

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Paw Slingo writes

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We are hoping our members are ready to start 2008 with us at a meeting on Wednesday 6 February at 7.30 p.m. in the Assembly Rooms, when there will be a demonstration of Bonsai by Darren Mackay.

Daphne Langton writes

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

On Wednesday 30 January, 2.30 p.m.,



we will meet in the Assembly Rooms. Our Vicar, the Rev'd Gerard Moate, will be the speaker and his

theme will be *Antiques Roadshow*, with items from the Muniment Room to illustrate the history of Dedham. He also invites members to bring a cutting, photo or object which has a connection with Dedham's history.

Rhoda Smith writes

GOOD NEIGHBOURS CLUB

At the January meeting the Stratford St. Mary Handbell Ringers entertained us with a good selection of music. February will be the Annual Meeting. Subscriptions due. After business it is hoped that members will give a short account of something which they experienced during the War. The competition will be any memento or article connected with the War.

DEDHAM VALE AONB

Discover what the RSPB have been up to at Cattawade Marshes as we take a gentle stroll along the estuary of the River Stour, on Saturday 23 February, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Distance about 2½ miles. Cost £3 per adult — but free if you travel to the start of the walk by public transport or bike. Children free. To book ☎ 01473 264 263. www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org

Ian Rose writes

U3A

Our programme of lectures, which are held in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt at 2.15 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, is

13 Feb: *Victorian Gardens* - illustrated talk by a member of Otley College.

12 Mar: *My Experience as a Parish Priest* by the Rev'd David Searle

9 Apr: *The European Space Programme* D.C. Dale, former Technical Director

14 May: *The Life & Wit of W.S. Churchill* by Robin Close

11 Jun: *The Three Parishes* illustrated talk by Peter Gant on the history of Manningtree

9 Jul: *Conservation at the Zoo* illustrated talk by Francesca Gale, SEO of Colchester Zoo.

Enquiries ☎ 392 870

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

www.dedham-parishchurch.org.uk

e-mail: office@dedham-parishchurch.org.uk

MINISTERS		(01206)
Gerard Moate <i>Vicar & Lecturer</i>		☎ 322 136
The Vicarage, High Street, Dedham CO7 6DE		
Stuart Wilson	<i>Reader Emeritus</i>	392 572
Chris Slocombe	<i>Hospital Visitor</i>	323 312

CHURCH OFFICERS

Neil McShane	<i>Churchwarden</i>	323 188
Stuart Wilson	<i>Churchwarden</i>	392 572
Richard Hopkins	<i>Deputy Churchwarden</i>	322 361
Sarah Oakley	<i>Deputy Churchwarden</i>	322 034
Antony Watson	<i>Deputy Churchwarden</i>	853 139
Mike Fisher	<i>Financial Administrator</i>	01394 388 237
Liz Nickerson	<i>PCC Secretary</i>	272 204
George Beeken	<i>Verger</i>	865 264

MUSIC

Antony Watson	<i>Director of Music</i>	853 139
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CHURCH GROUPS

Richard & Elizabeth Hopkins	<i>Junior Church</i>	322 361
Vivien Chapman	<i>Dedham Ladies' Fellowship</i>	308 549

FLOWER ARRANGERS

Sally Gotelee	<i>Co-ordinator</i>	322 652
Barbara Ward	<i>Weddings</i>	337 242

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish Office	<i>Editorial & Advertising</i>	322 136
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PARISH OFFICE at the Vicarage 322 136

2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Parish Secretary Betty Cox, Joan Edwards

DEDHAM C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL www.dedham.essex.sch.uk

Mr Christopher Bailey	<i>Chairman</i>	230 404
Mrs Heather Tetchner	<i>Headteacher</i>	322 242

ASSEMBLY ROOMS www.dedham-assemblyrooms.info

Mrs Tracy Woods	<i>Clerk to the Trustees</i>	323 921
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DUCHY BARN

Mrs Caroline Merriam	<i>Secretary</i>	323 333
Mrs Gay Burfield	<i>Bookings</i>	322 261

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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2008

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30 a.m.

