

Great and Little Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



Church and Community together
May 2023

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent can be found on page 39 and the churchwardens on page 39.
Village Emergency Telephone Service and Neighbourhood Watch representatives see page 38.
Magazine copy see page 24.

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!



May is here! It has been great to see so many wonderful events planned for the Coronation across the Parishes and of course seeing all the other events throughout May from all our contributors.

I love a good excuse to get patriotic, so was really excited to receive my Coronation Bunting and Banners! I am going to put them all up on Bank Holiday Monday (if I can wait that long!). I am sad that my Mum passed away on the 7 March and that she will not see the pomp, ceremony and coming together of so many people in honour of the historic event. My Dad was born just before King George VI passed, so in his lifetime he will have had 3 monarchs - which he wasn't too pleased at me noticing!

May is a hugely exciting month for me. In February, I gained the 'Freedom of the City of London' for my work in construction, which means that on the 4th of May (aka Star Wars Day!) I will become a Liveryman in the Worshipful Company of Constructors. Mum couldn't be at the Guildhall Ceremony, but my Dad, one of my sisters, my brother and a couple of friends will be coming to the Livery Ceremony and a special companions meal after. I will indulge in telling you about my journey in the future.

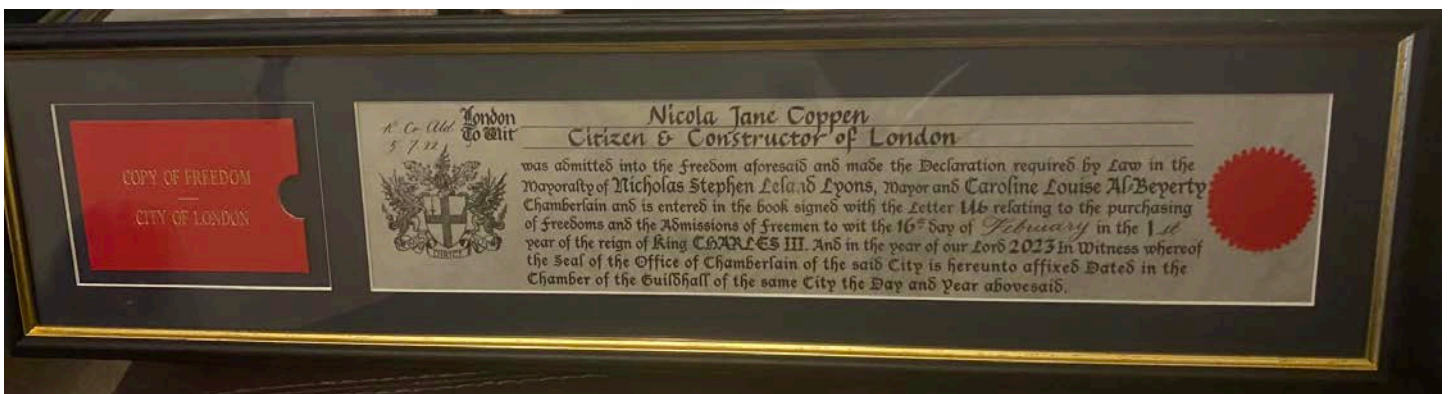


Thank you to all our new and existing advertisers, please support them by using local goods and services, or visiting the amazing venues. I would like to give a little 'shout out' to Barkers Pet Services - a brand new venture for Sarah in keeping our pets happy when we are out and additional welcomes to Darkins Supply Stores, Paul Brazier Kitchens and Bathrooms, and Tuffon Hall Vineyard too - with tours & tastings from just £20 per person among other things!

Well, enjoy the month ahead and feel free to send in any articles by the 21 May for the June edition.

Thanks for reading!

Nic



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Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

May is here and what a busy month it promises to be! Bank Holidays, local elections, Pentecost, a national week of prayer in churches and the coronation of a new monarch! Lots going on locally and nationally. I'm guessing for many of us the coronation of a new monarch, King Charles III, will be something we have not witnessed before. There is sure to be a lot of pomp and ceremony.

On her coronation in Westminster Abbey on 2nd June 1953, the late Queen Elizabeth II made promises before the congregation and before God that she would serve her country and those she governed, towards the end of the ceremony she said "The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God." The faith of the Queen was well recorded and despite the privilege of her position, I have no doubt that at times she earnestly needed the help of God to keep the oaths she had made. A life of service can't always be easy, especially one lived in the spotlight.

