

Dedham

A photograph of a sunset over a savanna landscape. The sun is a bright yellow circle on the horizon, partially obscured by the silhouettes of trees. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow. The foreground is filled with the dark silhouettes of trees and bushes.

**Parish
Magazine**

**May-June
2018**

Dedham meets Africa

The story of love, marriage, chance encounters and a 25-year mission supported by the parish - *page 12*



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FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1876

MAY/JUNE 2018

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MUSIC

Antony Watson	Director of Music	☎322 425
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FLOWER ARRANGERS

Helen Sims	Co-ordinator	☎321 286
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PARISH OFFICE

Claire Arculus	Parish Secretary	☎322 136
Assembly Rooms	✉stmaryda@gmail.com	
High Street	Tuesday 9-11am	
Dedham CO7 6HJ	Thursday 11-1pm	

If you have an urgent query please contact
Rev Antony Wilson ☎323 919

Can we help?

Sometimes things in life can just get too much to cope with on your own...

Psalm 34:18: *The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

If you would like some support or know of anyone who would, please contact:

Ann Shaw ☎322 192 or

Christine Mingay ☎230 723

If you have been bereaved or know of anyone who has, please contact Vee Druit ☎322 000

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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There will be no June issue, but the magazine will be published in every other month in 2018.

**Deadline for contributions for July edition:
Thursday 14 June**

Cover: Ugandan sunset,
Sue and Richard Van de Ruit

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Throughout the magazine local telephone numbers omit ☎01206 area code unless otherwise stated.

Rocks that can be sweet, hard - or inspiring

Rocky Road is quite simply one of the best cake inventions ever! I wonder what your favourite cake is? If you like eating cake do come along to the Mission Bake Sale on 12 May (see pages 12 and 19) and if you like baking why not bring some cakes along?

Rocky Road brings a sweetness to our taste but rocks can often have a different and altogether more difficult meaning for us. Sometimes we might feel that we are trying to get through life while carrying a whole bag full of 'rocks' - our problems or those of other people or even our own regret from the past.

Murder, mission and redemption

In the 1986 film *The Mission*, 18th century Spanish Jesuits try to protect a remote South American tribe in danger of falling under the rule of pro-slavery Portugal. Early in the film we meet Captain Rodrigo Mendoza. He comes to the area above Iguazu Falls and takes away a dozen or so of the native Guarani. These are the same indigenous people that a priest, Father Gabriel, has come to live with, serve and evangelize. Mendoza, on his return to Asuncion is heartbroken to discover that his lady has fallen for his brother. Mendoza's impulsive murder of his own brother leads to his rotting in jail for six months, refusing to see anyone. Father Gabriel visits him and presents a challenge to Mendoza. Despite Mendoza's claim "For me there is no redemption," Father Gabriel accuses him of cowardice, both in murdering his brother and in his life since.

This challenge sets up one of the most powerful and gruelling scenes of the film. Gabriel, along with the other Jesuits of the mission, accompanies Mendoza as he climbs

up the mountain and the falls to the Guarani mission of San Carlos. Tied to Mendoza is a large netted sack, bursting at the brim with swords, armour, and other weapons, serving as the symbol of Mendoza's old life. As he climbs, he bears the burden of this life and of the pain it has caused.

This penance is completed only when the Jesuits and Mendoza arrive at the mission, where the Guarani wait. While greeting the Jesuits with cheers and hugs, there is fear regarding Mendoza. They recall his kidnapping and killing their people. One of the Guarani takes a knife, shouting at and threatening to kill Mendoza.

Yet the Guarani does not kill Mendoza. Rather, he cuts off the sack and pushes it off a cliff into the river. Through this act, the Guarani recognize this public act of penance and forgive Mendoza. The weight of his past life is lifted, and Mendoza, perhaps crushed by this realization, weeps profoundly.

Remember the Dedham rocks?

Just before Easter 99 rocks that had been beautifully decorated by our community were hidden around Dedham and Ardleigh, and many of you found them and bought them to the church for our Easter Service. They helped us to celebrate Easter and as we placed them around the cross in church (photo: page 21), we remembered that Christ died to bear our burdens, to set us free, to forgive us.

This is the everlasting sweetness at the heart of the Christian faith.

Our church is always open for you to come and pray and experience the love and forgiveness that God has for all of us.

Antony Wilson, Vicar



Services for May and June

Sunday 6 May

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Dedham
9.30am	Rise n' Shine	Dedham
11am	Eucharist	Ardleigh
5pm	Evensong <i>BCP</i>	Dedham

Thursday 10 May

7am	Ascension Day Service	Dedham
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Sunday 13 May

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Ardleigh
9.30am	Holy Communion <i>CW</i>	Dedham

Sunday 20 May - Pentecost

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Dedham
9.30am	Matins <i>BCP</i>	Dedham
11am	Parish Eucharist	Ardleigh
3pm	Sunday@3	Ardleigh

Sunday 27 May

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Ardleigh
9.30am	Morning Praise	Dedham
5pm	Revive at 5	Dedham

Sunday 3 June

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Dedham
9.30am	Rise n' Shine	Dedham
11am	Eucharist	Ardleigh
5pm	Evensong <i>BCP</i>	Dedham

Sunday 10 June

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Ardleigh
9.30am	Holy Communion <i>CW</i>	Dedham

Sunday 17 June

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Dedham
9.30am	Matins <i>BCP</i>	Dedham
11am	Parish Eucharist	Ardleigh
3pm	Sunday@3	Ardleigh

