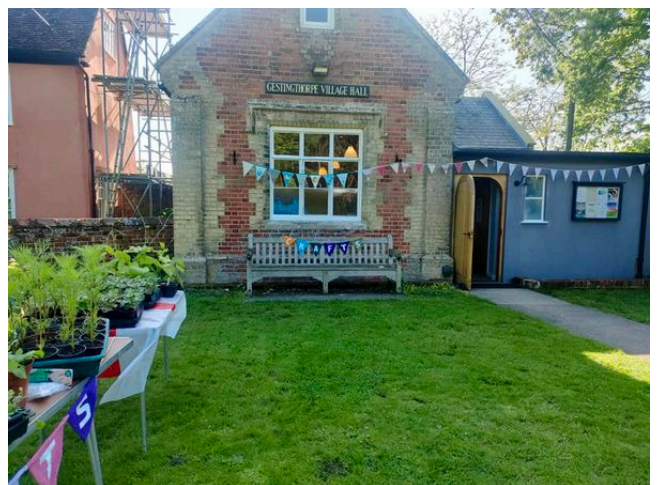


Gestingthorpe - Spring Craft Fair

A very brief thank you to our stall holders and the visitors to the Craft Fair held at the Village Hall on 20 May.

From sausage sizzle to homemade cakes and the abundance of colourful, crafts, we all enjoyed the day put together to raise funds for the Village Hall.

We are now awaiting confirmation of the next craft event - most likely to be held on 14 October. Watch this space!



Gestingthorpe Village Hall Events

Date	Use	Time
Thursday, 1 June 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Sunday, 4 June 2023	Private Event	Noon - 5pm
Tuesday, 6 June 2023	Book Club	19.30 - 21.00
Tuesday, 6 June 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 7 June 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 8 June 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Friday, 9 June 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 - 12.00
Tuesday, 13 June 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 14 June 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 15 June 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Saturday 17 June 2023	Gestingthorpe Grill	9.45 – 11.00
Tuesday, 20 June 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 21 June 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 22 June 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Friday, 23 June 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 - 12.00
Tuesday, 27 June 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 28 June 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 29 June 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45

Pebmarsh

Pebmarsh Knit & Natter Meeting

Pebmarsh Ladies' Knit and Natter meeting on 8th June at 1 pm at Pebmarsh Village Hall. Why not come along a bring your craft project with you. This is a time to meet with likeminded folk and have a cuppa and slice of cake.

For our July session on the 11th we will be visiting Spencer Farm shop for seasonal strawberries and cream teas!

This group is not just for Pebmarsh residents, ladies from surrounding villages are most welcome.



Any questions please contact Pauline on 01787 228790 or email pauline_andow@hotmail.co.uk Pauline Andow

Pebmarsh

St John the Baptist Church

June is here and the longest day will soon be with us and hopefully some better weather. Whilst the garden looks very green and everything is growing well, we should spare a thought for the farmers who have been struggling to get crops in the ground and work the land due to the wet.

Our Rogation Services have taken place and this would have been the time villages would have beaten the parish boundaries, with all the hopes and prayers for a good harvest. We take for granted the food supplies we have these days, but perhaps we all should think about how lucky we are and be grateful for the people who produce our food.

We had six swifts arrive on the 10th May which is always a good sign. With the long journey they take and a turbulent world you are never sure if they will make it and it always gives me a sense of hope and relief when they do.

We should have Wi-Fi to the church by the time this is printed and contactless payment available for donations for the church when you visit. This will also allow us to make emergency phone calls when needed and stream music for services when required.

This month will also see Jim Crayston and myself signed in as Churchwardens at our visitation service. I'm incredibly grateful to Jim for standing again this year as he has been a warden for over forty years and parish council chairman in the past. I couldn't do the job of warden without his help support and incredible knowledge of the role and the village.

I have lots of things happening in and around the church to keep things maintained and repaired with a picture restorer visiting to look at possible future restoration of the George I coat of arms and two heraldic plaques which the Friends of Pebmarsh Church are keen to help fund. Our wall repairs have been delayed but hopefully will start soon and I will be talking to our architect and some local listed buildings consultants to look at the next projects.

Sadly I have heard today that **Betty Pearson** passed away on the 17th May, she was much loved by many who knew her in the village and we were all so sad when she had to move due to ill health.

