

Great and Little Maplestead Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe

March in the Past!

1st



Happy St
David's
Day

2nd



1969 Maiden
Flight the
Concorde

5th



1936 First
Test Flight of
the Spitfire

12th



1904 First
Mainline
Electric Train

16th



1972 First
FA Cup Final

27th



1871 First
Rugby Football
International

Church and Community together

March 2023

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent can be found on page 40 and the churchwardens on page 35.

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

Magazine copy see page 27.

Parish Clerks

Gt Maplestead	Ann Crisp	01787 460216	anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
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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	Nick Duncan	01787 313558	
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
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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!



Hello everyone, welcome to March! Isn't it lovely to have daylight for longer, see the spring flowers and even bumblebees!

There was a lovely, positive, reaction to the February edition and for those who contacted me with praise or recommendations, thank you. It is your magazine, so knowing how it is received is very important to the team. I know a few articles were in small print, so apologies for that, but equally having details on many aspects of the village lives has been very well received. This edition has a page for children, if any coloured pictures come back, I will ensure they are printed for everyone to enjoy. My details are

The cover this month has a theme of 'On this day'. I am a lover of history and thought it would be nice. It is obviously a month for so much, but I have picked transportation and sport as well as St David's Day, for which I wish you 'Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus' on the 1st of the month.

For anyone wondering, the first FA Cup was held at Kennington Oval between Wanderers and Royal Engineers, the Wanderers winning 1-0. The first Rugby International Football between England and Scotland was held in Edinburgh, with victory for Scotland. Scotland 1 (2T 1G), England 0 (1T).

I have to say this is a great edition of the Magazine, there is such a natural buzz about each of the Parishes and it is fantastic to see the efforts to generate community events and to enjoy the lead up to the King's Coronation!

There is something for everyone, so please, if you aren't already doing something in your village then please get involved by supporting at least one event or helping with just one task. You will make some long standing friends as well as carry on a long held tradition handed down from the residents in our benefice over so many years! You may even enjoy it so much, you do it again!

We recently heard that the local magazine for Castle and Sible Hedingham was in trouble and as I write this may even have folded. The pressure to put the Parish News together is being felt by us too, so to ensure we stay operational, please encourage local or national businesses who serve this area to advertise with us - and send in your articles too.

Big thank you to all the Parish Representatives, Distributors and Volunteers in all our villages, from me and from all who read the monthly, hand delivered, Parish Magazine. I love waiting for the start of a new month and I know many people feel the same!

Finally, thank you for reading!



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The Maplesteads Royal Variety Performance Show

"Roll up, roll up all you budding thespians, comedians, dancers, singers, musicians, magicians, etc!"

As part of events to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, there will be a variety show on the evening of Saturday 6th May 2023, at Great Maplestead Village Hall.

If you would like to perform within the show, we would love to hear from **YOU**.

We require a brief description of your act and roughly how much time it takes (5-10 mins max).

Please e-mail Ann Crisp at acrisppc@btinternet.com or tel:01787 460216.

Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

As I write this article, I am beginning to think about preparations for Lent and Easter. Lent is the time in the Church's calendar that traditionally reflects for us the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. It is a time of preparation, for us to look inside ourselves and give ourselves a mental and spiritual spring clean. Symbolically within the Church it is a time of simplicity and solemnity when we take out the things such as flowers and other decorations. We also cut out some of our liturgy in our services in the hope of enabling us to focus on Jesus' ministry and suffering. It is good for us all whatever our beliefs to take things more slowly and take stock of our lives. For me it is always a time that helps me to really appreciate the joy of Easter.

You will no doubt all know that in the times of the early Church the season of Lent began after Shrove Tuesday, more commonly known as Pancake Day, when the larder was emptied of fats and sugars and a feast was held before the starkness of a simple diet during Lent. This in turn then led to people giving up things such as chocolate or biscuits or alcohol for Lent.

I confess I'm not much good at giving things up, I prefer to add something to my daily routine. This year I will be spending an extended time of daily prayer, praying for the victims of the Turkey/Syrian earthquake and the amazing rescue teams and aid agencies. Focusing on those in need can help us to put our own difficulties into perspective. Perhaps we could also embrace Lent as a period to practice radical generosity, the website [40 Acts https://40acts.org.uk/](https://40acts.org.uk/) has some great ideas for helping in our community, helping those in need and showing random acts of kindness.

Lent is also the time that reminds us that Spring is on the way, the snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are beginning to poke their heads above the ground and are starting to fill our slightly drab and dreary winter gardens with the promise of colour. We all benefit from something to look forward to and spring gives us that sense of new beginnings and hope.