In this ancient ceremony, using the oil of Chrism pressed from Olives from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, the Archbishop of Canterbury will perform the anointing, a duty which has been undertaken since 1066. It seems fitting that the new King will be anointed with fruits of the earth that he has been campaigning to protect for over 50 years. We shall then become a nation of pomp and parties with bunting, fun, fizz and cake aplenty.

From 18th May, during the ten days between the festival of the Ascension and Pentecost Christians will join a global prayer movement, called 'Thy Kingdom Come'. We will pray for our world, for the church, for our communities and for ourselves. You might recognise the phrase 'Thy Kingdom Come' it is from the Lord's prayer taught by Jesus to his disciples.

But what is this Kingdom that we are praying for? God's kingdom is a topsy-turvy one. God's is king and everyone is welcomed, everyone is loved. It's a place where kindness, truth, justice and compassion rule. It's not a separate place, somewhere we go to, it's a state of being and it's what we pray every day - 'Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven'. I wonder what our streets would look like if heaven touched earth? How might our communities be different?

As we come together this month to be community, maybe to celebrate the coronation, maybe just to be with friends and family on a bank holiday (hopefully a sunny one!) I pray that we too will continue to live lives of compassion and service, recognising that everyone is important and valued whatever their status.

Please know that you are welcome to join us at any of our services as we walk through the story of Easter. You can find the details of our services in this magazine or on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Knights-Hospitallers-Parishes-104300528248946>

*Easter Blessings,
Rev'd Beverley*



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.

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

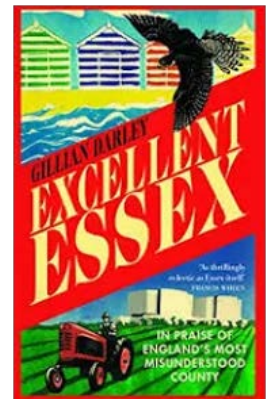
An out-of-hours appointment might not be at your regular GP surgery. When you book an appointment, you will be told where the appointment will be.



Hedingham Heritage Society

Thursday 11 May: Excellent Essex – an illustrated talk by **Gillian Darley** writer, broadcaster and author of *'Excellent Essex'*.

'A loving treatment of a slice of England...Essex will now be a little less misunderstood' - Literary Review



7.30 pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall



Thursday 1 June: Hedgehogs and Their Conservation – a presentation by **Stephany Callister-Jarrold** of the Hedgehog Preservation Society.

7.30pm Castle Hedingham 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

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	Friday	8:00 - 17:30
	Saturday	8:00 - 17:30
	Sunday	Closed
	Closed - Bank Holiday Mondays	

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Sat 29th April
Sat 3rd June
Sun 11th June
Sat 1st July
Fri 14th July
Sun 13th Aug
Sun 3rd Sept
Sun 10th Sept



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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	Timings in BOLD are
Bulmer Tye, Park Lane	09:07	11:07	13:07	15:37	17:37	19:22	fixed timing points
Bulmer, Cross Roads	09:10	11:10	13:10	15:40	17:40	19:25	All timings in Italics
Gestingthorpe, Foundry Corner	09:16	11:16	13:16	15:46	17:46	19:31	need to be pre-booked
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	Timings other than those in bold type may vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
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	arrival time
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	Timings in BOLD are
Great Maplestead, Church	07:38	10:08	12:08	14:08	16:38	18:38	fixed timing points
Little Maplestead, Cock	07:42	10:12	12:12	14:12	16:42	18:40	All timings in Italics
Pebmarsh, War Memorial	07:47	10:15	12:15	14:15	16:45	18:42	need to be pre-booked
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	Timings other than those in bold type may vary up to 10 minutes either side of stated time, dependent on the number of passengers booked on the service.
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	arrival time

Many thanks to Jenny Drury for the above detail on the bus service.

If anyone notices an error in the Parish News, please do feel free to let me know. Just email nicola.coppen@live.co.uk

Nature Notes

Following the drought-like conditions of February (2 mm recorded in my gauge) and a very wet March (94 mm), April has been about average and a little cooler than expected. However local plants and animals seem undeterred, as the roadside verges are boasting wildflowers and the birds are breeding. On a recent stroll Lesser periwinkle, Purple dead-nettle, Greater stitchwort, Lesser celandine and Cow parsley were all encountered in just a few hundred yards. They certainly brighten up a walk.



The grandchildren were with us for Easter and spent a lot of time in the garden. One day they rushed indoors to report a "lizard in the pond". Investigation revealed that our common newts have returned and will soon be breeding. One thing I didn't know about newts was that they

feed on frog tadpoles along with the more traditional land and water invertebrates. Seems a little grisly – I suppose they can differentiate between frogs and their own tadpoles...