Sunday 24 June

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Ardleigh
9.30am	Morning Praise	Dedham
5pm	Revive at 5	Dedham

CHURCH TOWER FLAG DAYS



Thursday 10 May

Ascension

Sunday 20 May
Pentecost

Sunday 27 May

Trinity



Sunday 10 June

Birthday: HRH Prince
Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

FROM THE REGISTER

No register entries

EVENTS

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, 12 May and 16
June 9am at The
Vicarage, Dedham

Mission Bake

Saturday, 12 May (&
Horticultural) and
30 June 10am at
Dedham Church

Weekly Midweek

Services : Tuesday
Morning Prayer at **Dedham**
at **10.30am**

Thursday Evening Prayer at
Ardleigh at 5pm

Dedham Music Festival

13-15 July



Friday 13 at 7.30pm

The Kingsland Gospel Choir at Dedham Church

Saturday 14 from 3.15pm

Music with afternoon tea in the Vicarage Garden

Saturday 14 at 7pm

Music for a Summer's Evening - BBQ or bring your own
food and drink in the Vicarage Garden

Sunday 15

Dedham Film Club special evening showing in the
Vicarage Garden

More details to follow.....

“We arrived early for the service in Dedham” ...-

A chance meeting on a Sunday in St Mary's a quarter of a century ago led to a deep and lasting partnership in support of our missionary work in Uganda and South Africa.

The story began a few years earlier when we met via Youth with a Mission. Richard was from the Netherlands; I was born in England but grew up in Uganda and Hong Kong. We had both gone on many short term missions.

In response to God's calling, we decided to put our careers aside and attend a leadership training school together. After the course we took a team to Africa. In Uganda we realised the great need for training church leaders. We also found our life partners, and both of us were called to the country.

We returned to England, to marry, attend Bible College and raise support to return to Uganda, which was still recovering from a civil war with car ambushes, a nightly curfew, regular gunfire and military road blocks.

We spent about 18 months working with Global Outreach in Uganda, Richard with local rural pastors and Sue as a volunteer midwife at the local hospital. We returned to the UK after Sue was diagnosed with cancer (later cleared) and discovered from all the tests that she was pregnant. During the six weeks of these tests in London, refusing any treatment that would jeopardise the pregnancy, we visited Sue's sister who was living just outside Dedham and decided to go to St Mary's Sunday morning service.

We arrived early for the service and prayed. Pat Bedford, wife of the Reverend Norman Bedford, then the Vicar of Dedham, introduced herself. When we explained we



Sue and Richard Van de Ruit

were missionaries from Uganda, she suggested we meet her husband. They were excited and interested and told us they had been praying for missionaries for the church to support. We all felt that God had brought us together. After we had given a talk to sympathetic parishioners, St Mary's began to send a yearly contribution for our ministry.

In the two ministry trips before we made disciples in Uganda in 1991, we had become increasingly aware that, due to phenomenal church growth – 85 per cent of Uganda claiming to be Christian - there was a pressing need for leadership training within the church.

We were invited to pioneer Veritas College, a leadership training ministry, which aimed to provide affordable and accessible theological training within local churches. This training has reached every corner of Uganda, training trainers who in turn have trained other leaders, reaching thousands of churches.

In 2000, we became involved with a team that started Kampala International Church.

continued on facing page

.....the start of a long partnership with missionary work

continued from page 12

and in 2008 a multicultural church, from our home, which quickly grew to over 100 adults and children.

We also introduced Farming God's Way in Uganda (digging compostable materials back into the soil rather than throwing them away). This significantly increased yields. We have handed each ministry in over to Ugandan leaders.

Next, in Hoedspruit, South Africa, we started a weekly Bible study group in a small Afrikaans-speaking church, and a youth group, and were involved in discipleship, counselling, ministry to schools, and teaching/preaching. We became aware of the need for an English-speaking church which we started with an older couple in 2015. They introduced us to Joshua Generation Churches and Four12 Global Ministries.

Last October we started working full-time with Joshua Generation Churches in Cape Town where we had moved, found a house and are now ready to work with its 23 congregations in the Western Cape. So, the journey continues.

Our relationship and partnership with St Mary's has produced very many fruits: The Reverend John Mitson was our treasurer until he went to Bible College. St Mary's and the Rev Gerard Moate, Norman Bedford's successor, continued to support us whenever we were in England. A regular cake bake began, with the proceeds going to Missions. Members of the church have supported us personally. This has covered the education of our three children from 15 years until today. They also helped us to buy our first vehicle – after four years in Uganda without one.

We hosted Norman Bedford's grandson, Philip Brien, and Gerard Moate's daughter,

Heather, in their gap years, finding work for them to do in a new International school, at our office and in different orphanages. They also helped our children (who were then being educated at home) and the youth group we were leading. We arranged for



A Christian study group in Uganda

Heather to visit one of Mission Aviation Fellowships (MAF) projects in the north of the country - a highlight for her as it meant flying in a small plane.

We were also blessed to have Andy and Ruth Higginson in Uganda who volunteered to serve in an orphanage. Through St Mary's we have often been provided with a home - a flat in Dedham Mill as well as the flat in the vicarage, and the offer of other stays including at a holiday home and the loan of a car in the UK.

Our children have now left home. Rachel, 25 has been involved for five years with missions and has completed a church internship, Hannah, 23, a chef in a top hotel in Paris, and Caleb, 19, began Bible College in South Africa this year.