As the season of Lent begins, I pray that we will all find time to take stock, perhaps to do a little bit of spring-cleaning in our lives and begin to prepare for the glory of the Easter season.

With my love and prayers

Rev'd Beverley



Unlike a conventional bus, you need to first register as a customer and you need to book your seat on a journey at least two hours in advance of travel. Flat fare £2.50 single, £4 return. Concessionary bus passes are accepted after 0900 Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays.

For more information 01621 874410 or info@essexandsuffolddart.co.uk

Halstead - Gt Maplestead - Pebmarsh - Gestingthorpe - Sudbury **F315**
(Demand Responsive Service)

	Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)							Saturday						
Operator	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT
Notes	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	BOOK STA	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	STATS	BOOK STA
Halstead, High Street (NE-bound)	0730	1000	1200	1400	1630	1830		0730	1000	1200	1400	1630	1830	
Little Maplestead, Little Maplestead Pump (W-bound)	0735	1005	1205	1405	1635	1835		0735	1005	1205	1405	1635	1835	
Great Maplestead, Church (opp)	0741	1011	1211	1411	1641	1841		0741	1011	1211	1411	1641	1841	
Little Maplestead, The Cock (E-bound)	0749	1017	1217	1417	1647	1847		0749	1017	1217	1417	1647	1847	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial (opp)	0754	1023	1223	1423	1653	1853		0754	1023	1223	1423	1653	1853	
Pebmarsh, The Kings Head (opp)	0755	1024	1224	1424	1654	1854		0755	1024	1224	1424	1654	1854	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory (opp)	0804	1033	1233	1433	1703	1903		0804	1033	1233	1433	1703	1903	
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner (N-bound)	0810	1039	1239	1439	1709	1909		0810	1039	1239	1439	1709	1909	
Bulmer, The Street (opp)	0815	1045	1245	1445	1715	1915		0815	1045	1245	1445	1715	1915	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane (opp)	0819	1049	1249	1449	1719	1919		0819	1049	1249	1449	1719	1919	
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores (o/s)	0823	1053	1253	1453	1723	1923		0823	1053	1253	1453	1723	1923	
Sudbury, Bus Station (A)	0830	1056	1256	1456	1728	1928		0830	1056	1256	1456	1728	1928	
Sunday														
no service							no service							

NOTES
BOOK Journey must be pre-booked
STA Most times approximate (confirm by booking on 01621 874411, costs apply)
TS Passengers to/from Pebmarsh and The Maplesteads must pre-book
OPERATORS
ARWT Arrow Taxis Essex Ltd 01621 855111
 Suffolk 01/12/2021



Sudbury - Gestingthorpe - Pebmarsh - Gt Maplestead - Halstead **F315**
(Demand Responsive Service)

	Monday to Friday (Except Bank Holidays)							Saturday						
Operator	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT	ARWT
Notes	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	BOOK STA	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	STATH	BOOK STA
Sudbury, Bus Station (A)	0900	1100	1300	1530	1730	1915		0900	1100	1300	1530	1730	1915	
Ballingdon, Strawberry Stores (opp)	0903	1103	1303	1533	1733	1918		0903	1103	1303	1533	1733	1918	
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane (adj)	0907	1107	1307	1537	1737	1922		0907	1107	1307	1537	1737	1922	
Bulmer, The Street (adj)	0911	1111	1311	1541	1741	1926		0911	1111	1311	1541	1741	1926	
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner (S-bound)	0917	1117	1317	1547	1747	1932		0917	1117	1317	1547	1747	1932	
Wickham St Paul, The Victory (o/s)	0923	1123	1323	1553	1753	1938		0923	1123	1323	1553	1753	1938	
Pebmarsh, The Kings Head (o/s)	0932	1132	1332	1602	1802	1947		0932	1132	1332	1602	1802	1947	
Pebmarsh, War Memorial (opp)	0933	1133	1333	1603	1803	1948		0933	1133	1333	1603	1803	1948	
Little Maplestead, The Cock (W-bound)	0939	1139	1339	1609	1809	1954		0939	1139	1339	1609	1809	1954	
Great Maplestead, Church (opp)	0945	1145	1345	1615	1815	2000		0945	1145	1345	1615	1815	2000	
Little Maplestead, Little Maplestead Pump (E-bound)	0951	1151	1351	1621	1821	2006		0951	1151	1351	1621	1821	2006	
Halstead, High Street (SW-bound)	0956	1156	1356	1626	1826	2011		0956	1156	1356	1626	1826	2011	
Sunday														
no service							no service							

NOTES
BOOK Journey must be pre-booked
STA Most times approximate (confirm by booking on 01621 874411, costs apply)
TH Passengers to/from Pebmarsh and Gt. Maplestead must pre-book
OPERATORS
ARWT Arrow Taxis Essex Ltd 01621 855111
 Suffolk 01/12/2021

Timetable checked, from the Responsive Demand Service published route & times, on 17 February 2023.

