

Great and Little Maplestead, Pebmarsh and Gestingthorpe



Credit: Heidi Page, Oak Farm, Pebmarsh.

**Church and Community together
November 2023**

Free

Village contacts and information

Reverend Beverley Vincent and the Churchwardens on page 36.

Village Emergency Telephone Service page 5; Neighbourhood Watch representatives page 9.

Magazine copy see page 17.

Parish Clerks

Gt Maplestead	Ann Crisp	01787 460216	anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
Lt Maplestead	Paula Sillett	07975 571253	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	Dave Pike	07885 788855	davepike@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	Kelly Thompson	07919 897592	Pebmarshvillagehall@gmail.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!



BIG PLEA! We urgently need more funds to keep the Parish News going across our Parishes. Whether it is a one-off donation or fundraising idea - we need YOUR help, **otherwise THIS MAYBE THE LAST EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE.**

Does your company or business have Corporate Social Responsibility or Social Value Funds (which can be offset against operational costs!) to be able to sponsor the Magazine? We would put your branding on the relevant months / editorial or other agreed area and provide copies to put in your business premises to evidence your helping in the community.

The Steering Group are meeting on **8 November 2023** with reviews of all the **Advertising Prices, Print Costs and the Editorial Policy.** Some proposed changes are to, reluctantly, require Village Fundraising and Events to be charged a one-off insertion fee; to increase our offer to provide Personal Advertisements (Classified Ads) and offer sponsored editorial content. For those who add Flyers into the magazine, we are likely to change this arrangement to ensure that there is a kind donation in consideration of Parish News being used as the vehicle to put information into all doors in our 4 Villages.

In this month's edition, we have had to curtail some items to ensure we are within the best 4-page denomination for the printing. However, we are setting up a Facebook Page for those who wish to see the colour version of the Magazine and as a way of sharing reminders - this does not mean the Page will be monitored constantly, but will be a repository for information.

Thank you for your ideas, donations and support - we really appreciate it.

Nic

Deadline for Articles!
Friday:

**17 November for the
December & January edition**

19 January for February 2024 edition!

Advertising in Parish News
Quarter Page (Portrait) £70
Half Page (Landscape) £130
Full Page (Portrait) £200
Parish News is hand delivered
through all doors in the
4 Parishes.

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

Letter from the Reverend Beverley Vincent

As we enter November and the season of Remembrance, our hearts are heavy with the conflicts and struggles that persist in across the world. We are prompted to reflect on the sacrifices made by countless individuals in the past and to hold onto the hope for a more peaceful and just future.

The act of remembrance is a powerful and enduring tradition that binds us together as a community. It reminds us of the bravery and selflessness of those who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces, often in far-off and dangerous lands. We honour their dedication to preserving peace and safeguarding our freedoms, and we recognize the hardships they endure.

Remembrance is not just about the past; it's also about the present and the future. In our prayers and reflections, we consider the men, women and children whose lives are shaped by war, whether as victims, displaced people, humanitarian workers or armed forces. Their sacrifices, their physical and emotional burdens, and the toll that war takes on them and their families weigh heavily on our hearts.

In these times of uncertainty and conflict, it is essential for us to maintain hope. We hope for an end to violence and division, for the safe return of those who are far from home, and for the healing of wounds, both seen and unseen. We hope for a world where the lessons of the past guide us towards lasting peace.

As people of faith, we know that hope is not a passive act but an active one. We are called to work towards peace, justice, and reconciliation in our own lives and within our community. Our faith teaches us that even in the face of despair, hope can be a powerful force for change.

In our parish and as individuals, let us be bearers of hope. Reach out to one another, especially those who may be struggling with the weight of current conflicts. Offer comfort, support, and a listening ear. In doing so, we can help kindle the light of hope in the darkest of times.

Together, as a parish community, we can be a beacon of light and a source of inspiration for a world in need of peace.

Reverend Beverley



Hedingham Heritage Society



Thursday 2nd November:

Castle Hedingham and 'The Way of St James'

Local historian **Jan Cole** will talk about the significance of St James's Well Chapel and Hospital and medieval pilgrimage in East Anglia.

7.30pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

Unfortunately we have had to cancel our annual Christmas Social on Friday 15th December but instead we have an alternative and very Christmassy event on the previous evening:

Thursday 14th December:

A Christmas Carol

An Evening Recital of the Classic Dickens Tale

Anthony Roberts, Director of the Colchester Arts Centre, will be entertaining with some music and festive cheer.