Holy Communion *BCP*
Every Sunday (not August)

10.30 a.m.

Family Service
1st Sunday in month

Morning Worship *CW*
2nd & 5th Sundays

Holy Communion *CW*
3rd Sunday in month

Morning Prayer *BCP*
4th Sundays

6.30 p.m.

Evening Prayer *BCP*

JUNIOR CHURCH

10.15 a.m.

Family Service in Church

1st Sunday in month

In the Assembly Rooms
on all other Sundays
during school terms

**DEADLINE FOR
NEXT EDITION :
13 February**

FUZZLE ANSWER

Put up with anything.



SPECIAL, ADDITIONAL, OR CHANGES TO SERVICES OF WORSHIP

Sunday 3 February *Candlemas 'Education Sunday'*

10.30 a.m. Family Service

*including Commissioning of the Headteacher
of Dedham C.E. Primary School*

6.30 p.m. 'Songs of Praise'

Wednesday 6 February *Ash Wednesday*

8.30 p.m. Holy Communion

TOWER FLAG DAYS THIS MONTH

Wednesday 6 Feb. *H.M. Queen's Accession*



From the Registers

WEDDING

21 December 2007 Stephen Lee MURDEN & Bianca Abigail BRIDGE

FUNERAL

10 December 2007 Mervyn Trevor KEEBLE (64)
12 December 2007 William John EDEVANE (75)
2 January 2008 Patricia Ann WRIGHT (68)
17 January 2008 Iris Grace HALL (86)

CREMATORIUM

9 November 2007 Derek Vernon FOLLOWS (82)
14 December 2007 Thirza Lily BARBER (91)
28 December 2007 Horace Herbert HASTINGS (94)
7 January 2008 Iris Millicent Gertrude KELLY (87)
28 January 2008 Brenda Winifred MOORE (84)
29 January 2008 Margaret PARSONS (81)

INTERMENT OF ASHES

20 January 2008 Vera Rose COBB (93)



***Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;***

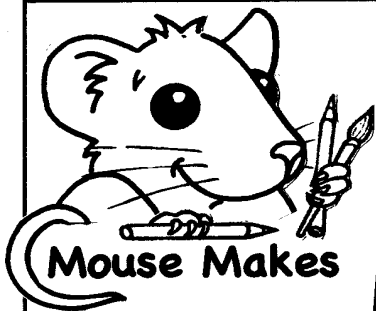
Hymns Old & New No. 437

Augustus Montague Toplady was born in Farnham, Surrey in 1740, and educated at Westminster School and Trinity College, Dublin. He was converted through the preaching of James Morris, a travelling Methodist minister. Toplady corresponded with John Wesley for some years, but subsequently adopted extreme Calvinistic views and became one of Wesley's strongest critics. He became a curate of Blagdon and Farleigh Hungerford, in Somerset.



The story is told that while walking through Burrington Combe, a beautiful place near his home, he was caught in a sudden storm. The Combe is very exposed, affording little shelter. Toplady saw a cleft in the rock (see picture) in which he was able to take refuge until the storm abated. While sheltering there, he picked up a playing card, upon the back of which he wrote the opening words of the hymn. Hymnodist Frank Colquhoun dismissed this account of the writing of the hymn as having "no historical foundation", pointing to the fact that the hymn was published some twelve years after Toplady had left Blagdon. The playing card, upon which the hymn is believed to have been first written, is still preserved in North America. It was said by the great hymnodist, Dr. Julian, that "no other English hymn can be named which has laid so broad and firm a grasp upon the English-speaking world". Toplady died in 1778, at the age of 37.

The hymn has afforded much comfort to people down the years, among them Prince Albert, the Prince Consort, who repeated it constantly upon his death-bed. "For," he said, "if in this hour I had only my worldly honours to depend upon, I should be poor indeed!" It was also a particular favourite of Prime Minister William Gladstone, who translated it into Greek, Latin and Italian. It was sung at his funeral. The American poet Oliver Wendell Holmes described it as "the Protestant *Dies Irae*." The tune which is now universally associated with the hymn, *Petra* (or *Redhead*) was composed by Richard Redhead (1820-1901), who was organist of St. Mary Magdalene, Paddington, and was published in 1853. This hymn remains one of the most requested hymns for funerals to this day.