Responding to Rural Concerns

Representatives of Great & Little Maplestead Parish Councils recently held a joint meeting with local MP James Cleverly to discuss a number of areas of rural concern.



The overarching theme of the meeting was whether the current levels of social infrastructure will be able to cope with the future population increases that recent extensive local housing developments will bring. Whilst funding from such schemes is compulsorily earmarked for improvements to local infrastructure, there is no commensurate funding for developments of fewer than 10 homes, severely disadvantaging rural villages.

Over-subscription of local school places and rising transport costs for children forced to attend schools out of area were also discussed, along with some ideas for improving rural policing coverage.

The future of Halstead Hospital and worries about delays to the launch of the new Hedingham medical centre, and its ability to cater for projected patient numbers, were other topics covered in some detail.

Thanks to LMPC Chairman Bill Piper for arranging the meeting and to James Cleverly for taking the time to come and consider these concerns.

Landowner Responsibilities

Essex Highways is asking landowners with ditches, low hanging trees or overgrown vegetation near roads and footpaths to ensure these are cleared or cut back before spring. This will ensure that, as the vegetation grows during the warmer months, roads, pavements and footpaths across the County will remain clear and easier to use for motorists and pedestrians.

Private landowners, including District, City and Parish Councils, housing associations and homeowners, are responsible for maintaining the trees, hedges, shrubs and ditches on their land, especially those close to or next to a footpath, road or pavement. These landowners have a duty of care and must take all reasonable steps to allow access and prevent or minimise the risk of injury or damage to any users of paths and roads.



Examples of maintenance that landowners should carry out include:

- Cutting back overhanging branches that reduce the width of, or block the view of, a footpath, road or pavement.
- Cutting back overhanging branches that reduce the height or clearance of the road for tall vehicles, such as double decker school buses.
- Removing or trimming damaged or diseased trees that are in danger of falling onto a footpath, road or pavement.
- Trimming overgrown hedges obscuring road signs or streetlights.
- Clearing ditches on private land to prevent flooding during periods of heavy rain.



Landowners completing this work before the spring will ensure that nesting birds are not disturbed, flooding in wet conditions will be prevented and access to, and the use of, the road and footpath network for local residents will be improved.

At the same time, **Essex Highways** will resume its grass cutting and weed spraying services in order to prevent overgrowing vegetation from blocking sightlines, the highway and causing flooding.

Cllr. Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport at **Essex County Council** said: *"While the Council will ensure that vegetation and ditches located on its own land are properly looked after, it is unable to maintain anything located on private land – this is where we are asking for the help of landowners. Please cut back any overgrown vegetation and overhanging trees on your land near footpaths and roads, keep your ditches clear and encourage your neighbours to do the same."*



Holy Week Services

2nd April Palm Sunday

We begin our service at 10am in the Round Church, Little Maplestead, then walk (if able) to St Giles to continue our service at 10:45. Followed by refreshments.

Monday 3rd	7pm Compline	@ Little Maplestead.
Tuesday 4th	7pm Compline	@ Gestingthorpe.
Wednesday 5th	7pm Compline	@ Pebmarsh.
Thursday 6th Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion	@ Great Maplestead.
Friday 7th Good Friday	2pm The Last Hour	@ Gestingthorpe.
Sunday 9th Easter Sunday	10am Holy Communion	@ Great Maplestead.





You're invited to a
**Rural Crime
Open Day**

March 10th 2023 at Layer Marney Tower

1:00 PM until 4:00 PM

**Visit stalls and hear from operational police officers
around the work they carry out in rural communities**

Scan the QR code or head to our website for more
information: <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/>



Nature Notes

How many of you took part in the **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch**, I wonder? The event this year was the 44th in what has become the biggest garden wildlife survey in the world. Last year 700,000 people participated, submitting counts for 11 million birds. The data is compiled and analysed, and each contributor receives a summary of the results. Over the years trends emerge and sadly these are downwards for even common birds like greenfinches and song thrushes. There are positives too, with goldfinches having increased to become the commonest finch in gardens. I always make sure all the feeders are filled and usually wait for one of the less common birds to turn up before starting the count. The request is to count all the birds seen in a one-hour period over the weekend of the count. My count this year (on Saturday 28th January) was 19 species, although, frustratingly, I saw another 6 species over the weekend. It is a fine example of citizen science, available to all.