£5 per person – All welcome

7.30pm Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall



Thursday 28 December:

Our Christmas Walk in the surrounding countryside

Meet 10.30am Castle Hedingham Memorial Hall

**For all walks and talks: Members free, non-members £5
Everybody Welcome**

Contact information:

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

Website: www.hedinghamheritage.org.uk

E-Mail: hedinghamheritage@gmail.com

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

Consultations & Local News

Recycling Centre Bookings Consultation

A **Public Consultation** is being carried out by **Essex County Council** with regard to the future of **Recycling Centre Bookings** – an opportunity for you to have your say about the current appointment-based system.

All feedback will be used to help determine whether or not this arrangement should become permanent. **ECC** will publish a summary report of the feedback after the consultation is completed and the responses have been analysed.

The consultation proposal and survey can be found by going to:
essex.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebookings

The Consultation closes on Sunday 19th November.

LOCAL BUS SERVICE CONSULTATION – GMPC FOLLOW-UP

It was announced at the end of September that **Essex CC** is to receive **£4.89m/year for the next two years** as part of new Government funding to help **support local bus services**, particularly those *“with low passenger numbers, so that people who rely on them for essential services can continue to access them”*.



In view of this development, **Great Maplestead Parish Council** wrote directly to **Cllr. Lee Scott, Cabinet Member at ECC for Highways & Sustainable Transport**, to request his support in ensuring that this new funding will be allocated to help protect, ensure the survival of and even improve the **F315** bus service in North Essex.

In the same letter the **Council** also expressed concerns over the suitability of the currently proposed alternative provision: a new **DigiGo**, all-electric, on-demand bus service. There are a number of practical reasons why this will be a demonstrably less user-friendly service and also, in essence, discriminatory.

DigiGo appears to be a technology-driven transport solution, designed primarily to be ‘green’ and achieve cost-savings for **ECC/BDC**, rather than being a customer-focussed service provision that meets the actual needs of residents. Older/disabled/technophobic potential users – who are, in reality, those most likely to need and rely on a regular, easy to access and use, bus service – would be the ones most disadvantaged.

And, at the moment, there would appear to be an insufficient charging network in North Essex to properly support a fully-electric bus network.

The full text of the **Parish Council’s** letter can be found here:
<https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/assets/documents/digigo-bus-concerns>

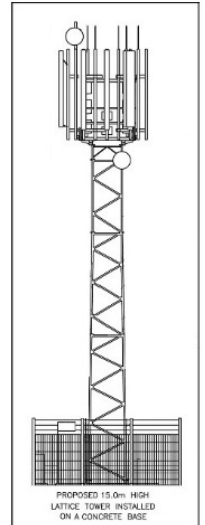
Consultations & Local News (cont.)

PROPOSED MOBILE PHONE MAST AT LITTLE LODGE FARM

Telefónica, through its agent Galliford Try, has lodged an appeal with the **Secretary of State** against **Braintree District Council's** refusal, in September 2021, of the company's prior approval application for planning permission for this mast.

All previous submissions and objections regarding the application will now be forwarded to the **Secretary of State**, so there is no need for anyone to resubmit them at this time.

However, any new evidence will be considered, as outlined in the notification of appeal, which can be read here: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/assets/documents/phone-mast-planning-appeal-oct>

A Christmas-themed event poster for the Sudbury Flower Club. The background is a festive border of pine branches, red berries, and pinecones. The text is centered and reads: "Sudbury Flower Club Presents Christine Long Area Demonstrator". Below this, the title "Loosely Round the Solar System with Sparkle" is written in a red, cursive font. A small wreath is centered below the title. The event details are listed at the bottom: "Monday 27th November 2023", "Doors Open at 7pm", "The Quay Theatre Sudbury", "01787 374745", "www.quaysudbury.com", "Tickets £10 (SFC Members £7)".