It's always nice to hear the first singing chiffchaff of the spring and for me this was on 6th April in the garden. Ten days later a blackcap was heard and now both can be heard whenever you venture out of the house. On the 19th April, while cleaning out a garden shed, I noticed a mass of leaves behind a paint can and investigated. A small bird flew off and out the open door and I was able to peer into the nest where there was a clutch of brown-mottled tiny eggs. The shed door is normally closed but a window is permanently open, affording entry to an inquisitive bird. I will now have to suspend the spring clean until the young have fledged and meantime will have to snoop further to see if it is a wren or a great tit. Wrens do like to nest inside buildings, so this is the main suspect.

Last month the big surprise was the mandarin ducks; this month it is a breeding pair of dabchicks, or little grebes. In the spring I usually encounter these charming little diving birds on local water bodies, but they seem to move on after a short stay and I've never seen young. This time I was scanning Alderford Farm pond when, quite by chance, I came across a dabchick on a nest. They build a floating nest anchored to submerged or overhanging vegetation and it was pure luck that I spotted it. I look forward to seeing the young when they hatch.



There's always something new to find in this lovely corner of Essex.

Patch Patroller

Gardening Corner

This month is a busy one for the work that needs to be done in the garden!

Dead head daffodils, tulips and hyacinths, cutting the old flower heads and the stems down to the base of the bulb and removing them before any seed formation – but leave the leaves to die off naturally! Also, remember to feed the bulbs if you're leaving them in the ground until next season – a brand of general fertiliser is ideal.

When cutting the grass, lower the mower blades a notch and rake out any moss. Lawn sand, applied with an applicator, is ideal to for greatest coverage when killing moss – you will notice the moss turns black as it dies.

Look out for nesting birds and those on the ground when trimming shrubs. I have a pair of French Partridge who have nested behind a water butt in a quiet corner of the garden

It was a shame many magnolias and camellias suffered frost damage last month – they should be generating new growth for next year; again, a feed of general-purpose fertiliser will not go amiss.

A rhododendron or azalea makes a striking 'dot' plant. By that I mean you can place them where they catch the eye when entering a garden or turning a corner but they do need an acid loving soil – they can be planted in a large container with ericaceous compost if need be.



In the vegetable garden, plant out courgettes, French beans, runner beans and outdoor cucumbers at the end of the month, once the risk of frost is minimal. Brassicas need to be planted outside now if you have not already done so.

House plants can benefit from repotting and a feed in early summer. Step up your watering if you have greenhouse plants or plants in a conservatory. Use the finger test – if the compost feels damp, excellent, if it's wet, hold back on your watering regime for a few days.

Hopefully, once all this is done, we can sit in our gardens for a little while and take in the beauty of nature.

Don't get sunburnt out there!

The Arborist.

Think Road Safety

Speed limits and speeding in the villages. PLEASE SLOW DOWN

In the April issue, page 11, Little Maplestead Parish Council reported on the, currently, unsuccessful efforts for reducing the 40mph speed limit through the village to 30mph. In consideration of thinking about road safety, we are grateful for the below communication from a worried resident, which is beneficial for everyone to consider and share:



'As indicated on page eleven about the speed that most drivers drive through the villages. As I have said I now have to use a crutch when I walk following nine very bad falls in six months. Lowering the speed as suggested from 40mph to 30 mph would make no difference at all.

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.

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?

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 PEDESTRIAN**. 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!

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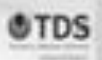
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Email: nicola.coppen@live.co.uk to find out more

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.



19 May for June

**21 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!



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The Quay Theatre's **20th** annual fundraising

PLANT MARKET

By kind permission of  **SUDBURY
TOWN COUNCIL**



**Bank Holiday Monday
1st May 2023**
Selling from **10am**

Market Hill, Sudbury CO10 2EA

Nurseries from across East Anglia offer a wide range of plants: Perennials - Shrubs - Herbs - House Plants and much more...



Little Maplestead

CORONATION CELEBRATION

**FREE MAC 'N'
CHEESE**

SUNDAY 7TH MAY

LITTLE MAPLESTEAD PLAYING FIELD

FROM 1PM

FUN DOG SHOW

Mac 'n' Cheese

from Nethergate Brewery's Mac's Street Kitchen.

Village Bring-a-Plate.

Bring a plate of food to add to the village buffet table for everyone to share

**VILLAGE
BUFFET**

Fun Dog Show.

