

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



October 2021

Harvest Services Sunday, 3rd October

9.30am, Rise N' Shine Harvest, Dedham

11am, Harvest Morning Prayer, Ardleigh

5pm, Harvest Evensong, Dedham

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1876

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

Vacancy Vicar
Merv McKinney Assistant Minister
☎322 136

PARISH OFFICE

Parishes Administrator

Deb Turner ☎322 136
Charlotte Parker Support Parish
 Administrator/Safeguarding
Assembly Rooms ✉stmaryda@gmail.com
High Street, Tuesday 9-11am
Dedham CO7 6HJ Thursday 11-1pm

CHURCH WARDENS

Vee Druitt ☎322 000
Peter Wilson ☎323 179
MUSIC
Antony Watson Director of Music
 ☎322 425

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

Editor: Charlotte Parker

✉dedhameditor@gmail.com

Advertising: Sara Marshall

✉dedham.advertising@gmail.com

Assembly Rooms ☎323 921

If you would like a lift to church
contact Ann Shaw ☎322 192
or Ruth Higginson ☎322 598

CONTENT

2. Contacts
3. Services & events
4. Viewpoint
5. Parish Administrator
 Remembering loved ones
6. Dedham Assembly Rooms
7. The Duchy Barn
- 8-9 Local groups

Features:

- 10-17 Bridge Farm
- 18-19 Dedham Vale Tree Surgery
- 19. Date for your diary
- 20-21 Traffic in Dedham
- 22-23 Dedham Primary School

Organisations & Features

- 24-25 Gardening notes
- 26-27 Local notices

28. Kingsleigh Residential
29-52 ADVERTISING

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 any one who would,

please contact: Ann Shaw ☎322 192 or Sue Browne ☎07778 198118

If you have been bereaved or know of anyone who has, please contact

Vee Druit ☎322 000 or Ruth Higginson ☎322 598

First Steps:

Want to get back involved with church but don't know where to start?

Contact Liz and John Reed ☎323 770



Follow us on facebook Dedham and Ardleigh parishes

Services & Events October 2021

Sunday, 3rd October

| | | |
|--------|------------------------|----------|
| 9.30am | Rise N' Shine Harvest | Dedham* |
| 11am | Harvest Morning Prayer | Ardleigh |
| 5pm | Harvest Evensong | Dedham* |

Sunday, 10th October

| | | |
|------|----------------|-----------|
| 8am | Holy Communion | Ardleigh* |
| 11am | Holy Communion | Dedham* |

Sunday, 17th October

| | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| 9.30am | Matins | Dedham* |
| 11am | Eucharist | Ardleigh |

Sunday, 24th October

| | | |
|--------|----------------|-----------|
| 8am | Holy Communion | Ardleigh* |
| 9.30am | Morning Praise | Dedham* |
| 5pm | ReVive@5 | Dedham* |

Sunday, 31st October

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion | Ardleigh* |
| 11am | Benefice Morning Praise | Dedham* |
| 6pm | Christians Together | Ardleigh* . |

* = services which are live-streamed



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC78SZfH5QRXMpy7DgfwYslg>

Every Tuesday 10.30am Morning Prayer, Dedham Church

Ardleigh Friendship Group – every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 10am to 12 noon outside Ardleigh Church, during any weather!

Monday Lunch Club - Monday, 4th October. Essex Tea Rooms, 12.30pm.

Arrive early as booking is not possible.

Walk & Talk – Thursday, 14th October, 10am. Meet outside Dedham Arts Centre

If you wish to join for the coffee and chat part only, this will be at 11am.

Mind The Gap

Last month saw the departure of our Vicar Antony to take up the position of Chaplain at Mill Hill School; Antony's last service was on the 19 September to the combined parishes of Ardleigh and Dedham and afterwards there was a buffet lunch and presentation of farewell gifts comprising a cheque, and a lovely framed picture of Constable country showing Dedham church tower in the mist to remind Antony of his time in Dedham and Ardleigh

Under Antony's leadership the Church has broadened its ministry both inside and outside the church, and now offers a wide range of services to appeal to young and old, as well as reaching out to the wider community, which demonstrates the true message of love and support of the Christian faith.

As we enter this interregnum period (the church's description of the period between vicars), it becomes the responsibility of the church wardens to ensure the smooth and orderly working of the church in all its aspects. We have been working on this since we learnt of Antony's pending departure, and have in place a full programme of services (including Sunday services, Revive @5, Prayer meetings and home groups) through until the end of January.