Before Jesus began to preach and heal and tell people about God, he spent 40 days alone in the desert praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.


Remembering those days Jesus spent in the desert, the Christian Church has set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to think and pray and learn more about God.

This time is called LENT


Use your bookmark each day during LENT to help you as you pray.

A Bible bookmark to make for LENT


Dear LORD,




THANK YOU for



SORRY for




I PRAY for



The Lord's Prayer
Our Father in heaven
may your holy name be honoured,
may your kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the food we need.
Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs others have done to us.
Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.

AMEN



Matthew 6:9-13

To make your bookmark:
Carefully cut around the outside, fold in half along the dotted line and glue together. Add a tassel to the bottom with a length of wool or ribbon. You can make it stronger by gluing onto card before folding.



TRUTH, LIES, AND STATISTICS

The *Daily Mail* was one of several newspapers which confidently declared that 4.5 million people in Britain (the figure used varied elsewhere) went to church on Christmas Day, and then sneeringly added that this was less than those who shopped 'on-line' on the same day. By contrast, the *Church Pastoral Aid Society*, one of the oldest home mission societies, estimated "that nearly half of all adults in Britain attended a church or place of worship over the Christmas period".

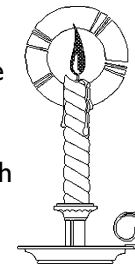
Whilst I do not know how many people 'shop till they drop', I am able to comment about statistics for church attendance at Christmas. Attendance in parish churches is reported, but not until April of the following year. So no newspaper or magazine could possibly know how many attended church over Christmas 2007. Yet C.P.A.S., which is in touch with hundreds of churches throughout Britain, is somewhat better placed to make an estimate.

I cannot be sure what the regional or national scene will prove to be, but I'm in a good position to comment on what happened locally. As anyone who came to Dedham church over Christmas will know (and there was more than 1,500 of you - the population of Dedham is about 1,860), this year saw the church full on several occasions, and each with a tremendous sense of a joyful village unity.

While thinking of unity, I want to say how grateful I am to the team of staff and volunteers who looked after the spiritual, pastoral, practical and legal matters of the parish, which would normally have been my responsibility, while I was on sabbatical leave for three months. Coming back just before Christmas was very demanding for me, but it was also a great joy.

While I was away I attended worship in a variety of churches and chapels; in central London, on an East London estate, college chapels in Cambridge and Oxford, and some country churches in Suffolk. I thought, perhaps, that Dedham might be an exception to oft-proclaimed decline in church attendance. Yet what all the services had in common was an obvious vitality and energy. True, I was the youngest person present in one or two of the country churches, but in the city and colleges I was one among the oldest, which was strange for me.

I must accept that many of those making comment in newspapers and on the broadcast media have already made up their minds; for them Christianity is both irrelevant to modern society and also in terminal decline. Yet, in recent months, neither conclusion would be supported by the evidence of my own eyes. Thanks be to God, whose Holy Spirit delights to surprise us!



Gerard Moate
Vicar & Lecturer

SMARTWATER WARNING

Metal thieves are not thought to be among our readership; but readers may be interested to know that the church has recently invested in an advanced anti-theft measure.



'Smartwater', which is a means by which metals may be identified with a unique digital code.

Once marked, even if the metal is stolen and melted down, the metal can always be traced back to its source.

Sadly, due to the increased prices of metals, there has been a tremendous increase in the number of thefts from churches and schools in recent months, sometimes with dreadful consequences. Among local victims, Long Melford church had cast-iron downspouts stolen, and several schools in Suffolk and Essex have had roofs removed, resulting in the destruction of both the children's classrooms and their work.

Ecclesiastical Insurance say that so far over 400 convictions have been secured by using *Smartwater*. Clearly, we would rather not lose the metal in the first place. **Please be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the churchwardens or police.** However, the near-certainty of conviction if caught handling stolen metal may put the brakes on this particularly selfish kind of greed.