Sudbury Flower Club
Presents
Christine Long
Area Demonstrator

*Loosely Round the
Solar System
with Sparkle*



Monday 27th November 2023
Doors Open at 7pm
The Quay Theatre
Sudbury
01787 374745
www.quaysudbury.com
Tickets £10
(SFC Members £7)

Nature Notes

One of the certainties of autumn is the appearance of large, fast-moving spiders crossing the floor as you watch TV in the evening. There are several species of House Spider in the UK and, in my house, I suspect we have *Tegenaria gigantea*,



as they are about three inches across. Whether it is this, or one of about five other candidates, doesn't really matter. They give you a fright but are completely harmless; they rarely bite and even if they do, it is painless. They belong to the funnel-web family and build a sheet web leading to a tubular retreat, usually in a corner or behind furniture. The funnel-web family does have some extremely poisonous members but these are found in far-off places like Australia. They are in the house all year but only seen at this time, as the males are out searching for mates. The females can live for years but males have a shorter life, dying after mating and sometimes even being eaten by the female.

We have had an extraordinary autumn with warm, even hot days still occurring. Lawns are still being mowed as there is also the rain to keep them going. One pleasant consequence of this is the late flourishing of butterflies. Whites, Common Blues, Red Admirals and Peacocks are still to be seen. While the Admirals and the Peacocks do survive over winter, by this time they are usually secreted away in old buildings and sheds, laying low until the warmth of spring entices them out again. Less pleasing is the continued appearance of hornets in the moth trap! Other autumnal activity sees the squirrels busily secreting nuts and the jays storing acorns while the swallows and martins are nearly all gone.

Another joy of autumn is a beautiful moth with a French name, *Merveille du Jour* – 'the Marvel of the Day'. This large, common moth has a broad inch-long forewing, light pastel green with black markings, many of these edged in white. The adult flies only in September and October and lays its eggs on the bark of various species of oak. These eggs remain dormant over the winter and the young emerge to feed on newly budding leaves from April to June. The adults inhabit woodland, parks and hedgerows but generally not in cities or large urban areas. Another one of the many bonuses of rural living.



Patch Patroller

Gardening Corner

We are now approaching the short autumn, early winter days and my plant of the month is *Nerine bowdenii*. This vibrant pink lily provides a welcome splash of colour at a drab time of year.



In the vegetable garden parsnips can be dug; they are always best when there has been a frost or two as this enhances flavour. Garlic should be planted this month and rhubarb crowns cleaned of any dead leaves and mulched with a little compost. Broad beans can be set in the ground – I find if I sow them in pots in the greenhouse the mice tend to find them! Direct sowing seems to be the better option. Winter digging can also be started and there is a rule of thumb: a vegetable plot should be dug by Christmas Day! If your greenhouse or covered porch is unheated, delicate plants such as bedding geraniums, fuchsias and so on should be covered with a layer of fleece, which should keep the frost at bay in temperatures down to about minus 8°C



Plant any remaining bulbs and cover outside pots with a net or wire to keep squirrels from burying walnuts, acorns and anything else they conceal as a cache of food. Pots need to be raised from the ground on clay feet or bricks/tiles to enhance drainage.

As the leaves disappear from deciduous shrubs cut out any dead, diseased or damaged branches. Also look out for rogue tree saplings that have self-sown, often in-between shrubs and specimen trees. Remove them as, once established, it's a job to dig out the root.

If you are growing bulbs in pots in the house, check on them regularly as they will need a small amount of water and may need to be turned if they are growing to one side (a small amount of light can cause this). As I have said previously, bring them into a warmer light atmosphere during the first week of December.

Do try and make the most of any dry days in the garden!

The Arborist.

Neighbourhood Watch representatives

Gestingthorpe
Great Maplestead
Little Maplestead

Helen Skerratt
Ian Johnson
Bill Piper

01787 237297
01787 461109
01787 473933

The Maplesteads

JUMBIE SALE

Saturday 23rd September

Diane Smith, Doreen Faulks and Liz Newton would like to thank everyone who donated items for, and all those who were able to help out at, the above event

The weather was kind, the sale was well-attended and very successful and, as a result, over £1200 was raised to help support Great Maplestead's Village Hall

GREAT MAPLESTEAD



in the Village Hall

Saturday 11th November

Doors open 7.00pm - start 7.30pm

Entry £5 per person : Maximum 10 teams : 6 people/team

Please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles

**Book your team entries by 4th November
Phone Dorothy: 01787 461 643 or 07528 910 700**

All proceeds in aid of the Village Hall

<https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/events/>

Great Maplestead

The Maple Leaves present...