She had lived and worked in the village for many years, firstly arriving from Yorkshire to be a nanny at Rafe Hall. Later she was a midday assistant at

the school for many years. She met her husband Derek at the Pub and married and lived up on Clay Hills, moving to Street Farm later where she bought up her four girls Anita, Linda, Debra and Jenny. They attended the village school, and in later years so did some of her grand children. She campaigned to get the bus shelter opposite the pub built for the Hedingham school children, and her husband Derek who had an engineering business in the village made the church gate many of us use each day. Our heart felt condolences go to all the family at this sad time as many will remember her very well.

Betty's funeral will be held at Pebmarsh Church on Wednesday 7th June at 12noon.

I mentioned that we would be arranging something to mark the **700 years of Fitzralph** our knight in residence. **We have a concert and talk booked for the Saturday 23rd September 2023 at 3.30pm.** The talk will be given by local historian Ashley Cooper and a choir performing. There will be some refreshments afterwards and a chance to look at the brass of Sir William Fitzralph.

Tickets will be available from myself sarahburgess@btinternet.com or the village shop at a cost of £10.00.



We still are looking for local history and I have put a post out on Facebook with the hope we might find some old films or pictures that we can the organise into an exhibition or social film night and celebrate our village and its community.

If anyone would like to help us as a Churchwarden please contact myself or Jim Crayston.

Sarah Burgess, Church Warden

Pebmarsh History Corner

Following the sad news that Betty Pearson has recently passed away, I have searched through past copies of parish magazines for references to Betty. These are just a few examples of very many functions which Betty and the Pearson family partook and help organise in the village. They also give a flavour of some of the social events and activities that were taking place in the village in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Those who knew Betty and Derek will remember what an important contribution they played to the local community. (Readers will note that Betty is referred as Mrs D

Pearson – how times have changed!). Look out for some very familiar names...

Ladies' Social Club (3.6.71)

The last of the spring monthly meetings took place in the British Legion Hall (editor's note: the wooden village hall that stood in Mill Lane) on Thursday evening, when members enjoyed an interesting talk by Mrs Burnett of Lamarsh on pottery.

The speaker displayed items of clay material in early stage, before and after baking, following on with glazing methods and colouring.

She gave a short account of the history of pottery and replied to a number of questions and queries.

Mrs D Pearson, chairman, presided and thanked Mrs Burnett at the conclusion.

The monthly meetings will recommence in the Autumn.

Spring Fayre in Aid of the British Legion Hall (15.5.71)

There was a grand array of attractive stalls, competitions and games to interest everyone when the fayre opened on Saturday afternoon.

The Hall was full of buyers and supporters and very good business was done, resulting in the realising of the grand sum of £57.22 to add to the Hall repair fund.

The two chief organisers were Mrs E Harrington and Mrs Hines are to be congratulated together with all their helpers and supporters for such a wonderful success. Those taking part and in charge of stalls were:

Mr and Mrs H Weavers and Mr M Percival – Plant Stall

Mrs D Morgan and Mrs D Pearson – Bring and Buy

Mrs Harrington, Mrs Hines and Mrs Percival – Blue and Yellow Articles

Mrs M Cook and Mrs Beryl Page – Bottle Stall

Mr J Dixey – Nails for Sale

Mrs L Cook and Mrs Whiting – Rummage

The Misses F & P Dixey and Mrs J Dixey – Teas and Refreshments

Competitions were in charge of: -

Mr Bullock – Identification of photo scenes (won by Julia Harrington)

Mrs Bullock and Mrs Self – Weight of Cake (won by Mrs Corder)

Julia Harrington & Linda Pearson – Lucky Dip and Balloons

Stephen Potter – Number of smarties in Jar (won by Mrs L Cook)

Mrs Stow – Guessing name of doll (won by Beryl Page)

Mr Webber – Bean bags and hoopla (won by Mr Burgess)
Miss Seaber – Treasure Hunt (won by Mrs F Turner)
Mr T Nott – Going for a Song
Raffle was in charge of Mrs C Potter and the winners were:

Mrs Lacy (painting by L Perry); Mrs Pearson, Mrs Harding, Mr C Wisby, Mrs Clark (Twinstead), Mrs Flower, Mrs Percival, Mr D Bennett, Mr Stow, Mrs Wright, Mrs Cornell, Mrs J Wisby, Mr F Potter, Mr Perry, Mrs Whitlamsmith, Mrs Whiting, Mrs Chamley, Mrs Hayward.