MARLBOROUGH RESCUED

The first duke of Marlborough, victor of Blenheim and Ramillies, was known for his courage. But on Tuesday 15 January, on a very blustery day in Dedham, Marlborough 'got the wind up' and then took off.

It was actually the portrait of him outside the *Marlborough Head* pub, which became precariously poised above unsuspecting pedestrians on the High Street. Mill Lane traffic

was haled and the High Street became a scene of drama as two rescue vehicles, were used to lift the sign from the roof of the pub, where it was still moving in the wind.



No doubt the fire and rescue teams found it a useful rehearsal for the more dangerous work they are called upon to do. We can be grateful to them for preventing accident or injury that could have resulted if the 'Duke' had become airborne. Meanwhile, pub landlords Jenny and Sarah must hope that the famous sign will soon be safely restored to its prominent position.

CHRISTMAS PRIZE QUIZ

'CAN' YOU FIND THE 'NAC'?

BRAINY FOLK IN SCHOOL LANE!

There were just three all-correct entries for the Prize Quiz and remarkably all of them are people connected with School Lane, Dedham.

Margaret Turner of Barker's Almhouses (who does all her research without the aid of a computer); **Nigel Lambert**, who lives near Bury St Edmunds, is the son of Major and Mrs Lambert of School House; and **Lucy Marshall** of South Cottage (a keen quiz enthusiast), had correct answers. There was certainly 'no conferring'; it is just a coincidence that the 'Brains of Dedham' have a geographic connection!

The first name drawn out of the Vicar's hat at the Family Service in January, by **Alice Wheeler** (one of the youngest members of the Junior Choir) was that of **Lucy Marshall**, who has chosen to have her £25 voucher from the *Dedham Bookshop*. Congratulations to her - and commiserations to the two Runners-Up, who receive no prize, but have earned our admiration for their perspicacity and perseverance!

ANSWERS

Vatican	1	nacrine
descant	2	enacted
uncanny	3	manacle
scandal	4	furnace
canvass	5	Saranac
canteen	6	almanac
scanned	7	spinach
vacancy	8	menaced
chicane	9	enactor
pelican	10	nacelle

Note: some difference of word order was possible and therefore accepted.

FUZZLE

Part of a series of font word-puzzles or Fuzzles. Which phrase is conveyed by this?

ANYTHING

U
P

Answer at the bottom of page 16

Barry Stewart writes

THAT'S FINE BY ME

Recently, in a busy Stoke-by-Nayland gym changing-room, men were gathered dressing, undressing, or towelling themselves down. A mobile phone started ringing. After a minute or so the phone was picked up and inadvertently the speaker button was pressed, allowing both sides of the conversation to be heard. It went as follows:

Man: Hello.

Woman: Darling! I know you're at the gym but I'm at Jane's in Newmarket and the dress that I liked is in the sale at £500. I could not only wear it for the wedding but also for the Dedham Ball. Can I have it?

Man: Yes.

Woman: They also have shoes to match at £200. They are not in the sale but the assistant said I could have 10% off. Can I buy them as well?

Man: Yes.

Woman: Exciting news! The house we saw and loved back in October is back on the market and I have spoke to Jackson Stopps and they say an offer of £950,000 should be acceptable. Can I instruct them?

Man: Yes, go ahead.

Woman: Thank you, darling! See you tonight...Bye!

Man: [holding phone up in the air] Does anybody know whose phone this is?



From Parish Pump LOVE LINES



Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

I asked my nephew whether he bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day. "Yes", I bought her a belt and a bag." "That was very nice of you", I replied, "I hope she appreciated the thought." He said, "So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now."

WIT & WISDOM

- If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be 'meetings'.
- You should not confuse your career with your life.
- Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- No matter what happens, somebody will find a way to take it far too seriously.
- The main accomplishment of almost all organized protests is to annoy people who are not in them.
- A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person. *This never fails.*

John Amphlet writes

DEDHAM BOOKSHOP

I recently acquired *The Compasses* in Princl Lane and the premises of the *Dedham Bookshop*. On 1st February I take over ownership of the bookshop from Pat Arnold and family, which will be a hard act to follow. A lot of people have been concerned to know about the shop's future. Let me assure you of my intention to maintain a bookshop in Dedham for as long as can be. I hope therefore that you will continue to give the shop your support and patronage.