*...a gastronomic evening in Great Maplestead
Village Hall, with a talk and presentation about*

A Taste of History : 16thC Foods

Thursday 2nd November

Starts 7.00pm : This is a Members Only event

*Guest Speaker **Donna Hood** will be discussing, preparing
and serving foods typical of the Tudor period*

If you're interested in joining The Maple Leaves contact Angela Davis (01787 236 007)

St Giles Church
Great Maplestead

FESTIVE COFFEE MORNING

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LOTS MORE

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

10.30AM TO 12.30PM





The Happiest Christmas Tree

Great Maplestead

This year's lighting of the Christmas tree will take place on

Saturday 2nd December : 6.30pm

on

the grass triangle at the top of Church St
(outside St Giles' CofE Primary School)



Help make our tree special by adding your own decorations,
home-made or bought.

Mulled wine or hot chocolate will be served to keep you warm.

Please bring your own lanterns.

Following the lighting of the tree, the fun will
continue at the Village Hall.

Come and be entertained by village singers and join
in with some familiar Christmas songs.



Hot dogs, mince pies and drinks will be available to help get
you into the Christmas spirit.

Come and join in the festive fun!

Christmas tree supplied by Oscar Pickess, Moat Hall Farm, Stambourne, CO9 4PD



Have Fun Moving to Music

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9.30am - Weds - Earls Colne Village Hall

9.15am - Thurs - Pebmarsh Village Hall

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The Maple Leaves present...

*...a sing-along evening in Great Maplestead
Village Hall, with*



ShantyFolk



Thursday 7th December

*Come along and enjoy a fun evening of traditional songs and
sea shanties. Audience participation compulsory!*

Starts 7.00pm : Members* (free)

Non-members (£3) welcome

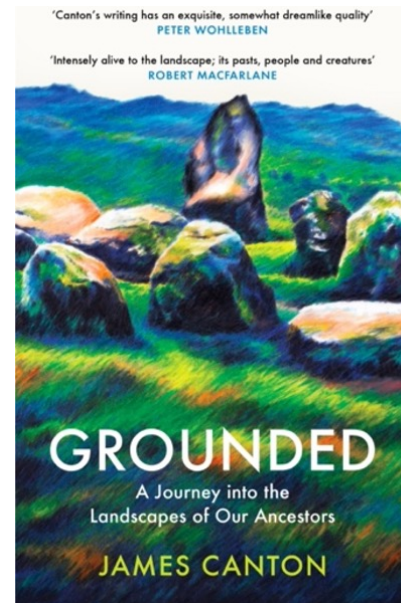
**Membership is £20/year. To join contact Angela Davis : 01787 236 007 or come to an event*

Little Maplestead

Grounded - James Canton

On 17th October the Round Church was almost full with people who came to hear a talk, given by local author James Canton about his new book, Grounded. It was of particular interest to those living locally as it covered the Maplesteads and Alphamstone as well as further afield. Everyone enjoyed a glass of wine and heard how James came up with the ideas in his book, as he took us through his personal journey into ancient landscapes. He also brought some beautiful illustrations from the book, drawn by a local Suffolk artist. A good discussion followed the talk and judging by the number of books flying off the table, it was a very well received event. Many thanks to James who kindly donated the cost of the tickets to our church which was much appreciated. For anyone interested do have a look at the website to find out more.

www.jamescanton.co.uk



Little Maplestead - Harvest Lunch

Every year when I get asked by people "when is the Harvest Lunch?", I know it is time to begin preparing The Lists...

Who has bought tickets?

Who will help with the setting up?

Who will help with the cooking, serving drinks and the other extras?

Will there be enough food?

And finally

Will enough people come?

We do our 3 course hot lunch with just a standpipe for water outside the church and some hostess trolleys to keep the food piping hot. It amazes me how it all comes together.

On the morning of the day, when the church is looking at its very best with beautiful floral displays, posies on the crisp white tablecloths and everything just waiting for the guests to arrive, is a very special moment. This year the sun shone, there were actually more guests than we really had room for and the meal was absolutely delicious. We all sat and chatted, ate and drank and with 2 traditional hymns and prayers, we were able to enjoy the food and company until nearly 3 o'clock.

A huge "thank you" must go to the cooks who supported us this year, supplying delicious home-made treats. People were very generous with their time and with extras that go to make the Harvest Lunch so very special.