Before even January was out there were signs of spring. On the warm calm days skylarks were up advertising their fitness and choral prowess, while chaffinches and greenfinches joined in. The great thing about the British calendar is that the excitement of Christmas and the New Year celebrations masks the gloom of the shortest days. No sooner have the festivities concluded, we notice (Hey!), the days are starting to lengthen and signs of spring appear. Snowdrops spring up along roadsides and catkins appear on hazel and alder trees. The yellow catkins on hazel contrast with the deep purple of alder – even more striking when they are alongside one another.

I haven't had the moth trap out yet this year, but nevertheless there was a lovely large moth at a lit window recently and I netted it and identified it as a Dotted Border. This is a common early-appearing moth in the Geometrid family with a wingspan of nearly two inches, rusty-coloured with – you guessed it – dots along the wing borders.



I also had a surprise during the cold snap when I came across a small group of Meadow Pipits in a field near the village. I haven't seen one on the patch for nearly 3 years, although they are not uncommon and are widely spread around the country. They are in the same family as the wagtails and have a similar shape but are more subdued in their plumage – brown above, streaked below and with wing bars – and still a welcome sight. **Patch Patroller.**

Gardening Corner

I make no excuses this month for repeating myself with the recommended plant of the month: Sweet Box [*Sarcococca confuse*]. An evergreen with the most superb white scented flowers it will flower in the late winter months – only a week or so back I was walking around a friend's garden when the pervading scent filled the morning air. It is a shrub that grows up to 2 metres in height; it will tolerate shade and will grow well against a shaded wall. Should you wish to prune for height and shape, do so after flowering but you will miss out on the shiny black berries produced in autumn.



If you have potatoes chitting ensure they are in a frost-free location, likewise with dahlia tubers and begonias.

While we are still experiencing hard night frosts, try and not walk on your lawn as it will damage the grass and, when the thaw sets in, there will be black foot prints, which take a while to recover. Any dish or bird bath will need replenishing with water. I know in my own garden how the wild birds appreciate fresh water during the day, both to bath in and drink.

Now is the time to take hard wood cuttings. Cut below the node [leaf joint] and place the cuttings, which should be seven to eight inches long, in a trench in the garden lined with sharp sand. This will assist drainage and encourage root growth from the cutting base. Back fill the rest of the trench with soil and there should be signs of leaf growth mid to late summer. Remember to water, should we have a dry period.



Hellebores are now budding and coming into flower. One of the most well-known is Helleborus Niger [Christmas Rose], the leaves of which can often look discoloured and shabby. Cut them off with a sharp pair of secateurs – this will enhance the look of the plant and the flowers will really stand out.

Onion sets can be sown either directly into the ground, if its frost-free, or in trays in a cold greenhouse or porch. Just keep an eye open for blackbirds, they enjoy picking at the green shoots and pulling the sets out of the ground!

The soil will soon be warming a little – be patient, the planting season will soon be upon us!

Enjoy your garden.

The Arborist.

Little Maplestead

Visit by The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP

As you have seen elsewhere in the magazine, we were lucky enough to have a meeting with James Cleverly.

The main purpose of the meeting was to address the perceived lack of infrastructure increase in line with the potential increase in population in the local area.

There were also some village specific issues raised, these were mainly:

Lack of support we feel we are getting from Essex Highways regarding traffic in the village, and our proposal to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph, and also lack of action regarding our many complaints regarding the Collins Road junction.

Concern regarding the East Anglia Green proposal to run cables and pylons through our area, and the specific issue that one of the farms in our area will be virtually cut in half by the current proposals, and some of it will be uneconomical to farm.

Mr Cleverly was interested in both these issues, and has promised to look into them. I am hoping that we will now get some action.

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More Little Maplestead

Keep the dates free

After the success of the hog roast last year for the Platinum Jubilee, Little Maplestead Parish Council have allocated a small budget to celebrate the Kings Coronation. The exact details of the event have not yet been finalised, but it is hoped that we can again bring the village together to celebrate the event.

The celebrations will be planned for **Sunday 7 May**.

Our Annual Plant Sale

Saturday 20th May

10am - 1pm

Round Church

Little Maplestead |

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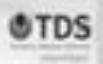
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APPEAL FOR HELP

This is an appeal for people to assist in some aspects of village life.

I am sure that all the four villages in our benefice have the same problem.

It's the same half dozen or so people in each village who sit on the various committees to make things happen for the rest of us...Those people are getting older and tired, we need some new blood to inject some fresh ideas and to take things forward.

There are many talented people in our villages, some of whom may have a little time to devote for the benefit of everyone.

In Little Maplestead, the Parish Council have earmarked a sum of money to hold a village celebration for the Coronation of our new King, but we desperately need ideas to decide what to do, and then to establish a small working party to make it happen. This would not be hard work, and would generally involve a glass of wine or two.