However, I plead for your tolerance and your help. Attempts to find someone to take over and / or manage the bookshop have not been successful. Likewise staffing the shop is proving to be a problem and opening hours may consequently be limited. If you know of anyone who may be interested in managing the shop. or just working there a few days a week, please contact ☎ **323 893** or john.amphlet@virgin.net

We intend to have an answerphone service available on the bookshop number ☎ **01206 323 271** so that, should no-one be available in the shop to answer your call, you can leave a message at any time (day or night!) to request information or to place an order. Independent bookshops are rare beasts these days. Dedham has enjoyed the pleasure of a bookshop for at least 30 years. I do hope that together we can ensure its future.

From 'Parish Pump'

AN EXTRA DAY

This is a Leap Year - February has 29 days in it, bringing the total days for 2008 to 366. Leap years happen every four years, but this one is more unusual: this February has five Fridays in it. The last time a February had five Fridays was in 1980; the next time will be in 2036.

In the Gregorian calendar, used by most modern countries, the following rules decide the Leap Years:

- A year divisible by 4 is a Leap Year.
- But every year divisible by 100 is *not* a Leap Year
- Unless the year is also divisible by 400, then it is a Leap Year.

This means that year 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500 are NOT Leap Years, while 2000 was and 2400 will be a Leap Year.



This keeps the calendar in alignment with the earth's motion around the sun. If we used a calendar with only ever 365 days, we'd end up 0.2422 days wrong a year - that's about six hours. Not much to begin with - but in just 50 years we'd be 12 days ahead of the seasons. By adding a Leap Year day, the calendar continues to follow the seasons much more closely.

Christine Henderson writes
VISITS AND VISITORS

It doesn't take long for the school routines to make Christmas seem a long time ago. Our festive celebrations were once again enjoyed by one and all, including an impromptu visit of some of our Year 6 children to sing in the Blackbrook Nursing Home. Visitors are continuing to help enrich our curriculum. This term we have a Shakespearean actor coming to show us how to 'walk tall, think tall', African drummers, sport coaches and local minister presenting the *Bible Explorer* programme. We are also very excited to be working with commissioned artists in a public art project, to



Henry is making a real effort for Lent – he's giving up the remote control and walking to the TV

improve the public toilet in Dedham and along the way 'discover some of the areas unique qualities' which we can use in our art work. All part of being a successful school.

Kate Ranson writes
SMARTYS

As usual the lead up to Christmas was fun and hectic, just as it should be in a village pre-school! Our first ever Christmas Fair was a success. Stalls held by local people filled the Assembly Rooms while the Committee's Café offered weary shoppers home made refreshments. You may have spotted us again at the Dickensian Fayre, in our usual spot close to the church. It was a cold but cheery evening and our mulled cider and Christmas biscuits were as popular as ever!

Thank you to all in the village who supported us so well at both of these events. *Smartys* was pleased to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival at the Parish Church and we hope that you enjoyed seeing the children's glittering contribution!

The children all sang and danced happily at our nativity play. We were pleased to welcome Class R from the Primary School who came to watch our performance. C.R.Y., *Cardiac Risk in the Young*, was our chosen charity this Christmas and funds raised from the sale of refreshments reached over £150. We thank all of you who gave so generously.

London Marathon 2008

In April Dedham sisters **Joanne and Eleanor West** will be running in support of *Action for M.E.*, the charity that exists to improve the lives of those with Myalgic Encephalopathy and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, and to support research into the condition.

Eleanor is just one of residents of the Dedham area to have suffered through this disease – she is lucky to have come through it and to be able to consider running at all!

Your help will make a difference.