Little Maplestead Team you are marvellous – Thank You.

Jane Piper

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 David Holland - cllr.dholland@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



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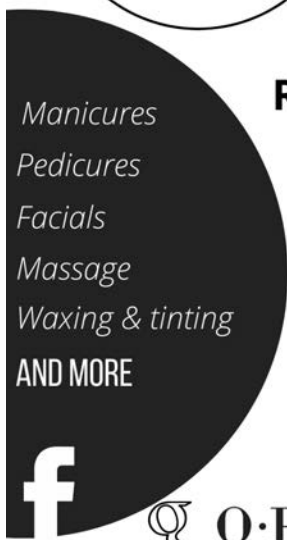


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The copy deadline for the December 2023 magazine is **Friday 24 November 2023**

We need to know who, what, where and when

Submit your copy early to guarantee inclusion. Email me or our village reps.

Copy

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Little Maplestead	Jenny Bishop	07906 083999	pmeditor@icloud.com
Pebmarsh	Luke Brown	07919 375341	lhwbrown@hotmail.co.uk

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Gestingthorpe

The 3rd Craft Fair took place on the 14th October at the Village Hall and it was very well attended - we were all rushed off our feet!

So many amazing, unique homemade items from the talented crafters! We also had plants, home grown vegetables, roasted chestnuts and more! A special thank you to all the cake bakers. Your cakes were so tasty and went down well with a hot drink.

We raised a decent amount of money for our village hall - thank you to everyone that attended, we couldn't have done it with you!

Helen Skerratt.



Gestingthorpe (Cont.)

Tuesday Talk

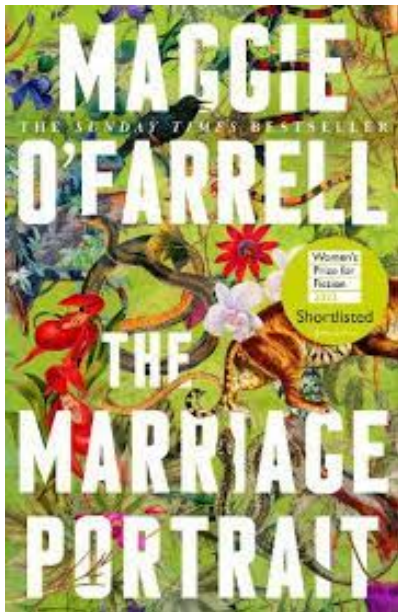
Gestingthorpe played host to local farmer, author and historian Ashley Cooper on the evening of the 26th of September for his fascinating talk on Sudbury in the 1960s.

A capacity crowd listened and watched as Ashley took us on a journey around the town along roads we all thought we knew well, but revealed their hidden past.

Demolished buildings were revealed once more together with once bustling businesses and industry right in the middle of the town. To the delight of some in the crowd, local nightspots, coffee shops and dance halls were brought back to life together with busy train stations, maltings and livestock markets.

Together with our modest raffle at half time, our patrons gave generously and a total of £356 was raised on the night - all of which will go to the upkeep of the village hall.

We must thank Ashley for his time and dedication to sourcing a great many images and newspaper cuttings as well as delivering an insightful narrative throughout the evening, we look forward to the next one! **Andy Craig.**



Gestingthorpe First Tuesday Book Club & Book Exchange.

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 Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell. If you would like to join us, our next meeting is Tuesday 7 November @ 7.30pm.

The **Book Exchange** will be open Fridays 10th & 24th November 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 'Gathering' Coffee Mornings



'Thank you' to everyone who supported our coffee morning on 29th September.

That coffee morning was run to raise funds for **Macmillan Cancer Support**.

You donated a wonderful £216 to which was added £28 Gift Aid. A very useful

total of £244 to help Macmillan Cancer Support in their valued work.

Autumn seems to have arrived in a rush. A good time to call into our village hall to join us and enjoy our coffee mornings. We would love to see you and guarantee a warm welcome, lovely home baked cakes accompanied by a glass of squash or a cup of tea.

Our coffee mornings during November will be held on the **Fridays of 10th and 24th**.