New Arrival (7.1.70)

Welcome wee sister for Jenny, Linda and Anita daughters of Mr and Mrs Derek Pearson of No 7 Clayhills.

Congratulations to Mum and Dad and very best wishes to Baby Debra.

If you have any old Pebmarsh news stories for History Corner – please send them on to me – Luke Brown (Lhwbrown@hotmail.co.uk)

Pebmarsh Village Hall

Mondays Dog training club - 17.15 - 21.00 Wendy Beard 07305 195 560

Tuesdays Pilates and Yoga - 09.45 - 10.30 Jade Gooding

<https://pilatesandyogawithjade.com/>

Ladies Club - 12.30 - 15.00 **Every 2nd Tuesday** in the Committee Room
Sandra Beaney

**** NEW: Community Outreach POST OFFICE every Tuesday in the committee room 14:00 - 16:00****

Wednesdays Adult dance exercise class - 19.00 - 20:00 Kim Richardson
dance.kimrichardson@gmail.com

Thursdays Art Group -11.00 - 16.00 Sue Burgess 07443 537569

Youth Club - 18.30 - 20.30 - every other week Carol Parker

Fridays Life drawing art club - 10.00 - 12.00 Glynis Hughes

Dog training club - 19.00 - 21:30 Wendy Beard

For any further information on any of our club activities or to book the hall for an event / party please contact Kelly Thompson by emailing pebmarshvillagehall@gmail.com or calling 07919897592

Village Emergency Telephone Service (VETS)

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
Gestingthorpe

01787 852252
01787 852850

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

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

Parish Council Websites

Gestingthorpe	www.gestingthorpepc.co.uk
Great Maplestead	www.greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Little Maplestead	www.littlemaplesteadpc.co.uk
Pebmarsh	www.parishcouncil.pebmarsh.com

Local & National Authority Representatives

Essex County Council

Councillor Peter Schwier - cllr.peter.schwier@essex.gov.uk

Braintree District Council www.braintree.gov.uk

Great and Little Maplestead

Councillor Peter Schwier - cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk

Gestingthorpe

Councillor Wendy Scattergood - cllr.wscattergood@braintree.gov.uk

Pebmarsh

Councillor George Courtauld - cllr.gcourtauld@braintree.gov.uk

Councillor Gabrielle Spray - cllr.gspray@braintree.gov.uk

Westminster

James Cleverly MP - james.cleverly.mp@parliament.uk

April Church Services around our Parishes

4 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Gestingthorpe
	11am	Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
	4pm	Evensong Order of St John	Little Maplestead
11 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Pebmarsh
	11am	Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
	10.30am	Cafe Church	Great Maplestead
18 th	10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
Wed 21 st	10am	BCP Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
25 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Little Maplestead
	11am	Morning Worship	Pebmarsh
	4pm	Compline	Gestingthorpe

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Parish News Online

The magazine is available in colour on the Parish News website, which is a gateway to our four villages and their churches. The website address is:

www.knights-hospitallers.org.uk

One Last Thing...

You may remember last month that I mentioned my excitement at gaining the Freedom of the City of London (16 February 2023) and that on the 4th May I would be going to the Court of the Worshipful Company of Constructors to progress my journey to Liveryman. Well, it all happened and was amazing!

I will stop for a second to say that 'No', I am not offended that the traditions of the Livery Companies mean that I am referred to as both a Freeman of the City of London and Liveryman. I am proud of the history and its quirks, never feeling like I am missing out by not having reference to 'female'.

The Court took place in Trinity House, London which is an apt setting for a Greenwich born girl who is fascinated by the Cutty Sark, aka 'My Boat' (a wonderful model of which was displayed outside the Court Room) and Maritime History. With Dad serving in the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy, it really did seem as though Mum intervened from on high to make the setting perfect and the event stunning! (pic: Sister, Dad, Me, Brother)

The admission to Liveryman commenced with an oath to the Company in upholding the principals and maintaining the standards of the industry, among other things! I was enrobed and introduced as a new Liveryman. I had some family and friends there to witness it, and to have a lunch thereafter where I was on the top table.