Please join their sponsors. Pledges and support can be given to:

www.justgiving.com/jowest or **www.justgiving/elwest**

or posted to: Jo and Eleanor West, Grove Hill House, Dedham, CO7 6DX



THE DEDHAM PLAYERS PRESENT **SHOWTIME** ★ A FUN NIGHT OF LAUGHTER WITH SONGS COMEDY SKETCHES & POEMS

BOX OFFICE
 WA HOOD NEWSAGENTS
 HIGH STREET DEDHAM
 PHONE 01206 323160

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
15TH & 16TH
FEBRUARY 2008
 THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS
 DEDHAM AT 7.45 PM
 TICKETS ONLY £5

REVIEWS OF OUR PREVIOUS SHOWS Essex County Standard REVIEWS
 "...funny sketches, lovely singing —and a satisfied audience" 2002
 "...high standard of acting in the sketches was repeated in the singing" 2005

visit us at www.dedhamplayers.org

Fred Merrin of Ardleigh Surgery writes
PRACTICE NURSE APPOINTED

Practice Nurse, Joy Harrison, has been appointed to replace Michelle Black. Joy is an experienced practice nurse and holds an M.Sc. in Clinical Nursing from Sheffield University. She also works part-time as a Nurse Educator at the Open University. Joy will be our practice nurse lead on respiratory care for patients with asthma and COPD. Joy will be starting a Nurse Prescriber course in January at Essex University involving one study day a week for six months.

PATIENT SURVEY RESULTS

The full results of the survey are on www.ardleighsurgery.nhs.uk. In common with previous surveys, the results indicate high patient satisfaction with the services provided by the doctors and staff. The practice will be addressing comments and finding solutions where practicable. Some are difficult to resolve such as car parking. We cannot make the car park any larger but we would remind patients that it should only be used for the disabled, and parents with babies, and that the village car park should be used as an alternative.

EXTENDED HOURS

We staff two telephone lines every morning for appointments and queries. We ask patients to telephone after 2 p.m. for pathology and blood results, and non-urgent queries. GPs are reluctant to cover Saturday mornings

and consider that providing late evening surgeries for a small minority of patients would mean putting undue pressure on GPs and staff, particularly in small practices such as Ardleigh. That is why new GP contract removed the requirement for GPs to provide out-of-hours cover and PCTs were funded to provide Walk-in Centres. Government is now planning to impose change by removing significant income from general practices and allowing them to get it back only if extended hours are offered.

Lesley Sant writes

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The House Boxes were collected in November. The collection raised £603.16 for the Society. Thank you to all the box holders for their consistent generosity. *Note:* Anyone who would like to use a collecting box - to put loose change, or a coin of a certain value (such as all your 5p coins) please let the Parish Office know and they will let Lesley know, who will arrange one to be delivered, and collected annually.

Bishop Christopher writes

EXPLORING VOCATION

I shall be holding an *Exploring Vocation* day at St. John's Church, Colchester on Saturday 15 March, from 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. This is a chance to find out more about opportunities to serve God and his people, or discovering your own direction in life. Contact: Tim Bull ☎ 230 666.

Parish Councillor John Osborn writes
MOBILE LIBRARY

The Essex County Council Mobile Library visits three locations in Dedham every second week on Tuesday mornings. The new timetable gives the following times:

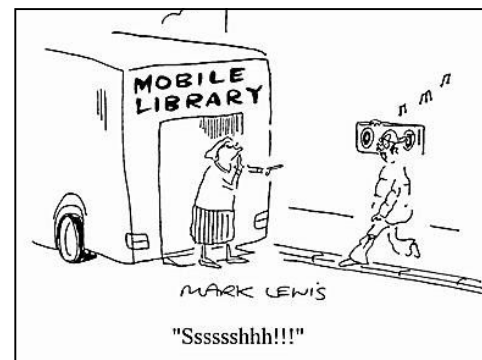
Tuesday 5 February,

Royal Square 9.15 a.m. - 9.55 a.m.

Parsons Field 10.15 a.m. - 10.35 a.m.

Dedham Meade 10.40 a.m. - 11.10 a.m.

The fortnightly visits will be repeated at those times on 19 February, 4 March, 18 March and so on.