We are deeply grateful for the help from those in St Mary's that made it possible for us to continue to minister in Africa.

Sue and Richard Van de Ruit

Wedding stops play just this once...



Antony Watson, Dedham's organist: "The church organ sometimes sounds like a cross between *Doctor Who* and the Morse Code."

There is one day this year when it is pretty certain that Antony Watson will **not** be playing the organ for a service in Dedham Church.

On 3 November his daughter, Sarah, a musician, will be marrying a fellow musician: "I might play the odd piece but on this occasion I had better not neglect my duties as father of the bride."

The Watsons are musicians through and through. Antony's father was an organist, his mother a singer. Both his daughters are singers and violinists and have studied music at university. And his half French wife,

Gabbie, is a cellist, as many in Dedham know.

Antony and Gabbie met when both were students at the Colchester Institute. On one occasion Gabbie was singing at the Woolpit Festival, Suffolk, and needed a last minute accompanist. Antony obliged. "She was singing *Après un rêve* (After a dream) – I expect I said something about the title... I think she married me out of gratitude."

Antony's first instrument was the oboe, his second the piano. He came to the organ via his initial plan to become ordained. He was

continued opposite

...after decades of service to music

continued from page 14

told at a selection conference in 1987 to come back in two years' time after gaining some working experience. "I started to play the organ in church and realised that this was my calling."

The success of this decision was confirmed about 20 years later. "I went on a weekend retreat to explore again the possibility of taking orders, but it became very clear to me that God was saying: I need you to stick to what you are doing. I am a people-person and that's my approach to music: the importance of what it does to the people when performing it and receiving it.

A ministry of music

"It is a ministry of music – the spiritual and personal enhancement that music gives and the sense of making the world a better place.

"Being an organist is for me is the joy of ministering to the congregation on their weekly walk with God and the privilege of officiating at weddings and funerals and meeting a huge number of very nice people."

Antony's special qualification as a church organist, in addition to performing and training the choir, is the fact that his major subject at the institute was Music in Liturgy: "It is not a historical study of the liturgical repertoire. It is more the study of music embracing the liturgy – the sensitive use of the right music to enhance worship.

"If the liturgy, for example, is about forgiveness then we might choose the hymn 'Praise my soul the king of heaven' with the words 'ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven' and 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways.'"

He describes the new hymns, which might have one or two singers (sometimes his daughter Millie) and a small band, rather than the whole congregation singing, as exciting and challenging: "We have to be careful to balance traditional and modern music, but there is some very good quality music emerging today, after a period which wasn't great. I feel that when we do modern music, the church seems more vibrant."

However, he thinks that some popular music does not enhance worship. An example was the request for "I did it my way" at a funeral; but he is happy to play the frequent choice of Clarke's or Purcell's Trumpet voluntaries for weddings.

As well as teaching music to individual pupils, he also conducts the Song Birds – originally a group of fund-raising mothers from Dedham Primary school where he also teaches.

He is determined to keep Dedham Church's choir local: "It is extremely important that it is genuinely and authentically Dedham and that it stays that way. It is both hard work and rewarding but I feel it is essential to work with what you're given."

Of course, Antony is much concerned with the dilapidated state of the church's organ "Sometimes it sounds like a cross between 'Doctor Who' and Morse Code because of some digital fault." In the March issue of this magazine, the urgency of finding funds to restore or replace the organ and the possible ways of doing so were fully explained.

Antony Watson deserves a properly maintained organ and so, indeed, does the magnificent St Mary's Church. "It may be a cold, dark night and my mates could well be in the pub. But the glorious church still remains a great joy of the job."

Anthea Hall

Help for those who find digital machines difficult

Dedham Parish Council is working with Colchester Borough Council to provide digital help to Dedham residents. Perhaps you have a tablet or smartphone or even a laptop which you are not confident in using? Or maybe you would like to learn how to contact the Colchester or Essex councils electronically about something? The new parish council office, in the Dedham Art and Craft Centre will be the venue for one to one support from Michael Smith, Colchester council's Digital Access Officer. Please call in at the office (open between 10am and 12noon each Tuesday and Thursday) to find out more and to book a slot. Drop-in sessions may also be available if there is enough interest. There will also be a permanent 'kiosk' facility which will provide easy access to a range of services from local councils and other organisations. Michael will be at the annual parish meeting on 31 May.

Adult exercise equipment

We are considering the future of the wooden adult exercise equipment on the playing field. Do you use it or do you know someone who does? We would like to hear from you and also welcome input from anyone else who has a view about the equipment.

Tourist information point

We are working in partnership with the Munnings Museum at Castle House to train volunteers to staff the new tourist information point in the Dedham Arts and Craft Centre. If you can spare an hour or two on a regular basis, please contact

Jenny Hand 📞322127 or
✉️jenny.hand@munningsmuseum.org.uk.

You could also have the opportunity to train as a Digital Access Champion to help local

Important date change

Annual parish meeting

The annual parish meeting will now be held at the Assembly Rooms on

Thursday 31 May

starting at 7.30pm. We hope to welcome a representative from Manningtree First Responders and a tourism officer from Colchester Borough Council as well as its Digital Access Officer (see left). Everyone is welcome; coffee will be served.

residents with their IT needs. These roles are voluntary.

Flower tubs

The parish council will once again be brightening up the village centre with summer planters. We would love some help with the watering. If you can commit to regular watering duties between June and September please contact the Parish Clerk by 31 May. We are offering modest payment.