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

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

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

GESTINGTHORPE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE



Christmas
FUN DAY &
Craft Fayre

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2023

10AM UNTIL 3PM - IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ENTERTAINMENT BY THE BELCHAMP SINGERS

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LUCKY DIP · MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES · TEAS, COFFEE & CAKES
CROCHET · CANDLES · WOODWORK · IRONWORK · POTTERY

What's on at Gestingthorpe Village Hall?

Date	Use	Time
Wednesday, 1 November 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 2 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Friday, 3 November 2023	Private Event	14.30 - 19.30
Monday, 6 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 - 19.45
Tuesday, 7 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Tuesday, 7 November 2023	Book Club	19.30 - 21.00
Wednesday, 8 November 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 9 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Thursday, 9 November 2023	Parish Council Meeting	7pm-9pm
Friday, 10 November 2023	Coffee Morning & Book Exchange	10.00 - 12.00
Monday, 13 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 - 19.45
Tuesday, 14 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 15 November 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 16 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Saturday, 18 November 2023	Village Hall Christmas Fun Day & Craft Fayre	10.00 - 15.00
Monday, 20 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 - 19.45
Tuesday, 21 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 22 November 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 23 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45
Thursday, 23 November 2023	Village Hall Committee Meeting	19.30 - 21.00
Friday, 24 November 2023	Coffee Morning & Book Exchange	10.00 - 12.00
Monday, 27 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	19.00 - 19.45
Tuesday, 28 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab-Dance	9.30 - 10.30
Wednesday, 29 November 2023	Bell Ringers	4pm-5pm
Thursday, 30 November 2023	Fun, Fit, Fab	10.00 - 10.45

BOOK NOW

Children's Christmas Party

**Saturday 9 December
11.30 – 1.30
Gestingthorpe Village Hall**

**Free to all village children.
Please bring a wrapped present to
be given to your child**

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Gestingthorpevillagehall@gmail.com**



Pebmarsh

Church Warden's Report

We have seen our harvest service come and go with the church full of floral displays which have lasted for the school harvest service with a bit of rearranging. We welcomed 128 to the church and the school children were well behaved and engaged as usual.

The village unveiled a bench on the 29th September at the Kings Head pub in memory of Susie Daws who sadly passed away in June. Many stories and drinks were shared on a sunny Friday afternoon and her ashes spread.

I welcomed a group of 16 people who call themselves the Church Crawlers on the 27th September. They visit local churches together to learn about the rich history and architecture they provide. Two of the members played the organ and I gave them a brief tour and history of the church. They very kindly donated to the church running costs.

October is always much quieter for us but unseasonably warm and as a result we have had a big problem with flies, wasps and ladybirds in the church. As a result, we have found ourselves cleaning every few days. We have decided to monitor the bats for a little while as they are currently not wanting to go into hibernation due to the warm conditions. So you may see a notice up to let you know when we have cameras in the church. We hopefully will have something interesting to report next month.

We have noticed some comments on social media about the churchyard and dog walkers. We welcome people to bring their dogs into the churchyard as long as people clear up after them where necessary. We don't have a footpath through the churchyard and the gates on the back boundary are there for our access. The current gap in the wall has been used as pedestrian access for some time but has also led to some problems for neighbouring properties. It is not a public right of way as it is across consecrated ground so anyone who uses it could we please ask you to let us know if you see any damage or problems. Take care as it is not a proper gateway.

The Benefice Remembrance service will take place this year at Little Maplestead at 10.45am on 12th November and the village service at the war memorial will be at 10.45 am on Saturday the 11th November with refreshments served at the church afterwards.

Next month we will be in full swing for Christmas and our Carol Concert with the Long Melford Silver Band on the **17th December at 4pm**. So, a date for your diary.

Sarah Burgess, Church Warden.

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Pebmarsh (Cont.)

Pebmarsh Primary school praised again for their 'close-knit community school'!

Staff and Governors of St John the Baptist school were proud to receive a GOOD rating from Ofsted for the third inspection running. The small parish school, with 73 pupils, was inspected in July '23 and was praised that children 'were happy and proud' to attend the school.

Ofsted last inspected the village primary school back in 2017 but due to COVID the repeat inspection had been delayed. This most recent inspection saw the Pebmarsh school maintain its good rating having been assessed for quality of education, Early Years provision, curriculum, behaviour, attendance and inclusivity as well as the general Safeguarding checks. Special focus was given to Mathematics, Reading and Geography via deep dives.