As a further note in Little Maplestead, we need a church warden, and there is a Parish Council vacancy.



Please contact: Bill Piper on billpiper204@gmail.com

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Street, Gestingthorpe. CO9 3AZ

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ALSO AT BRAINTREE & HAVERHILL

Great Maplestead

Great Maplestead Village Hall AGM

Thursday 9th March – 7.00pm

Everybody Welcome



Great Maplestead Volunteer Network

Just to let you know that the Great Maplestead Coronavirus Volunteer Support Network is still up and running.

If you would like any help please do not hesitate to contact me by phone on 01787 461002 or 07773 627897, or by e-mail at jacqui.mee62@gmail.com

Coffee at St Giles

Please join us for coffee on Wednesday mornings in the Deane Chapel at St Giles' – or outdoors in the churchyard, if it's warm enough. We serve from 10.30am until 12 noon. There is no charge – these are social get-togethers, not fundraisers. Also, we now serve coffee after our regular services, so please join us if you can.

MAPLE LEAVES BIG BREAKFAST

**ADULT BREAKFAST
incl hot drink £7**

**KIDS UP TO
12 YRS £4**



**SATURDAY 25TH MARCH
10AM - 1PM**

**AT
GREAT MAPLESTEAD
VILLAGE HALL**

**Raffle Tickets available on the day,
proceeds will go to Food Bank**



**Great Maplestead is Celebrating
the Coronation of
King Charles III
with a weekend of**

Events and Entertainments

Saturday 6th May to Monday 8th May 2023

Saturday 6th May 2023

Royal Variety Performance Show – 7.00pm at the Village Hall

- 7.00pm : Canapes & Fizz
- 7.30pm : Show Commences

A subsidised bar will be operating before, at the interval and following the show

~ ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY ~

--ooOoo--

Sunday 7th May 2023

Afternoon Tea & Cake – 2.00pm at St Giles Church

- To include a **Cake Fit For a King Competition**
(Under 12 & Adult Categories)

Free to anyone attending, although you are encouraged to bake a cake for the competition and for all to share!

--ooOoo--

Monday 8th May 2023

(subject to project completion & good weather)

Official launch of the new children's play area & the perimeter pathway on the village playing field. To include a community walk & garden games. Please bring your own picnic & chairs.

+ *Everybody is invited to decorate their house/garden for the Coronation weekend. There will be a prize for the best display!*

A Flyer with more information and Show Ticket Request Forms will be hand-delivered to each household from 25th March

Colne Valley Classic & Vintage Club (CVCVC)

The **CVCVC** meets on the third Thursday of each month in **Great Maplestead Village Hall**. Although the club has a membership catchment area from Chelmsford to Bury St Edmunds to Sturmer to Frinton, most members are local to the Colne Valley.

Club members own an eclectic mix of cars, motorbikes and three-wheelers from the 1920's to modern classics. The club was formed in 1989 as a result of a chance meeting of like-minded car and bike enthusiasts, since when it has gone from strength to strength.



As a member of the Federation of Historic Motor Clubs and, being Motorsport UK registered, the club can legally organise events on the roads. Its premier event, the '*Cento Miglia*', is a 100-mile road run in the spring or early summer, plus a car and a bike show for members; there is also a summer evening dinner when the annual awards are presented. In addition, the club has a 'Mid-Week Meet Up' on the last Thursday of each month, at various hostelrys around the club's catchment area, for lunch-time meals.

The monthly meetings at the Village Hall usually involve a speaker, sometimes from within the club, sometimes a guest. We have had talks on a wide range of subjects, including making bricks, the Sudbury and Halstead silk industry, arming RAF Phantom aircraft and our February speaker talked about playing in bands during the 60's. Our speaker on **16th March** will be talking about Terrorism in the UK, so it's not all about cars!



Other events in the club's calendar include a film night and a motoring-themed quiz in November. If you are interested in classic cars or bikes we welcome new members; you don't actually need to own a classic, so please feel free to come along – partners are welcome as well.

Attending the first meeting is free and membership is a very reasonable £17.50 per year. The club has a website, www.colnevalleyclub.org.uk, where forthcoming events are listed along with a photo gallery of previous events.

Bob Chaplin, Webmaster CVCVC

bobchaplincolnevalleycc@gmail.com

Hedingham Heritage Society

Thursday 2 March – ‘Hedingham Mills and the River Colne’

Our daily bread, a 1000 year history of the Mills in the Hedingham area **Jan Cole - Local Historian**

7.30pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall



Thursday 6 April – ‘Deathly finds in Roman Colchester’

A macabre tale of Colchester’s Roman past

Adam Wightman, the Colchester Archaeologist

7.30 pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

Sunday 23 April – ‘Bluebells and Red Campion’

A spring wildflower walk with **Sheila Bareham – EWT**

10.30am meet at Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall



Our 2023 programme is available at these meetings, come and join this local and natural history society for the year – annual membership £15.00.