E-mail changes

Please note that the parish council's old e-mail addresses will not be in use for much longer, so please make sure you use our new ones to get in touch:

firstname.surname@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Next meetings

The parish council will meet on **Monday 14 May** at 7.30pm in the Assembly Rooms (Reading Room) and on **Monday 4 June**, venue to be confirmed. The annual parish assembly will be on **Thursday 31 May** at 7.30pm in the Assembly Rooms.

Nicola Baker

www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk
Clerk *Emma Cansdale* 📞01255 871483
✉️clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Two sides to the naming of plants

By the time you read this, let us hope the weather will be as it should be for the season, but as I write the garden is recovering from snow, sunshine, more snow and what seemed like the 'great deluge' leaving the ground almost waterlogged in places. So it's hardly surprising that all the spring maintenance has been seriously delayed; mulching is definitely on hold as borders need to be prepared. Firstly the annual weeds need attacking with the hoe, then it's down to ground level to dig out those pernicious weeds (otherwise known as gardening therapy); if they are not dug out now it will be regretted later. However the emergence of weeds means that the ground is warming up: summer bulbs can be planted and grass seed sown.

The second outstanding job takes longer: checking for failures, tidying up and dividing herbaceous perennials, but it has to be done. Over the years established perennials lose their vigour so digging them up and splitting or dividing provides extra plants as well as stock for the forthcoming **Dedham Horticultural Society plant sale (morning, 12 May at Dedham Church)**.

Replanting smaller clumps in groups of three or any other odd number gives the best effect. All my perennials, in theory, are accompanied by large white labels; however some get broken, others disappear or the identifying words fade even when written with a so-called permanent marker. But all is not lost – I now have a cunning plan - the plant name and info is always written on

both sides of the label so if one side fades, the reverse should be OK. This simple idea is your gardening tip for this month. But an even worse problem that comes with age is the inability to conjure up a plant's name when confronted with a blank label and no identifying foliage. This is where the **Great List** comes to the rescue. Everything (well more or less) is recorded on the computer (in *Word*). Using Ctrl+F and adding a key word may give the answer, or reading through the list till the name jumps out works



Camellia R.L. Wheeler

too. Surprisingly, the list totals over 600 varieties of trees, shrubs, perennials, climbers, ferns, roses etc. With only the plants brought with us when we moved to this barren plot (*aka* the new garden), starting the list from almost nothing was easy; new arrivals were added periodically over the last 18 years so it hasn't been difficult to reach this number. If you were to look round your own garden and start checking what's there, you would be very surprised by just how much you have.

So after your own gardening therapy session, the mulch (either your own or whatever you choose to use) can be spread on the damp ground to improve the soil structure and help suppress future weeds. Don't forget to add some fertiliser first. However, at present, lots of stark white labels do rather give the borders here the appearance of tombstones in a fairies' graveyard. No matter – new growth will soon cover them up.

Elizabeth Ellis

The high cost of the disappearing patients

The current wait for a routine appointment with a doctor at Ardleigh Surgery is four days. We would like to see patients sooner and we spend time each day tweaking the appointment system to ensure that we are able to offer as many appointments we can. One of our biggest frustrations is the number of appointments that patients make, but do not attend (No Shows, or as the NHS calls them, DNAs)

In the first week in April our clinicians had 1005 contacts with our patients. The table shows how these were made up. In that

One week's appointments

GP routine	183
GP same day or emergency	124
Home visits	69
By telephone	132
With a nurse	497
Total	1005

week 21 patients or 2 per cent failed to show up for appointments. That may not seem a high percentage, but it is over three and a half hours of clinical time per week, time that could otherwise have been used by other patients. And this was a good week, as our average DNA rate is around 3 to 3.5 per cent - in line with the national average. So most weeks some five to six hours of our doctors' and nurses' time is wasted by No Shows.

We have introduced various systems to help patients to remember their appointments – we are able to print **sticky appointment slips** which can be fixed to

noticeboards or calendars, and those of you who have let us know your mobile phone number receive a **text** confirming your appointment details. If anyone has any other practical ideas, we would be delighted to hear them. Those using the **online appointments system** can cancel easily via the internet if they need to.

The cost of no-show patients to the NHS - and to you

- About 12,000 GP appointments per month were missed last year in five Essex areas.
- That would be equivalent to 10 million lost appointments per year in England.
- The total cost of missed appointments in England last year is estimated at £1bn. That is equivalent to 250,000 hip operations, says the NHS's Chief Nursing Officer.

You will notice some changes during the next couple of months. Dr Vernon Bettle will be cutting his working hours from 1 June and will only be working on Mondays and Tuesdays in future. However, we are delighted to have a new GP, Dr Pippa Outtridge, starting with us in May. As I mentioned last month, I have now officially retired and Ruth Waring, an experienced practice manager from Tower Hamlets, will be taking my place.

Stephanie Durrant

Ardleigh Surgery ☎ 230 224
 Dedham ☎ 322 290
www.ardleighsurgery.nhs.uk

Arthur leaves the church and prepares for school

The trainee guide dog, Arthur, who has attended worship at Dedham Church will be leaving the Culham household on 8 May to start training at the London Guide Dog Training School, Woodford Green. If all goes well he will qualify as a guide dog and be life changing for a visually impaired person. Arthur has worked hard as a puppy, walking with me, gaining experience, getting used to all the noises and bustle of every-day life. This has included different types of transport, attending meetings and talks, working in busy shopping areas and the train to London. He attended church, where the acoustics are very different and he learnt to keep quiet during the service and socialise afterwards. Unlike any of my previous 27 guide dog pups, Arthur (a typical German Shepherd) has been a little



vocal, but he talks quietly during the services.