PUBLIC TOILETS

Councillor Roger Buston, from Colchester Borough Council, spoke in response to Dedham's attempts to have a second public toilet facility. Although he conceded that funding was not available at present for a new block in the Mill Lane car park he did assure the meeting that he was well aware of our need, saying that Dedham was top of the list of parishes requiring this expenditure.

DEDHAM SURGERY

The search for a formula to restore GP clinics to Dedham in the new, purpose-built, health-care building will continue in 2008. The facility to use the Roman Place unit for other health-related purposes remains, with or without doctors however, and it is expected that by the end of March a representative group of complimentary medicine practitioners, the Dedham Vale Network, will be making available professional treatments such as Hypnotherapy, Shiatsu, Reflexology, Osteopathy and Counselling.

DEDHAM WAR MEMORIAL

The meeting was advised that grant money would be available to part fund a complete renovation of the village War Memorial. Work is likely to take place in the early summer. Further details will be given in April or May.

FESTIVE LUNCH

Councillor Peter Moorhouse thanked those who organised the Lunch on 2 January for many of Dedham's senior residents. Reports from others who attended similarly expressed approval for what seems to have been a very enjoyable occasion.

NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council will next meet on Wednesday 13 February at 7.30 p.m. in the Assembly Rooms.

Ten Years Ago **February 1998**

The death of Margaret Lewis, at the age of 92, was reported. As 'Nurse' Lewis she had been midwife and district nurse to Dedham, Langham and Boxted from 1933-1963, before retiring to Dedham; Local policeman Mick Sharp was raising funds for a 'Community Bus'; the Vicar had become Rural Dean of Dedham & Tey; Margaret Turner and John Jennings shared the prize for the Christmas Prize Quiz; Dedham Cricket Club had been promoted to the Fourth Division of the Lancaster Garage League.

Fifty Years Ago **February 1958**

The death of James Austin, who had '*presented a prayer desk and red carpet for the Sanctuary*' was reported; The Dedham Youth Club had '*gone off to a very good start...about 40 members have enrolled*', Mr. Brumby was wished '*every success in this important work*'; Among prize-winners at the annual Sunday School Awards in the Hewitt Hall were: 'B. Sage, G. Long, R. Smith, G. Bradbrook, M & W Langton, L. Coomber, L. Barber, B & J Emeny, P & D. Mayhew, R. Arnold, R. Marven and P. Bullett.. More than 80 children were present; Ash Wednesday service was held on Thursday, '*to avoid clashing with other village activities*'; The Litany was said in church every Friday morning during Lent. This local custom had dated from at least 1876.

A Century Ago **February 1908**

A meeting had been held in January, '*to elicit the opinion of parishioners of Dedham on the Cathedral Town for the proposed diocese of Essex*'. The decision was '*unanimous in favour of Colchester*'. Dedham had '*the distinction of having two gentlemen on the Committee which is finally to decide... Mr. Tremlett and Mr. Hewitt*'. Proceeds from the Lantern lecture held at Stonylands, home of Mrs. Green, was sent to the '*Waifs' and Strays' Society*'; Mr. & Miss Hewitt hosted the '*Sunday School Treat*'; The '*Clothing and Boot Club*' had '*lost through death some of its oldest and most constant subscribers*'

Dedham Floods 1937



Val Blaker and Sue ----- rescued a scrapbook from a garage clearout recently and donated it to the Muniment Room Society. In it were a number of newspaper cuttings and postcards of Dedham, collected by Major Ray, former owner of Ray's Emporium in the High Street. This photograph is of his father, E.C. Ray. The following is on the back: "*Floods below Dedham Bridge 1937 - (3ft deep the Stratford end) - One Horse Power - The horse is one of the last "chargers" of the Innskillen Dragoons (mechanised in 1936) at Colchester. E.C. Ray pulling out his car. Being only a Cavalry Charger he objects to pulling, as can be seen by his sidestepping. I had much trouble in Breaking him in to the shafts when he would rise upon his hind legs & pore the air*"

WANTED

Dedham memories, especially photographs, particularly if they are or can be dated, and any people in them can be identified.

If you have photographs or other memorabilia that would not be wanted by your family, please approach the Muniment Room Society before permanently disposing of anything. ☎ **01206 322 136**