Teaching staff were praised for how they 'think carefully about how to make lessons build their knowledge in engaging ways... As a result, pupils are excited to learn.'

The Leadership and Management of St John the Baptist primary school was also praised saying 'leaders, with the support of governors, have made significant improvements to the school, especially the curriculum... Governors robustly challenge leaders and hold them to account.'

The Chair of Governors, in a letter home to parents, said "the report fairly reflects the hard work that every member of the team has put in to ensuring your children get the best start in their educational journey."

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“Although nervous, we all felt the day went smoothly, and we got the chance to demonstrate what makes St John the Baptist the supportive, caring community that it is. We are so proud of the staff and children.” The school has recently installed a brand-new Early years and Infant classroom to help support the new early years framework, and a new toilet block for Upper Juniors.

It launched a new ambitious curriculum to help the children understand what they need for their next steps but to take this into the wider world. The new Maths curriculum has already had a positive impact on the KS2 children with 100% passing their Yr 6 SATs in May! We have spaces in our KS2 classes so feel free to come and have a look round.

There has also been a comprehensive and supportive catch-up plan to assist any children struggling with a core subject.

We are seeking a governor to join our supportive governing body. If you think this is something you would be interested in please get in touch with the school.

HEIDI'S NATURE CORNER FROM OAK FARM, PEBMARSH

Little owls are by far my favourite owls, small but feisty with an intense stare. I first saw one on our farm many years ago, sitting in an apple tree just watching me, I hadn't even realised there was such a thing as a Little owl and at only around 20cm tall they were certainly little. From then on, I noticed them about all the time, they are active day and night and love to sunbathe.



One day I saw one flying into a hole in an old rotten tree trunk so I put a trail cam nearby and discovered they were in and out feeding their young. It wasn't long before the

owlets were coming up to the entrance and making a hissing type noise to let the adults know they were hungry. I've seen some huge worms, beetles and the odd mouse delivered.



The old tree trunk eventually rotted too much for them to use, so now they nest in one of the three boxes we made for them. The BTO bird ringers come round and put a ring on their legs before they fledge so if they are found in the future they know where they've come and how old they are. I'm hoping they stay on the farm for many years to come and carry on raising their young here.

Heidi Page

What's On at Pebmarsh Village Hall?

Mondays	Dog Training Club	1715 – 2100	Wendy Beard 07305 195560
Tuesdays	Pilates & Yoga	0945 - 1030	Jade Gooding https://pilatesandyogawithjade.com/
	Ladies Club	1300 – 1500	Every 2 nd Tuesday in the Hall Sandra Beaney
	Community Outreach Post Office	1400 – 1600	Every Tuesday in the Committee Room
NEW	Pizza on the Green	1500 – 2000	Every 3 rd Tuesday in the village hall car park
Wednesday	Adult Dance Exercise Class	1900 – 2000	Kim Richardson dance.kimrichardson@gmail.com
Thursday	"Move Me" Exercise Class	0915 – 1000	jennyjenkins247@gmail.com
	Art Group	1100 – 1600	Sue Burgess 07443 537569
	Youth Club	1830 – 2030	Every other week Carol Parker
Fridays	Life Drawing Art Club	1000 – 1200	Glynis Hughes
	Dog Training	1900 – 2130	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

The Reverend Beverley Vincent

The Rectory
Church Street
Great Maplestead
Halstead, CO9 2RG

khvicar@gmail.com

07944 200132
01787 460273

The Churchwardens serving our Benefice are

Great Maplestead Paula Sillett 07975 571253 sillett92@gmail.com
Denise O'Connell 07795 170048 niciedenise@gmail.com

Little Maplestead

Gestingthorpe Alice Nolda 01787 469688 -
Peter Nice 01787 460126 peter.427nice@btinternet.com

Pebmarsh Jim Crayston 07957 870340 jim@craystonfarms.co.uk
Sarah Burgess 01787 269092 sarahburgess@btinternet.com

Church Services around our Parishes

5 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Gestingthorpe
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
12 th	10.45am	Benefice Remembrance Holy Communion	Little Maplestead
19 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Pebmarsh
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
Wed 22 nd	10.00am	Holy Communion	Gestingthorpe
26 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Great Maplestead
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Little Maplestead
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Pebmarsh
	4.00pm	Compline	Gestingthorpe