On his first day at school Arthur will meet his trainer who will bond with him. There will be lots of hard work but also time to play; then comes the advanced stage of training, being matched with a visually impaired owner to give them independence and change their life. The matching process is very important. Guide dogs, like

us, are all individuals, walking different speeds. Some prefer city life, others are happier with the pace of life in the country. Although I will miss Arthur greatly I am pleased he will be continuing his journey to being a guide dog. I will be able to let you know how he progresses.

Thank you for helping Arthur on his puppy walks with me.

Marjorie Culham

Volunteer to help crime victims New Mobile library times

Essex Victim Support is looking for volunteers with listening skills, who have four or more hours a week to spare. Training is offered to give emotional and practical support to people affected by crime in the locality. ☎01277 357557

✉essexvolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk
www.victimsupport.org.uk

Mission cake sales

A cake and bric a brac sale will be held on **Saturday 12 May** in front of the church from 10 am to 12 noon to raise money for Beacon House (a homeless charity in Colchester) and our mission family in Africa (see page 12). There will also be a cake sale on **Saturday 30 June**. If you would like to help with baking or on the stall please call

Ruth ☎322598 or Lynne ☎322931.

The van now stops only at Royal Square on Fridays every three weeks from 9.40am to 10.10am. Next dates: 18 May, 29 June, 20 July, 10 August .

Charity walk by the river

Suffolk Breast Cancer Now is organising its 11th charity walk on the riverside on **Monday 14 May**. The 12 or 6 mile walks start from The Boathouse Restaurant, Dedham at 9.30 am. Last year's walk raised £36,860. The costs are: £25 for the 12 mile walk, with morning coffee, water, snack and lunch at the Boathouse; £15 for the 12 mile walk and morning coffee; £10 for the 6 mile walk and coffee. Contact Helen Allen:

helen.m.allen@icloud.com
 ☎391654 or ☎07850 916717
www.breastcancernow.org

Assembly Rooms



Antiques Fair

Sundays 6 May and 3 June - all day

Parish Council Meetings

Mondays 14 May and 4 June 7pm

See page 16

Horticultural Society annual general meeting

Tuesday 15 May 7pm

Gardening notes: page 17

Little Squigglers

Thursdays 10.30am - 12 noon

Brownies and Guides

Thursdays B 5.30 - 7pm G 7pm - 9pm

Dedham Art Society

Thursday 10 and 24 May 2pm - 4pm

Dedham Films

Wednesdays 18 May and 20 June 7pm

See page 26

Dedham Films Live – The Royal Wedding

Saturday 19 May 11 am

See page 26

Parish Assembly

Thursday 31 May 7pm

See page 16

Hospice Fashion Show

Friday 8 June

Dolls House Fair

Saturday 9 June 10am - 4pm

Dedham Art Society

Thursday 14 June 2pm - 4pm

Suffolk Village Festival – Musical Tea Party

Sunday 17 June 3.30pm

See page 28

Events moved from the Duchy Barn to the Mallett Room at Assembly Rooms

Coffee Mornings

Tuesdays and Thursdays

10.30am - 12.30 pm

Fridays: 25 May, 29 June

Songbirds rehearsals

Tuesdays 8pm - 10pm

Bridge in Dedham

Wednesdays 2pm - 5pm

Thursdays 7pm - 10pm

Youth Club

Fridays 7.30 - 9.15pm

Open Garden

Teas, cakes and train rides, **Saturday 2 June**, 2pm to 5pm at St Winifreds, Bargate Lane, Dedham. Admission by donation to St Helena Hospice.

Dedham Guides duck race

The 10th annual race will start on **Monday 7 May** at 12 noon from Mill Bridge.

Supporters are invited to “buy” ducks for £1 to float down the river. Prize: £50.

For information and to make a booking for the

Assembly Rooms please contact:

Tracy Woods ☎323921

✉ info@dedham-assemblyrooms.info



Easter stones

Painted by villagers and hidden in Dedham and Ardleigh, the stones were collected and brought to St Mary's as part of the Easter celebration.

See Viewpoint page 9

Dedham Footpath Group

Sunday 6 May 10.30 am

Meet Tendring School car park for a four mile circular ramble. Leader Liz Clinker

☎07761292684.

Sunday 3 June 2.30pm

Meet Dedham War Memorial for a five mile walk. Leader John Osborn ☎07919521607.

Sunday 1 July 10.30 am

Meet Fiveways Store Manningtree car park for a four mile walk. Leader Sue Everett

☎07712240449.

Stour Valley U3A

Wednesday 9 May: Roger Kennell on "William Pretty – A Suffolk family and corset manufacturer". **Wednesday 13 June:** Tony Diamond on "Chocolate". Meetings at The Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TP at 2 pm. Annual membership: £12. Graeme Forsyth

☎399049.

Stour Valley Men's Probus Club

Meetings on Wednesdays: **2 May:** Joyce Kimber on "Britain's Finest Hour". **16 May** Brain Kelly on "The life of a British consul" **6 June:** Dr John Knight on the life of John

Betjeman. **20 June** Chris Parfitt on "A portrait of a Suffolk river". **4 July** John Field on "The treasures of Ipswich". Summer Buffet at The Haywain on **18 July** when spouses and Probus widows are welcome. Meetings at the St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree CO11 1EB. Dave Carman

☎01255 880202.