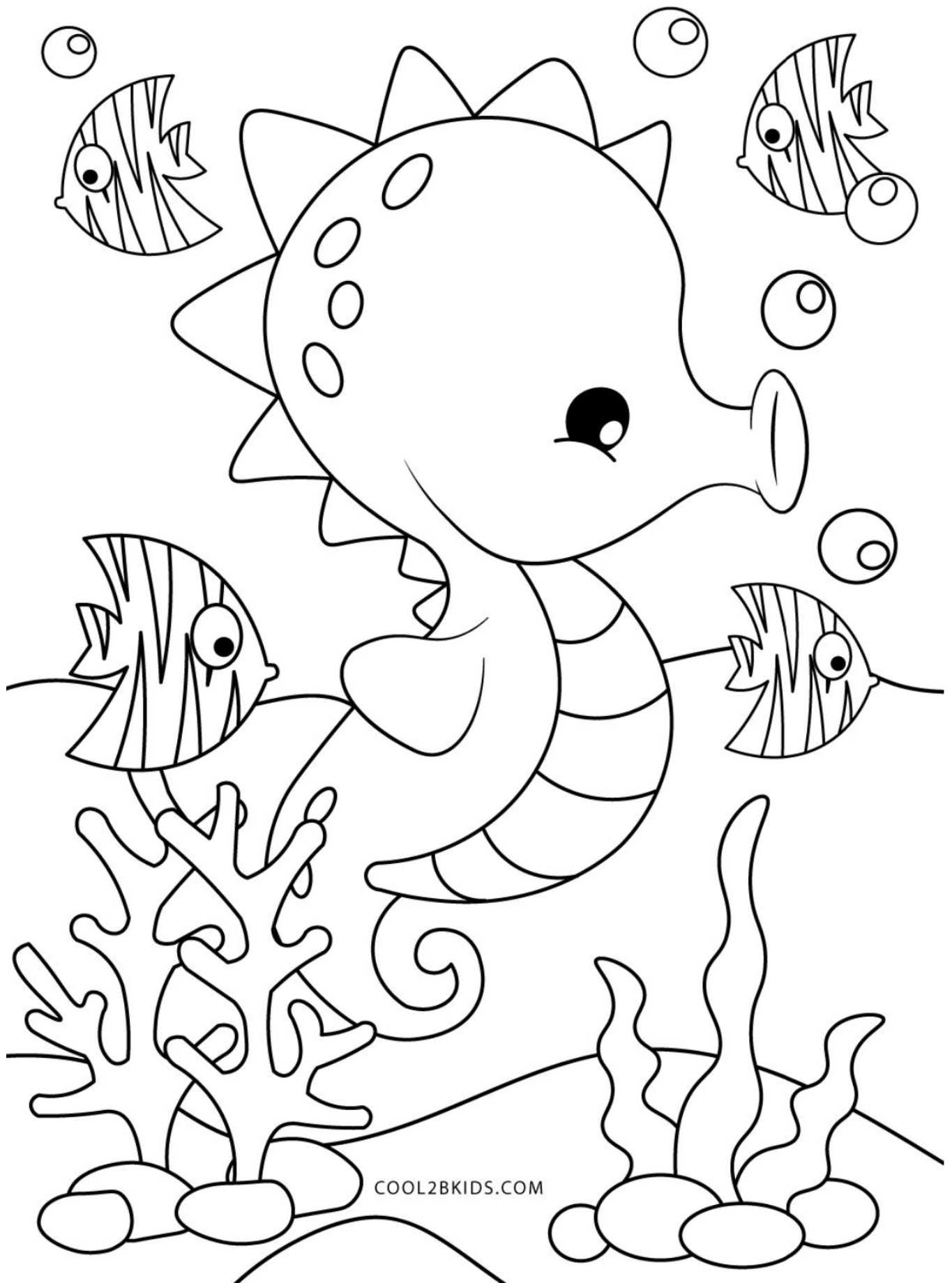
As well as a feeling of pride and collaboration with the other Members, Freeman and Liverymen of the Company, I am now part of living history - part of the 'Parliament' of the City of London Corporation which predates

Westminster Parliament, indeed the City of London is stated in the Magna Carta. (The City of London played an active role in the events that led to Magna Carta's creation in 1215 and was also the only city specifically named in the document, in the clause that stated that

"the City of London shall have all its ancient liberties by land as well as by water")



Your Proud Editor!



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