Members free for all walks and talks: non-members-£5

All Welcome

Details

Rob Worley 01787460664:

Trudi Cullum 01787462889

Peter Bayes 01787469953

hedinghamheritage@gmail.com

www.hedinghamheritage.org

Parish
News

**Great and Little
Maplestead Pebmarsh
and Gestingthorpe**

Friday Deadlines for Articles!

Articles for Parish News must be submitted by the following Fridays to ensure they make it in the next months' print run.

Don't worry though, as long as they aren't date sensitive, we would ensure the article makes a future edition if they are late and/or the magazine is full.

24 March for the April edition

21 April for the May edition

19 May for the June edition

21 June for the
July & August edition



18 August for the September edition

22 September for the October edition

20 October for the November edition

17 November for the
December & January edition

19 January for February 2024 edition!

News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

March can be such a lovely month for being outdoors. At the Gardens, the daffodils come out through March, some early, some late and they are usually still in bloom in early April. Group Visits for 10 or more visitors can be booked in for a Thursday, if you wish to visit in March. The Gardens then open on Thursdays for all visitors on 6 April.

There are a huge number of species and varieties of daffodil and many of those in the Gardens were planted in Victorian times and have naturalised in the Bosquet and the Lime Wood. In March, other wildflowers are out too, fresh leaves are opening on shrubs and trees and there is the first blossom on the fruit trees – beautiful pink on the peaches and nectarines that are espaliered on the kitchen garden walls. There is often real warmth, when the sun shines, in the Italian Garden and the Walled Kitchen Garden. So, the bees and some butterflies are starting to get out and about. And for gardeners, it is a lovely time for getting borders back into shape; moving and planting perennials; prepping vegetable beds and sowing the first seeds.

As the Gardens renew themselves, we also like to welcome new volunteers. We are holding two New Volunteers' Days this year, on **Saturday 11 March** and on **Thursday 16 March**, so there's a weekend and a weekday option! We will show potential new volunteers around the Gardens and for those that wish, there can be a little light work! For more information go to our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on Jill Goldsmith, March 2023



Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe 'Gathering' Coffee Mornings.

Spring is here. A good time to take a nice gentle stroll to our village hall to join us and enjoy our coffee mornings.

Our coffee mornings continue to be a great place for villagers and friends to have a fortnightly 'catch up' over a coffee and cake. Please come along and join us; you will be made very welcome. 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.

Our coffee mornings during **March** will be held on the **Fridays of 3rd the 17th and 31st.** **The dates during April** will be the **Fridays of 14th and 28th.**

Funds raised at our coffee mornings go towards the upkeep and running of our village hall.

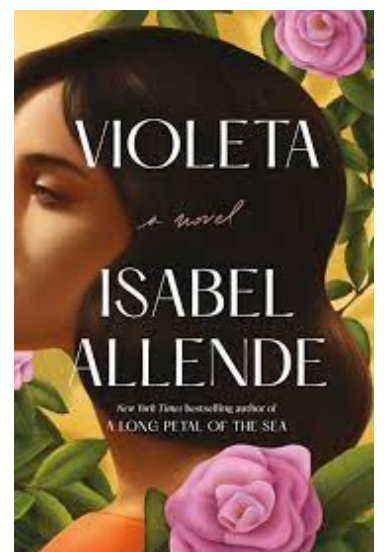
If you haven't yet been to a coffee morning; please come along. We would love to see you and guarantee a warm welcome.

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.

Our March book is *Violeta* by Isabel Allende. If you would like to join us, our next meeting is Tuesday 7 March @ 7.30pm.