Classes for all ages of dogs and people! Judging starts at 2pm,

**BRING-A-
PLATE**

More Little Maplestead

Grounded by Dr. James Canton

We are so pleased to be able to provide some exciting news on a local author...James lives in Little Maplestead and is planning to do a talk in the summer at Little Maplestead church. The book has been reviewed recently in the Financial Times and Wall Street Journal, among other places, so keep an eye out for news on that event & in the meantime - maybe seek out the book or get in touch with James!



A personal journey through our ancient landscapes, and how we can heal our ruptured connection with them and the natural world

For thousands of years, our ancestors held a close connection with the landscapes they lived in. They imbued it with meaning: stone monuments, sacred groves, places of pilgrimage. In our modern world we have rather lost that enchantment and intimate knowledge of place.

James Canton takes us on a journey through England seeking to see through more ancient eyes, to understand what landscape meant to those that came before us. We visit stone circles, the West Kennet long barrow, a Crusader round church and sites of religious visions. We meet the Dagenham Idol and the intricately carved Lion Man figure. We find artefacts buried in farmers' fields. There is history and meaning encoded into the lands and places we live in, if only we take the time to look.

Our natural world has never been under more threat. If we relocate our sense of wonder, veneration and awe in the landscapes we live in, we might just be better at saving it.

· James Canton's previous book, The Oak Papers, was selected as a Radio 4 Book of the Week and has had a strong critical reception. Grounded builds on Canton's reputation in nature writing but has a broader appeal.

· Grounded opens up the sacred spaces of the past and shows us how amongst the frenzy of the modern world we can find spaces of quiet reflection and learn to stop and slow down.

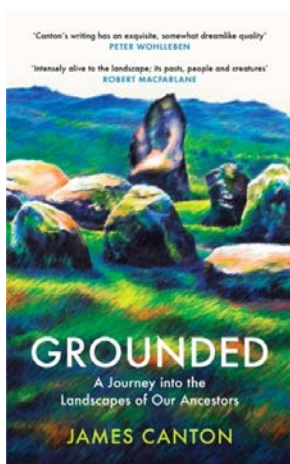
· Grounded is also in part a personal journey, as James tries to make sense of his father's death from twenty years ago. As well as the public and ancient monuments he visits on his journey, he also invites us to consider the private markers in the landscape which are sacred to individuals and which connect us to the people from our past.

Grounded by Dr. James Canton (cont)

Dr James Canton is Director of Wild Writing at the University of Essex. He is the author of *The Oak Papers* (2020), *Ancient Wonderings: Journeys into Prehistoric Britain* (2017) and *Out of Essex: Re-Imagining a Literary Landscape* (2013), which was inspired by his rural wanderings in East Anglia. He has written for the *Guardian*, reviews for the *TLS* and *Caught by the River*, and is a regular on television and radio.

@jamescanton | @jrcanton1 | jamescanton.co.uk

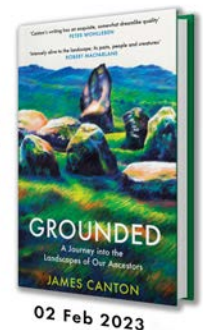
CANON GATE



Grounded *A Journey into the Landscapes of Our Ancestors* James Canton

Publication date: 2 February 2023
Format: Hardback / Ebook
Price: £18.99 / £15.19

'[Canton] assumes a role somewhere between that of an archaeologist, ghost hunter and pilgrim'
Financial Times



Grounded
ISBN:
9780063212145

More Little Maplestead

Our annual Plant Sale at The Round Church is on 20th May this year and we really hope you will support it. All sorts of flowers, vegetables and different plants will be on sale at very reasonable prices.

The advert below gives more details. If you have any left over plants that you can donate we would be delighted to accept anything and if anyone would be able to make a cake for us that would also be great.

Plants can be given to Jane Stone, Bill and Jane Piper or Kevin and Carol Caddy who I am sure most of you know, or can be dropped off early on the day.

Feel free to call Jane on 01787 472525 if you need help.

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible for a cup of coffee and some bargains!