Food at the Marlborough

The Duke of Marlborough Inn has re-opened its kitchen, although the extensive refurbishment continues.

Mini bus trip to Bury

The Good Neighbours Club is arranging a trip to Bury St Edmunds on **Wednesday 6 June**, leaving at 10am from Crown Street.. Cost: £5. If you are interested call Valerie Blaker after 6pm. ☎322471

Charity golf day

The Friends of Dedham Church are organising a golf day on **Wednesday 2 May** at Hintlesham Golf Club.

bethbadgers@gmail.com

Care home open days

Woodland View Care Home in Colchester invites anyone who would like to help and get to know residents to an activities and coffee morning on **Wednesday 9 May**, 10.30am to 12 noon or at coffee mornings on the last Thursday of each month, 10.30am to 11.30am. Contact

Jodi.rutherford@barchester.com

Bubble Run for charity

Bubble Rush is a 5km run which will take place at High Woods Country Park in Colchester on **Saturday 9 June** in support of St Helena Hospice. Five bubble cannons will blast out colourful bubbles over the course. The event is for all ages and abilities. Wheelchairs and prams are welcome. Sign up at sthelenahospice.org.uk/bubble18 or call: ☎931468.

Another splendid chapter in the history of the Stour's ancient navigation

We love our River Stour, winding gently through its beautiful valley, varying a little in level with the seasons, but not much. It was not always so. The river's flow was regulated three centuries ago to meet a rising demand for trade.

By the early 20th century, commercial traffic was coming to an end and the Stour's locks and sluice gates steadily deteriorated. Then, in 1968, the River Stour Trust was formed to keep the navigation of the river open to the public, and it has been responsible for much restoration. For some years the trust has been raising funds to replace the lock at Stratford St Mary, a major undertaking. It will be ceremonially opened this May as part of the trust's half century celebrations.

The Stour was the first English river to be made navigable. In the late 17th century the rapidly growing population of London presented a ready market for East Anglian goods. The problem was transport. A cartload of grain, bricks, butter, hay or malt could not be moved far on poor, uneven roads. A group of landowners and businessmen saw the River Stour as a solution. The trouble was, it could be

dangerously fast-flowing in rainy periods, yet shrink to a shallow trickle in summer drought. The answer was to regulate the flow with locks and sluice gates. An Act of Parliament was needed to permit this. In 1705 the Stour Navigation Act was passed, which allowed for these to be built along the river's 25 miles from Sudbury to the estuary. The Act appointed Commissioners of the Navigation to settle any disputes among users and landowners. In due course Golding Constable, John Constable's father, became one such.

The cost of the work was £4,800 (more than £1m in today's money), and it took some four years to complete. The investment paid off. When it was finished, more than 20 tons of cargo at a time could be carried by two linked barges, or lighters, all the way to the estuary. They were hauled by just one horse and a crew of two, typically a man and a boy. They would stop to take on cargo at mills and landing stages along the way. The load was then transferred to sailing barges at Manningtree and Mistley, and swiftly transported to London. Those craft would not come back empty. There was money to be made by transporting coal, or helping London get rid of stable straw, and 'night soil'. This could then be sold to farmers for spreading on the



White Horse on the Stour: Constable



Filling up: the restored lock at Stratford St Mary

fields. (Probably best not to contemplate the lack of hygiene in transporting grain and human or horse waste in the same vessel.)

The journey from Sudbury to Manningtree took about two days, and not just because of the 13 locks that had to be negotiated. Unfortunately a few landowners refused to allow a towpath on their land, so sometimes it was on one side of the river, and then the

other. If there was a nearby bridge, the horse could use that. Otherwise it was trained to jump onto the lighter and was floated across. One of John Constable's paintings, *The White Horse* (below, opposite), shows exactly that.

For more than a hundred years the lucrative trade continued, navigable rivers being the trunk roads of their day. It was the coming of the quicker, more efficient railways that put paid to the Stour as a commercial highway. Track reached Sudbury in 1849, leading to a gradual decline in river traffic, although lighters did still make the journey to and from the town up until the first

For information about the trust, its boat trips or its celebrations see:

www.riverstourtrust.org

To volunteer as a skipper or crew on one of the trust's electric boats contact:

kevintaylor@btinternet.com

world war, and to Dedham mill until 1930.

The re-opening of the Stratford St Mary lock on 12 May completes a long period of improvement including the restoration of four of the river's original locks. However, despite work on Dedham lock some 28 years ago, that is not now operable, so the aim of making the river navigable from Sudbury to the sea is still to be achieved. But in the summer months the River Stour Trust runs boat trips between Dedham and Flatford. The electrically-powered boat *Stour Trusty II*, skippered by its own specially trained members (see box, above), departs from beside the Boathouse Restaurant (Dedham had its own boatyard once). With its quiet propulsion, this is a rare treat - a peaceful, magical enjoyment of the river, wildlife, flowers and beautiful countryside. If you have visitors, it's a truly memorable thing to do, for both children and adults.

Alex Scott



A bias that runs towards sociability

Colchester Bowling Club was formed in 1902 and is the oldest bowling club in the area. Its current home, since 1994 (after three moves) is in **Ardleigh** on the Harwich Road just opposite the Ardleigh Reservoir.