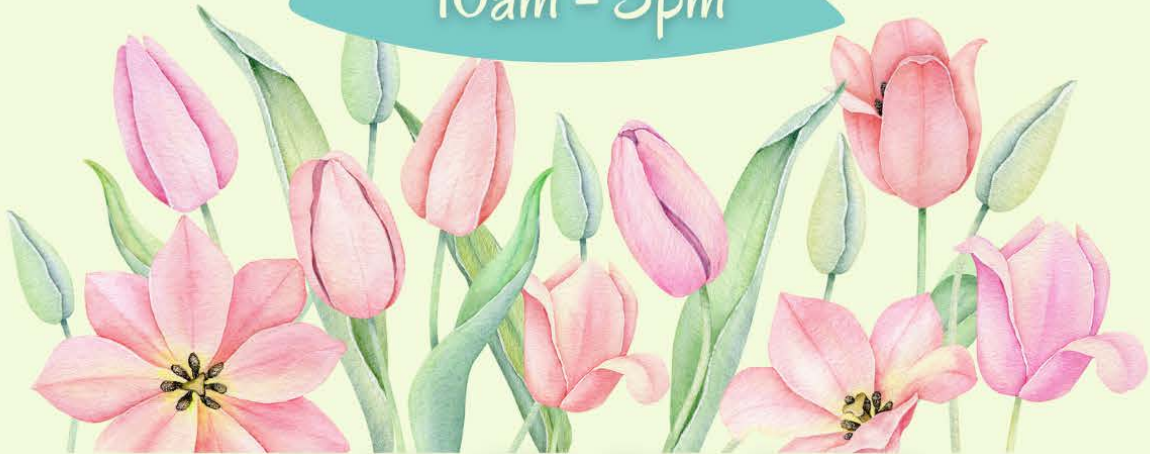
Contact Penny pbagby1@gmail.com or 07840 367172 for further details.



GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 20th May

10am - 3pm



SPRING CRAFT FAIR



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VILLAGE HALL
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CO9 3BB**

FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

HELEN SKERRATT

01787 237297



FREE ENTRANCE

Gestingthorpe Village Hall Events

Wednesday, 1 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 -
Wednesday, 1 March 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 2 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 -
Friday, 3 March 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 -
Monday, 6 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 -
Tuesday, 7 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Tuesday, 7 March 2023	Book Club	19.30 -
Wednesday, 8 March 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 9 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 -
Thursday, 9 March 2023	Parish Council Meeting	19.00 -
Saturday, 11 March 2023	Private Event	12.00 -
Monday, 13 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 -
Tuesday, 14 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 15 March 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 16 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 -
Friday, 17 March 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 -
Friday, 17 March 2023	Quiz Night	19.30 -
Saturday, 18 March 2023	Private Event	11.00 -
Monday, 20 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 -
Tuesday, 21 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 22 March 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 23 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 -
Monday, 27 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 -
Tuesday, 28 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 29 March 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 30 March 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 -
Friday, 31 March 2023	Coffee Morning	10.00 -

Forthcoming Events at our Village Hall

25 April 2023	Tuesday Talk – Ten Sheds Bakery	7.30pm
6 – 8 May 2023	Coronation Events (with Parish Council)	Details to be advised
20 May 2023	Spring Craft Fair	10am-3pm
7 June 2023	Summer Party	To be advised

Pebmarsh

St John the Baptist Church

February is passing fast as I sit writing this looking out at the afternoon sun on a garden that is waking up with Spring flowers showing through. We are just about to enter Lent and a time of reflection for the church, many of us will be marking off the days on our calendars if we have given something up for Lent. Some will be making sure arrangements are in place for Mothering Sunday on the 19th March. This years' Mothering Sunday service will be at 10am at Gestingthorpe Church.

Pebmarsh will have its normal services with Holy Communion on the 12th March at 9.30 and the 26th of March will be Morning Worship at 11am. This means a quiet month for us at the moment, but we have projects to organise. Repairs to the church wall are finally being started and I'm hopeful that County Broadband will soon be installing an internet connection to the church. This will help us with services requiring streaming and our collections.

Easter will soon be here! The school is having its Easter Service with us on the 31st March. As April the 1st passes (hopefully with not too many surprises!!), Sunday the 2nd April will see services held between our four churches in preparation for Easter Sunday. A walk from Little Maplestead to Great Maplestead will start things off at 10am for Palm Sunday. We will hold a Compline service at Pebmarsh on Wednesday the 5th April at 7pm; Great Maplestead will have a service at 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday; Gestingthorpe will hold a reflection service at 2pm on Good Friday; and the Easter Sunday service will be at 10am at Great Maplestead on 9th April.

We are preparing for our APPC meeting in April already. Denzil Fellows has decided that he feels unable to continue as treasurer. Whilst he continued through the last year in the hope that someone would step forward, that has not happened. I'm very sad to say that this will leave us without a treasurer from April. Our thanks go to Denzil for all he has done, but I now find myself asking for someone to help urgently. **Please help if you can because it is our small committee that keeps the doors of our church open for the community and look after it on a day-to-day basis.**

Sarah Burgess
Pebmarsh Church Warden



More Pebmarsh

WINE & SPIRITS BOTTLE DONATIONS PLEASE!!!

Friends of Pebmarsh Church

We are running our very popular **"WHEELBARROW OF WINE"** raffle this summer and would ask for donations of any spare bottles (preferably full & sealed!)

All proceeds will aid the repair and maintenance of Pebmarsh church & churchyard.