Parish News is printed by **Paul Clark Printing Ltd**
Suite 6 . Enterprise House . Rippers Court . Sible Hedingham
Halstead . Essex . CO9 3PY 01787 469628 sales@paulclarkprint.co.uk

The copy deadline for the June 2023 magazine is **Friday 19 May 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
Gestingthorpe	Andy Craig	07970 395640	andy@mdamarketing.com
Gt Maplestead	Ann Harris	01787 462818	ann66harris@gmail.com
Little Maplestead	Jenny Bishop	07906 083999	pmeditor@icloud.com
Pebmarsh	Luke Brown	07919 375341	lhwbrown@hotmail.co.uk

Our Annual Plant Sale

Saturday 20th May

10am - 1pm

Round Church

Little Maplestead |

CO9 2SL



- Summer bedding
- Flowers
- Fruit & Vegetable plants
- Herbs

all at great prices

Free entry

Tea, coffee and cakes available and our famous church will be open



Come and select high quality plants at a fraction of garden centre prices

All proceeds to the Round Church

Great Maplestead



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! Please register your cake entry via the Show Ticket Request form.

--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!***

Make sure you order your show tickets and/or register your
Cake Fit for a King entry by Saturday 22nd April 2023

Great Maplestead Volunteer Network

Just to let you know that the Great Maplestead Volunteer Support Network is still there for you.

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



The Maplesteads Autumn Show

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:



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

Great Maplestead Beer Festival

“IT’S ALL ABOUT THE BEER!”

Come & try some fantastic local real ales – bring your family & friends.
We’re also offering a great selection of cider, gin, prosecco & wine

Great Maplestead Village Hall

Saturday 27th May 2023 : 12.00 noon – 11.00pm

With Hells Bells Morris Dancers & Ricardo & his amazing flamenco guitar

Sunday 28th May 2023 : 12.00 noon – 5.00pm

With the fabulous Belchamp Morris Dancers

Food available both days

For more details see the
Great Maplestead Beer Festival Facebook Page



Saturday June 3rd

In

Great Maplestead Village Hall

Doors open 7pm, Eyes down 7.30pm

In aid of

Cystic Fibrosis

Tickets £10 available from Myra Jeggo

01787 474285

(This will be exchanged for a book of 10 games on the door)

Many exciting prizes to be won.

Refreshments available.

Adults only

carolbrownlie@gmail.com.

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

News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

What do you know about the Countess of Warwick's socialism? Volunteer guides have always featured this in their tours of the Gardens, and the Trustees thought it is a part of the Countess' life worthy of being told in a bit more detail at the **21 May Open Day**. The Countess became a fully-fledged member of the Social Democratic Federation in 1904, campaigned for Independent Labour Party candidates in 1906 and installed socialist vicars in the parishes of Tilty and Thaxted. The Trust's archivists will be displaying fascinating stories, photos and details. Why not come and find out more?

On 21 May, as usual for a Sunday Open Day, there will be a range of plant, craft, honey, produce and information stalls; local duo Karen and Tony will be playing music; and of course a delicious range of homemade cakes and savoury snacks (bacon, cheese and hummus rolls).

The Gardens usually look at their best in May and are open every Thursday through the month, allowing visitors (and dogs on leads) to explore while the Trust's volunteers are hard at work. The Trust's volunteers provide hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes and visitors are welcome to bring picnics.

In May, the wild areas of the Gardens are full of fragrant cow parsley, with wild orchids in the long grass towards the end of the month and last year bee orchids too. It is iris and allium season, with yellow flags in the pond and blue iris, purple alliums and allium christophii punctuating the borders with vivid style. Everything is lush and green and there are still flowers on the trees – the apples and pear blossom, with luck the laburnum (for some reason it sometimes skips a year!), and also the chestnuts.



For more information go to the Trust's website:

Open Thursdays, 11.00am - 3.00pm, last entry 2.00pm:

<https://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on/open-thursdays-3/>

21 May Open Day 11.00am - 5.00pm, last entry 4.00pm

<https://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on/may-open-day-the-red-countess>

Tickets available in advance via the Trust's website or direct through Trybooking.

Jill Goldsmith, April 2023



Gestingthorpe Coronation Events

Saturday 6 May

Coronation Drinks from 6pm in the Village Hall
Free Entry, Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks on sale
Village Beacon Lighting on Church Green at 8pm



Sunday 7 May

Games & Big Lunch on the Playing Field 12 noon
Bring Your Own Picnic, beer/wine glass & Blanket
Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks on sale in the Pavilion



Monday 8 May

The Big Village Tidy, meet on Church Green at 10am
Free Tea/Coffee & Bacon Rolls for all Village Tidy
Volunteers in the Village Hall at 12 noon