The club has excellent facilities for players and visitors including changing rooms, club room, kitchen and bar. It supports all levels of playing abilities from beginners to county players and belongs to local men's borough and ladies leagues for those who wish to compete or just to play in friendly games. During the outdoor bowling season, end of April to end September, Thursday evening is club night and that is the ideal time for new members to get individual instruction and a chance to have a friendly game, or 'roll up'. During the winter months, club night is Friday, when carpet bowls is played with time for a drink and a chat over snacks. There are also monthly Sunday lunches during the winter, provided by members.

The Ladies' section currently has 20 playing members and the mens' has 36. Our social section, for non-playing spouses and partners or retired players, has 18 members.

Teams playing in league or friendly matches can consist of three players, Triples, using three bowls, or four players, Rinks, using two bowls. Triples consists of 18 'ends' (that's one way up the green). The players bowl three bowls alternately against their opposite team numbers. The Triples game can last up to two and a half to three

hours - a very pleasant way to spend a summer afternoon followed by a meal and drinks in the clubhouse. The Rinks game runs for 21 ends.

Husbands and wives usually play together in one of the leagues, Sudbury Triples, and during weekend friendlies. Games are played at home or away. Lifts are readily available for those without their own transport.

Open days

The club will be holding two public open days on **Sunday 20 May** and **Saturday 30 June** from

All are welcome to come along and try the sport and meet some of the members.

There will be a barbeque, weather permitting. Bring flat soled shoes or trainers or bowl barefoot. Contact via:

www.colchesterbowlingclub.org

Bowling uniforms have changed in recent years and are now more along the line of trainers and easy wear tops and trousers - obviously in club colours.

The Club has a tour each year and this year we will be playing friendly games against clubs in the Lincoln area over four days. This can result in reciprocal days when clubs visited on tour come to visit us.

Reg Paine

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Wednesday 16 May 2018

Paddington Bear 2

(PG) Directed by Paul King



Paddington is happily settled with the Brown family, spreading joy and marmalade wherever he goes. While searching for the perfect present for his beloved Aunt Lucy's 100th birthday, Paddington spots a pop-up book in Mr. Gruber's antique shop, and embarks upon a series of odd jobs to buy it. But when the book is stolen, it's up to Paddington to unmask the thief.

Wednesday 20 June 2018

Darkest Hour

(PG13) Directed by Joe Wright



Winston Churchill (Gary Oldman) must face one of his most difficult trials: explore a negotiated peace treaty with Germany, or stand firm to fight for the ideals and freedom of a nation. As the threat of invasion is imminent, and with an unprepared public, a skeptical King, and his own party plotting against him, Churchill must withstand his darkest hour, and rally a nation, to change the course of world history.



Assembly Rooms Dedham Films Admission 7pm Begin 7.30pm
Tickets £4 from Shakespeare House Gallery or www.dedhamfilms.co.uk
Refreshments available - Contact: dedhamfilms@gmail.com or ☎643 009

Saturday 19 May - The Royal Wedding

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family and friends.

Unfortunately no
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THEATRE

Wednesday 14 Mar to 26 May

Guest House, Eastern Angles Theatre Company, 7.30pm, at various locations - see web site.

Friday 20 Apr to 5 May

Pieces of String, Mercury Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

Tuesday 24 Apr to 28

Tennessee Williams: A Streetcar Named Desire, various times, New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich.

Thursday 26 to 28 Apr

Plastic, Poleroid Theatre in association with the Mercury Theatre, at the Mercury, Colchester, 8pm.

Friday 4 to 5 May

Sofa, The MakeShift Ensemble, Mercury Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

Tuesday 8 to 9 May

Floodgate, Lakeside Theatre, Colchester, 7.45pm.

Thursday 10 May

Shakespeare: Macbeth, National Theatre - LL, 7pm at Firstsite and at Lakeside Theatre, Colchester

Tuesday 15 to 16 May

Coming, Going, Lakeside Theatre, Colchester, 7.45pm.

Sunday 20 May to 2 Jun

A Bunch of Amateurs by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, Two Rivers Theatre, at Sir John Mills Theatre, Ipswich.

Tuesday 22 to 26 May

The Be All And End All, Mercury Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

Friday 25 May to 9 June

Europe After The Rain, Mercury Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

Monday 4 to 9 Jun

The Play That Goes Wrong 2018, Mercury Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

Tuesday 5 Jun

Oscar Wilde: An Ideal Husband, with Frances Barber as Mrs Cheveley (opposite) Vaudeville Theatre London - LL, 7.15pm at Odeon Colchester.



MUSIC

Saturday 28 Apr

Bach Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Clacton Choral Society with the Kingfisher Sinfonietta, 7.30pm at St James's Church.
New Music For Two Harpsichords Francis Knights and Dan Tidhar - Pimlott Foundation, 3pm at Old House, Great Horkesley.

Mozart, Ireland with George Ireland, piano, St Botolph's Music Society, 7.30pm, Colchester.

Sunday 29 Apr

Julie Roberts and Daniela Bechly, sopranos, 3pm at St Andrew's Church, Rushmere, Ipswich.

Saturday 5 May

Bernstein, Handel, Vivaldi, Lexden Choral Society, 7.30pm at St Botolph's, Colchester.

Roderick Williams, baritone, accompanied by Iain Burnside, Woodbridge Chamber Concerts, 7.30pm at Woodbridge Church.

Saturday 12 May

Schubert, Sibelius, Brahms, Wolsey Orchestra, 7.30pm at Ipswich Corn Exchange.

Royal College of Music Strings, Woodbridge Chamber Concerts, 7.30pm at Woodbridge Church.