Please contact **John on 269182** or

team@FriendsofPebmarshChurch.uk and we will happily collect.

Thank you!



Support In Pebmarsh

Pebmarsh Volunteers continue to be here for you. If you need anything, such as if you're isolating/quarantining and need help to collect prescriptions or with shopping, get in touch with Kate Carling (Phone: 267924) and she will put you in touch with your village Volunteer.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED & ENCOURAGED FROM ALL AGES!

A bit of news? 

Budding journalist? 

A masterpiece painting? 

Got an interesting story? 

Views in a letter? 

A drawing to share? 

Photos are your thing? 

Maybe a poem? 

An achievement for you or other? 

Email your contribution to: nicola.coppen@live.co.uk

On or before: Friday 24 March 2023

More Pebmarsh

King's Head Public House

We hope you will be interested in the events planned at the King's Head over the next few months. Ryan, Cathy and their team plan to offer something for everyone in the community and they look forward to welcoming you.

Quiz Nights: Thursdays: 2 March, 6 April, 11 May - 8pm

St Patrick's Night: 17 March, special evening menu

Mother's Day: 19 March, special lunch menu

Easter Bank Holiday: 7-10 April

- **Easter Fun for Kids:** Saturday 8 April
- **Live music** with "Jaars" the ultimate cover band
Sunday 9 April, 8pm

Beer Festival: Saturday April 29 - Monday 1 May

- **Karaoke:** Sunday 30 April from 8pm
- Beers and ciders to try: Barn open: Saturday 12-8pm
Sunday 12-8pm
Monday 12-5pm

King's Coronation Holiday: 6-8 May

- **"Street Party":** Saturday 6 May: A fun day with inflatables, brilliant magician, street food and more
- **Live music** with popular local band "Blueprint" from 8pm

As always you can find out about events at the pub via www.kingsheadpebmarsh.co.uk or by following the pub on Facebook @kingsheadpebmarsh or Instagram @kingshead_Pebmarsh

Hedingham Medical Centre



The Castle Hedingham 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.

From Saturday 1 October 2022, 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.

Local Information

Local Women's Running Group: laurabloom@btinternet.com or on 07801 749802

Local Libraries: Halstead and Sible Hedingham Libraries, libraries.essex.gov.uk.

Four Parishes Book Group: Alison Cantor. 01787 462537 or acantor56@outlook.com

Sudbury Area Cancer Support Group: Ruth Worsley on ruth-SACSG@outlook.com

The U3A Halstead: u3asites.org.uk/halstead/welcome

The U3A Sudbury: u3asites.org.uk/sudbury/home

U3A Braintree: u3asites.org.uk/braintree/events

Halstead & District Photographic Society: www.halsteadphoto.org.uk

Gestingthorpe History Society: www.gestingthorpehg.co.uk

Community Agents; Community-based support for an ageing population: www.communityagentsessex.org.uk.

The Empire Theatre Halstead: www.empire-theatre.co.uk

Halstead and District Local History Society: www.halsteadhistory.org.uk.

The Hedingham Singers: Bob Lilley on 07790 573435 or www.thehedinghamsingers.com/.

Sudbury Newstalk: www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk or 01787 468535.

Clare Bridge Club: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/clare/>

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 01787 852252
Gestingthorpe 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

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

Church Services in March 2023

Sun 5th	9.30	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9.30	Morning Prayer	Gestingthorpe
	11am	Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
Sun 12th	9.30	Holy Communion	Pebmarsh
	10.30	Cafe Church	Great Maplestead
	11am	Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
Sun 19th	10.00	Benefice Holy Communion (Mothering Sunday)	Gestingthorpe
Wed 22nd	10.00	Holy Communion BCP	Gestingthorpe
Sun 26th	9.30	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9.30	Morning Prayer	Little Maplestead
	11am	Morning Worship	Pebmarsh
	4pm	Compline	Gestingthorpe

What are the 'Knights Hospitaller'?

The Knights Hospitaller are also known as the Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem or the Knights of St John, as the Knights of Rhodes from 1309 to 1522 and as the Knights of Malta since 1530.

According to some historians the origin of the Knights Hospitaller dates to about the middle of the 11th century when the merchants from Amalfi helped to restore the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, rebuilt the demolished Benedictine monastery and established a hospital for the Christian pilgrims and merchants which was run by Benedictine monks.

However, the majority of scholars consider the foundation date of the Knights Hospitaller in year 1199 when the Benedictine monk Blessed Gerard established a separate and independent religious order, the Friars of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem which was confirmed by a papal bull of Pope Paschal II in 1113. Either way, you can see the history is pretty prestigious and an honour to be a part of for our Churches.