6, 7, 8 May

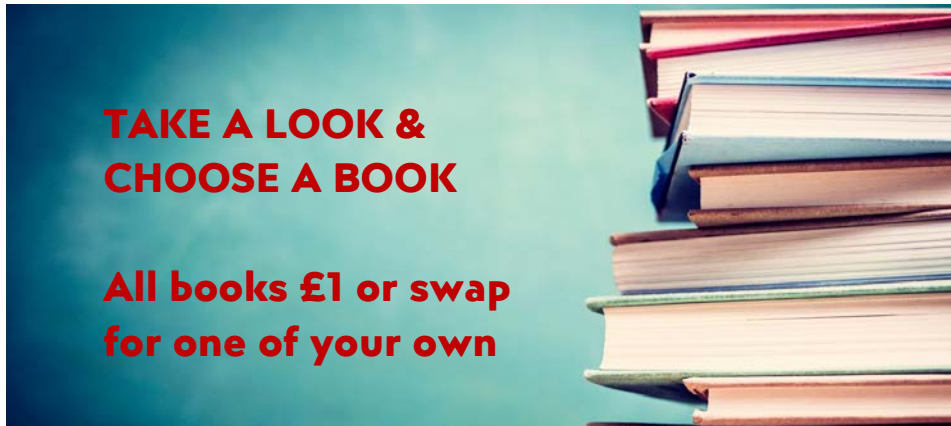
Gestingthorpe History Group will have displays in
the Village Hall & Church with Tea, Coffee & Cake
available throughout the day from 10am.



None of these events can take place without volunteers. If you feel you
would like to help out, please contact Penny on 07840 367172 or
Chris on 01787 462763 - the more volunteers we get, the less there will be to do!

GESTINGTHORPE FIRST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

INVITES YOU TO



Our bookcase is in the Village Hall by the front window and open during Friday fortnightly Coffee Mornings

All money raised goes to Village Hall Funds

**Interested in joining our book club?
Contact Penny pbagby1@gmail.com or
07840 367172**

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 *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley. If you would like to join us, our next meeting is **Tuesday 2 May @ 7.30pm.**

The **Book Exchange** will be open Fridays 12th & 26th May and 9th & 23rd June 10am to 12 noon in the Village Hall. The bookcase is located next to the big window in the small hall.

Bring a book to swap or buy a book for £1. All proceeds to Village Hall Funds

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

GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 20th May

10am - 3pm



SPRING CRAFT FAIR

Along with the creative items,
we have Tea, Coffee,
Sausage Sizzle &
Cake available



**GESTINGTHORPE
VILLAGE HALL
CHURCH STREET,
GESTINGTHORPE
CO9 3BB**

**FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:
HELEN SKERRATT**

01787 237297



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.

Neighbourhood Watch Notes

Just reminder that I am your friendly Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and whether you are new to the village and require the NHW pack of stickers and information (we highly recommend the prominent position of stickers on your property and wheelie bins), or have questions or concerns to report, then please do get in touch.



All the NHW Coordinator details for the villages are on page 39.

If you're new to Gestingthorpe, then welcome. Pop along to the coffee mornings and say hello - we are a friendly bunch. **Helen.**

What's On at Gestingthorpe Village Hall?

Date	Use	Time
Tuesday, 2 May 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Tuesday, 2 May 2023	Book Club	19.30 - 21.00
Weds, 3 May 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 4 May 2023	BDC - District & Parish Council Elections *Remember ID*	7.00 - 22.00
Thursday, 4 May 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	Village Green
Saturday, 6 May 2023	History Group Exhibition	10.00 - 16.00
Sunday, 7 May 2023	History Group Exhibition	10.00 - 16.00
Monday, 8 May 2023	History Group Exhibition	10.00 - 16.00
Tuesday, 9 May 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Weds, 10 May 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 11 May 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Thursday, 11 May 2023	Parish Council Meeting	19.00 - 21.00
Friday, 12 May 2023	Coffee Morning & Book Exchange	10.00 - 12.00
Tuesday, 16 May 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Weds, 17 May 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 18 May 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Saturday, 20 May 2023	Spring Craft Fayre	10.00 - 15.00
Tuesday, 23 May 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Weds, 24 May 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 25 May 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Friday, 26 May 2023	Coffee Morning & Book Exchange	10.00 - 12.00
Tuesday, 30 May 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Weds, 31 May 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm

Forthcoming Events at Gestingthorpe Village Hall

6 – 8 May 2023	Gestingthorpe History Group Exhibition	From 10am tea/coffee & cakes on sale
6 May 2023	Coronation Drinks	6pm
20 May 2023	Spring Craft Fayre & Sausage Sizzle	10am-3pm
9 June 2023	Summer Party	To be advised

Pebmarsh

St John the Baptist Church

Finally, the swallows are here and the weather is warming up and weeds growing madly in the garden, our Easter week services complete and flowers back in the church. Five of us took on the task of cleaning the church and achieved quite a lot, although some more hands would have meant we could have tackled more maintenance. Thank you to Meg, Graham, Jim and Allister for their help.