We are fortunate to have a very strong ministry team comprising retired clergy and lay persons who are committed to continue and develop the work of the church. Rest assured, we will not view our interregnum as a period of

stagnation for our church but rather as an opportunity for growth. We are mindful that a gap in our ministry could occur and we will prayerfully make every effort to avoid this happening.

Over the coming months we will be consulting with the Bishop and Archdeacon about the future organisation of the benefice and the characteristics we will be looking for in a new incumbent. With this in mind we shall be circulating a questionnaire to gather the views of local people as to where they see the church in Dedham today and what vision they have for its future.

If you wish to raise any issues with us over the coming weeks and months, please do communicate with us via the parish office whose details are included at the front of the magazine

Peter Wilson and Vee DrUITT
Church Wardens

Plans are underway for decorating the church for Harvest and we would welcome any fruit or vegetables that you might have to help us with our display. A box will be provided at the back of the church for any donation in the week prior to 3rd October

**Parishes Administrator
& Volunteer Coordinator**



Deb Turner has been appointed as our new Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator.

Deb lives in Manningtree and is married to Dom, who is the vicar of the Manningtree Benefice, and has 2 children, Jack (15) and Hannah (12), and a small Cockapoo called Biscuit.

Deb has worked as an administrator for many years, mainly in the education sector, and is now also working as a part-time Church Administrator for St Luke's in Colchester, which she will do alongside her new post here.

In her spare time, Deb enjoys seeing family and friends, countryside walks, baking and has recently discovered a new love of making jam.

Remembering your loved ones

Special services to remember those who have died
Sunday 7th November, 4pm, St Mary's Ardleigh



Please contact the Parishes Office if you would like to attend
and/or have the name of your loved one read out
01206 322 136 / stmaryda@gmail.com

If there is any other way that we can be of help please do get in touch

*We hope to see you on 7th November
With our warmest wishes and prayers
Dedham and Ardleigh Churches*



DEDHAM ASSEMBLY ROOMS

Assembly Rooms reopening

We are pleased to announce we are finally able to fully reopen the Assembly Rooms. We understand that some people have concerns and are anxious about resuming their pre covid life so we have put in place measures to protect all users of the building. We are encouraging the continued wearing of face coverings while in the building, particularly while walking around. We have hand sanitiser dispensers at all doors and finally we have increased cleaning of the regularly touched surfaces. During the various lockdowns we have been busy. The Hewitt Hall was re-decorated last year. The trust which owns the building was finally after 20 years established as a charity in its own right. The new Charity name is 'The Assembly Rooms Dedham Trust'. We have a new website

www.dedhamassemblyrooms.essexonline.net

We also have a new web based booking and invoicing system, Hallmaster, which is linked to the website. You are able to view the live schedule of bookings and request bookings through the system. Please get in touch if you are thinking of arranging an event.

Car parking unfortunately is causing some concerns at present. We recognise parking within the village centre is difficult especially for local residents who are perhaps just popping in for a minute. While the Assembly Rooms were closed we did not mind if local residents used the hall car park. However, now that the building has reopened we must remind you all that the car park is privately owned and only to be used while visiting the hall. Hirers who hire the hall have also hired the parking area and it should be clear and available for them. Thank you for your co-operation.

We are pleased to welcome back some of the old regular users of the building. Unfortunately we have lost some of the old regulars, however these have been replaced with new activities and we are hopeful to welcome more in the coming months.

Contact details:

dedhamassemblyroom@gmail.com

Please see below a summary of the OCTOBER bookings:

Victoria Baker Pilates, Monday and Tuesday, weekly, am & pm

Antiques Fair, Sunday 3rd, 9am – 4pm

Dedham Horticultural Society, Wednesday 6th, 7pm

Dedham Art Society, Thursday 14th & 28th. 2.30pm

Bridge, Wednesday 13th October and Thursday 14th October



THE DUCHY BARN

Is now available to hire again for local community groups, small family parties etc. We hope to be able to resume our community coffee mornings on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from early September - if you are interested in helping with these please contact Avril Biggins 322565.

We hope also that our regular Dedham Watercolour Painting group will be restarting in the autumn.