MUSIC continued

Sunday 13 May

Schumann, Elgar, Kingfisher Ensemble, 2.45pm at Lion Walk Church, Colchester.

Saturday 26 May

Piano trio: Michael Foyle, Somi Kim and Raphael Lang, Woodbridge Chamber Concerts, 7.30pm at Woodbridge Church.

Monday 28 May

John Eccles: Semele (1707), Suffolk Villages Festival at Hadleigh Church.

Tuesday 29 May

Imogen Cooper, Piano Haydn, Beethoven, Schönberg, Roman River Music 7.30pm at Mercury Theatre.

Saturday 2 Jun

Haydn: Creation, Bury Bach Choir, 7.30pm at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral.

Wednesday 6 Jun

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra - Film Music Gala, Regent Theatre Ipswich Ipswich, 7.30pm.

Saturday 9 Jun

Choral music, Aquarius Singers, 4pm at Ickworth Church.

Russian music, Colchester Symphony Orchestra, 7.30pm at St Botolph's.

Sunday 10 Jun

Hadleigh Choral Society at URC Church, Hadleigh.

FOUR FESTIVALS

Bury: 18 to 27 May

www.buryfestival.co.uk

Frinton: 25 to 28 May.

www.frintonfestival.com

Aldeburgh: 8 to 24 June

www.snapemaltings.co.uk

Harwich: 21 June to 1 July

www.harwichfestival.co.uk

Open Gardens at Old House: activities, exhibition and concert, Pimlott Foundation, 3pm at Old House, Great Horkesley.

Music at the Mill, West Bergholt Concert Band, 2.30pm at Flatford Mill, East Bergholt.

Saturday 16 Jun

Hadleigh Choral Society Hadleigh, 7.30pm at Kettlebaston Church.

Sunday 17 June

Musical Tea Party,

Suffolk Villages Festival,
3.30pm at

Dedham Assembly Rooms

Sunday 17 Jun

Dvorak, Brahms, Schubert, Kingfisher Ensemble, 2.45pm at Lion Walk Church, Colchester.

Wednesday 20 Jun

Simon Rattle's Farewell Concert Gustav Mahler Symphony No. 8, Berliner Philharmoniker Orchestra - LL, 6.30pm at Firstsite, Colchester.

Saturday 23 Jun

Savitri Grier Vaughan Williams - The Lark Ascending, Ipswich Symphony Orchestra, 7.30pm at Ipswich Corn Exchange.

Chilcott : The Little Jazz Mass, Lexden Choral Society, 7.30pm at Lexden Church.

Wagner, Mahler, Nielsen with Daniela Bechly, Soprano & Hakan Vramsmo, Baritone, Suffolk Sinfonia, 7.30pm at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds.

Sunday 24 Jun

Mozart, Lavenham Sinfonia Lavenham, 7pm at Lavenham Church.

Thursday 28 Jun

Trio, Kingfisher Ensemble, 1.15pm at St Mary's Church, Frinton-on-Sea.

MUSIC continued

Saturday 30 Jun

Summer Concert, Suffolk Singers at Hadleigh Church.**Prom in the Barn**, Tiptree Choral Society, 7.30pm at Layer Marney Tower, Colchester.**OPERA/MUSICAL**

Puccini's Madame Butterfly live link from Glyndebourne, 21 June

Saturday 28 Apr

Massenet: Cendrillon, Metropolitan Opera New York - LL, 5.55pm at Firstsite, Colchester.

Monday 30 Apr to 3 May

Blood Brothers, Regent Theatre Ipswich, 7.30pm.

Friday 1 May

An evening of musical theatre, Colchester Institute Colchester, 8pm at Mercury Theatre. to 12 May**Tchaikovsky: Eugene Onegin**, OperaUpClose, 7.30pm at Mercury.

Monday 14 to 19 May

All Or Nothing, Mod musical, Mercury

7.30pm.

Wednesday 16 May

An American In Paris, Dominion Theatre London -LL, 7pm at Odeon Colchester.

Sunday 3 Jun

The Dream by Annie Vasconelos, based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Headgate Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

Thursday 21 Jun

Puccini: Madam Butterfly, Glyndebourne Music - LL, 6.30pm at Firstsite, Colchester.**BALLET**

Thursday 3 May

Manon, Royal Ballet - LL, 7.15pm at Odeon and Firstsite Colchester, and on 6 May at Firstsite.

Monday 7 May

Balletboyz Fourteen Days, Mercury, 7.30pm.

Tuesday 12 Jun

Swan Lake, Royal Ballet - LL, 7.15pm at Odeon and Firstsite, Colchester.

Wednesday 20 Jun

Sir Simon Rattle's farewell, Berliner Philharmoniker Orchestra - LL, 6.30pm at Firstsite, Colchester.**ART**

Wednesday 23 May

I, Claude Monet- Exhibition On Screen, Firstsite, Colchester, 7.30pm.*Max Wilkinson*

LL = live link by satellite

Many more events with details and links to producers' web pages on my website

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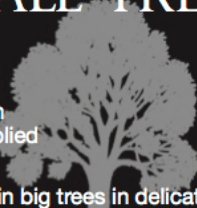
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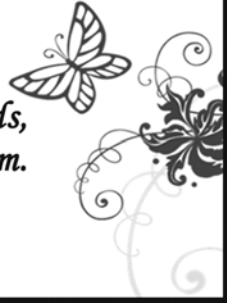
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