Our graveyard has been cut and is being tidied up. The Jonathan Nott trust pays for the upkeep of the churchyard and we are very grateful for this support. We have lots to think about in the future as hedges and trees need maintaining and brambles need clearing. Anyone who attended any family graves will also have seen a notice next to the wall in the new burial ground. This is from the Chelmsford Diocese and lays out the legal requirements that we have to follow, we know this is difficult to approach, as it is so emotional for those concerned, but please can you follow the rules set out and remove any items that are not allowed. I would like to see more spring flowers and sustainable planting in the future.

It is with sadness that we learned that Ian Fitzlyon passed away on the 15th March and his funeral was to be held on 25th April. Ian and his wife Jo lived in the village at Kingsmead for many years and Jo was a church warden and Ian treasurer for some time. I remember them winning a Mr & Mrs competition held at the Kings Head one year. When they moved to downsize to Sudbury they kept in touch with many people from the village.

I enjoyed reading the snippet from the past parish magazine and recognised some of the bell ringers mentioned. Tom Bird was a well-respected bell ringer locally and also played hand bells. I was lucky enough to have him ring for my own wedding. It is heart-warming to think we still have very accomplished bell ringers at Pebmarsh carrying on the tradition and winning awards. Well done to you all who take part and our tower captain Jonathan Thompson. The bell ringers will be ringing for the coronation at Pebmarsh on the 6th of May. As they will be visiting many churches in the area that day, we are not sure what time this will be, but listen out for them as we are very lucky to have the bells at our church and the tower team to ring them.

We held the School Easter Service on the 31st of March and had 68 people and 70 children from the school, so a busy church. As usual the children were very well behaved and performed songs, poems, prayers and hymns beautifully. We love having the school in church and enjoy welcoming them

and their parents to St John the Baptist Church and hope for their continued support.

We will have Wi-Fi in the church very soon and once that is in place, we will have a contactless payment system for our collection as we find a lot of people no longer carry cash. Let's hope this boosts our donations that keep the church open for these sorts of occasions.

If you have any village history, you would like to share with us please email me and I will pass it on.

We have copied past magazine articles and have them for people to look at in the church, as well as some information on the heraldic shields on display in the windows and plaques. We are always interested in any information people wish to share so it can be passed on for everyone to enjoy.

Sarah Burgess
Pebmarsh Church Warden



Support In Pebmarsh

Defibrillator

- The Pebmarsh defibrillator is in the phone box outside the pub and fully operational.
- Dial the ambulance service on 999 to obtain the code to access it.
- Remain with the patient and ask a friend/neighbour to collect the defibrillator as a matter of urgency - give them the access code.
- The ambulance service will tell you how to use the defibrillator; the defibrillator itself will also give you instructions.

*NOTE: Pebmarsh VETS (Volunteer Emergency Telephone Service) has been disbanded, so in an emergency you must ask a friend/neighbour to collect the defibrillator. **Always dial 999 in the first instance.***

General Support

If you or anyone you know needs support, (including just an understanding voice on the end of the phone) get in touch with Kate Carling (Phone: 01787 267924 or 07981 114795) and she will help, or she'll put you in touch with someone in the village who can assist you.



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 Night: Thursdays: 11 May - 8pm

Beer Festival: Saturday April 29 - Monday 1 May

- 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 of bouncy castle, 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

Pebmarsh Village Hall

Mondays Dog training club - 17.15 - 21.00
Wendy Beard 0730519560

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

Pebmarsh History Corner

Much has changed in Pebmarsh over the centuries, but one thing that has not is the sound of the church bells. We might take for granted when the bells ring out, that what we are hearing is almost exactly what the peasant farmer or Lord of the Manor would have heard back in the 1400s. Consider too all the celebrations over the centuries for which the bells would have provided the backdrop being heard across the fields of Pebmarsh. Here is an extract from the Revd Bayley's book Pebmarsh Church, published in 1946. [Readers will note the article on the life of Revd Bayley in April's magazine]:

In the tower are six bells and a bell for the clock in the turret above it. The only ancient bell, the tenor, by John Bird, is of early-fifteenth-century date. On its shoulder is a medallion of six fleur-de-lis in an octagonal frame, which also appeared on Bird's bell at Little Horkesley (now broken by enemy action).