**For bookings please contact
Anne Rowledge on 322394**

The Duchy Barn Management Committee

is holding its AGM
at the Barn
on Tuesday 2nd November
at 6.30 pm

There will be presentation
of annual reports
and election of Chairman
and committee members

All Dedham residents and users
of this community facility
are invited to attend

Light refreshments
will be provided
after the meeting

*Colin Biggins
Acting chairman,
DB Management Committee*

OCTOBER bookings:

Community Coffee mornings, Tuesday and Thursday, 10.30 - 12 noon
Dedham Watercolour Painting Group, Monday mornings, 10 am - 12 noon
(further details from Avril 01206 322565)

Bridge in Dedham has for many years been part of the Duchy Barn's regular users but was brought to a halt by the pandemic. We are delighted to be returning on Wednesday 13th October and Thursday 14th October but in future we will be in the Assembly Rooms. Starting on Wednesday 13th October **Bridge in Dedham** is in the Assembly Rooms every Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening. We play duplicate bridge, all are welcome and you do not need a partner. For information please telephone Judith on 01206 322 938



Reverend Antony, leaving lunch & presentation

BIG BREAKFAST



The Assembly Rooms
Saturday 13th November, 8-11.30am

Provisional date (subject to change if restrictions are re introduced)

WALK & TALK



THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER , 10AM
MEET OUTSIDE DEDHAM ARTS CENTRE
OR JOIN US AT THE ARTS CENTRE CAFÉ AT 11AM

Monday Lunch Club



First Monday of the month **12.30** at **The Essex Rose**
Bookings are not possible so please arrive promptly
Thereafter lunches will be on the first Monday of each month



RISE N SHINE
all-together worship
1st Sunday each month
Dedham Church, 9.30 to 10.15am

hymns-songs-bible stories-refreshments
Dedham-and-Ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

Bridges Farm

In 1937 my great-aunt Mrs Maud Erith (1871-55), whose husband had died in 1926, moved from Loughton to Dedham, where she bought Westgate House (then Westgate Place) from Captain Mortimer Elwell. Besides a large garden, the property included two fields, one immediately to the west of the house (where Dedham's allotments are now) and the other known as "*Boat Meadow*" running down to the river behind the house. There was already a boathouse in this field but in 1939 she commissioned her architect nephew Raymond Erith (1904-73) to replace it with the present little classical building in order to help the builders, Wheelers of East Bergholt.

They had carried out repairs and alterations to Westgate House for her but with the onset of WW2 they were short of work and in financial difficulties as a result. So that construction could begin quickly Raymond Erith re-used his design for the columns of the porch at Great House in the High Street which he had recently completed for his parents-in-law. Maud Erith was also able to buy further adjacent land from its owner, a Mrs Rodwell.

In 1937 she bought Bridges Farm which was being sold by Alfred Abbot, the farmer and seedsman whose nursery business was next to the level crossing at Ardleigh and she gave a seven-year lease to the existing tenant farmer William Langton (1887-1948) who lived at Ivy House in Dedham.

He had already been farming it with his son Dick (1911-84) who must have been doing the real work by then because his father is described in the 1939 Register of the population as disabled. I remember seeing Dick Langton after the war coming and going to what is now the Waterworks field. He probably kept some livestock there because an indistinct photograph, taken from the top of the church tower before the old Great House burned down in 1936, shows various sheds and what may be some sheep.

In 1945, following the death of its owner Arthur George Aldous, Maud Erith had an opportunity to add yet further to her acreage by buying Hillands (now the Maison Talbooth) on the Stratford Road. As well as the house there was the land of Hillands Farm to its north, running right down to Bell Meadow beside the river. This included Bell Cottage (formerly known as Smith's, now Robinson's) immediately across the road, which Ted Eley remembered having farm buildings behind it. Maud bought the entire property in order to acquire this extra land and use it to consolidate Bridges Farm; she then sold the big house on to its next owners, Sir Percival and Lady Robinson. The land to the south, now Moorats Park, remained with the house. It was eventually purchased by the National Trust in 1992 using bequests from the architect Marshall Sisson (who had left Shermans in the High Street to the Trust in his will of 1979) and Mr L. J. Middleton.