The present fifth was installed by Mr J C Ambrose of Sudbury who took away two broken bells and made no charge. Nothing is known of the date of these bells.

In 1906 an entirely new bell-frame, made by Mr S Sturgeon, wheelwright of Pebmarsh, was installed, the present fourth was recast, and the present second and third placed in the tower. The recast bell reproduced an original inscription 'Miles Graves Made Me 1667'.

The clock bell, inscribed 'Tho = Gardiner Fecit 1737' is from the foundry of the well-known Sudbury bell-founder, and is one of a group of eight or ten Essex bells cast in that year.

Formerly a bell was rung in harvest time as a signal for the gleaners. The morning bell was at 8am. It rang again in the evening for them to cease. Payments for the ringing appear regularly in the accounts, the last being in 1886.

The Death Knell is rung 12 or 24 hours after death: three for a man, two for a woman, one for a child. But relatives do not now always ask for it.

The bells are rung on New Year's Eve at midnight, and usually at 6.30am on Great Festivals. On Sundays they are rung before morning and evening

service, if sufficient ringers are available. One bell is rung for five minutes before service begins.

Any interesting posts/articles on Pebmarsh from yesteryear?

Please send to Luke Brown (Lhwbrown@hotmail.co.uk)

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 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

All the April Church Services around our Parishes

Friday 5 th	6pm	Coronation Prayer Service	Great Maplestead
Sun 7 th	9.30am	Coronation Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9.30am	Commemorative Morning Prayer	Gestingthorpe
	11am	Coronation Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
Sun 14 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Pebmarsh
	11am	Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
	10.30am	Café Church	Great Maplestead
Sun 21 st	10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
Pentecost			
Sun 28 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Little Maplestead
	11am	Morning Worship	Pebmarsh
	4pm	Compline	Gestingthorpe

The Reverend Beverley Vincent

The Rectory Church Street Great Maplestead Halstead CO9 2RG	khvicar@gmail.com	07944 200132 01787 460273
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The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

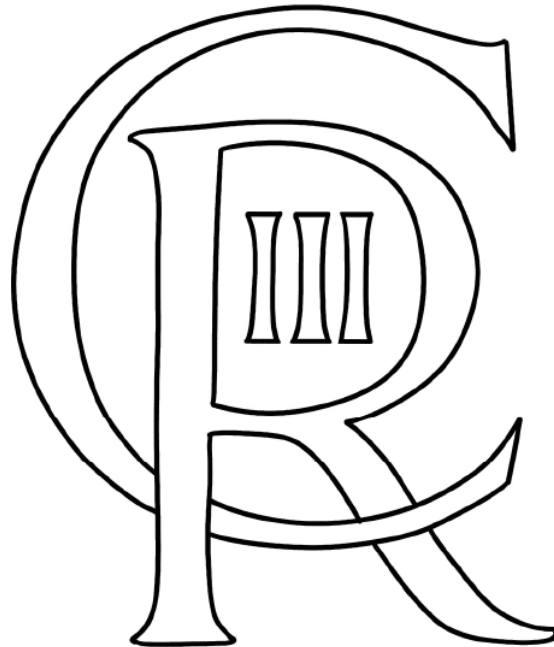
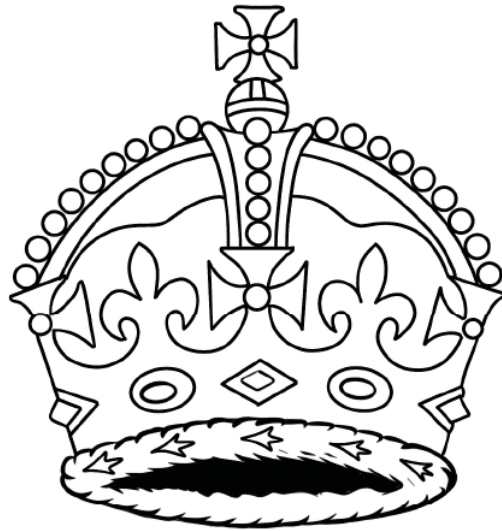
Great Maplestead	Gill Peskett	01787 462786	gillpeskett43@gmail.com
	Jill Newton	01787 463893	gilliannewton4@gmail.com
Little Maplestead			
Gestingthorpe	Alice Nolda	01787 469688	-
	Peter Nice	01787 460126	peter.427nice@btinternet.com
Pebmarsh	Jim Crayston	07957870340	jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
	Sarah Burgess	01787 269092	sarahburgess@btinternet.com

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

KING CHARLES III



CORONATION
6th May 2023

COLOURING
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