*Maud Erith c.1951 when she gave
Bridges Farm to the National Trust*

William Langton, who had been suffering from ill health, did not renew his lease of Bridges Farm after the war but sold up in 1945. Then Maud's nephew, my father Raymond Erith rented the farm from her when he moved to Dedham in 1945. In 1951, having given him (and subsequent members of his family) an 80-year lease, she made a gift of the whole of Bridges Farm to the National Trust. Under the terms of her will when she died four years later some small additions were made, bringing it up to approximately 79 acres. There was a further addition in 1987 when Dalethorpe Park (6.7 acres), already in use as part of the farm, was bought by the Trust using bequests from Miss E. C. Kirkwood and Mr J. F. Lawson. The recent lockdown due to Covid restrictions has unfortunately delayed the National Trust's long-planned repairs to the boathouse; also

outstanding is the reinstatement of Bell Cottage to remedy unauthorised work that has been done to this important listed building.

Raymond Erith was an architect who had farmed at Normans Farm, Little Bromley during the war with George Soames (1901-1974) as his foreman. When he returned to his architectural practice in 1945, he could only be a part-time farmer. The day-to-day running of the farm was done by George, who moved to Dedham with his wife and daughter and lived in Hillands Cottage (now Hillands) on the Stratford Road. Some of his cart horses, including his favourite Smiler, came too and were still working at Bridges Farm into the 1960s long after horses had been superseded by tractors and modern machinery elsewhere. George was an experienced horseman and champion ploughman who won numerous cups and medals in furrow-drawing competitions and I remember bicycling with him to a ploughing match near Elmstead Market to watch the impressive skill of the local contestants. The last of his carthorses at Dedham was massive Cecil, who played a leading part in village life when he was the subject of a "Guess the Weight" competition at the British Legion fete in the 1960s. After the event he was taken to Clover's Mill and put on to their weigh-bridge in order to discover who had won.

The longest-serving men employed at Bridges Farm over the years were George Soames and George Stiff (1911-88) who worked there together, in the

early days with George Bullett too; so when Raymond Erith's eldest daughter Rebeckah got engaged to George Curtis they assured her that "you can't beat a George!" It was he who he took over the tenancy from his father-in-law in 1967, when he and his family moved to Dedham from Houses Farm at Great Sampford and he farmed it, helped for several years by George Stiff, until he retired in 2006.

Bridges Farm is now leased from the National Trust by the Halsalls who farm it from Langham and since they took over the whole of the big arable field, which had previously been planted with rotating crops grown in strips running down from the Stratford Road to the long farm track, has been given over to a single crop each year. Cultivation is done by machinery and one rarely sees anyone working on the land. This makes a marked contrast with my early memories, when the farm was a place of hard physical labour but plenty of teasing and jokes. "What's the time, George," we would ask and the answer would come back: "Just about now!" Men were needed for so many jobs which have now been mechanised. Ditches, for instance, were regularly cleared each winter and hedges trimmed, while the manure in the cattle yard was dug out and spread over the land as fertiliser.

When I first remember them the water meadows were subdivided with a dyke full of water running parallel to the track through the farm. Then as now, winter floods were usual and when they froze over there was skating. Connie

Eley told me that as a child in the 1900s she once fell through the ice and her mother wouldn't let her join in after that. When we skated in the 1950s a field at Flatford was specially flooded to form ice with a much smoother surface, so most people went there instead.

I particularly remember the harvest, which was a lengthy business in those days with everybody joining in and local people, including the postman and the policeman, coming to help after work in the evenings. The corn was cut with a reaper and binder pulled by an elderly tractor. I sometimes had the job of sitting on the seat of the binder keeping an eagle eye on the twine and banging instantly on the metal cover with a stick to alert the driver if it broke; that would mean that instead of a trail of neatly tied sheaves, loose straw would be left scattered over the field! As the area of standing corn "wasted" (dwindled), the rabbits who had been hiding there would dash out and make a break for freedom.

When the sheaves had been harvested they had to be made into stooks (locally known as *traves*) built at intervals in rows down the field. If the weather was wet and they got too soaked, these would have to be taken apart and the sheaves spread out on the stubble to dry before the stooks were constructed all over again. As soon as the sheaves were dry enough they were carted to the stackyard on big wagons drawn by the carthorses and one of the heavier jobs I did when helping was to act as "stacker's mate". This meant using a



Haymaking on the Westgate House meadow (now the allotments) before WW2

pitchfork to receive each sheaf lifted up by the man on the laden wagon which had been brought alongside and pass it on to the man who had the skilled job of actually building the stack. Later on the process of separating the grain from the straw was done by a steam-powered threshing machine hired every year for this job. Nowadays a combine completes the whole harvest process in a single day.

© **Lucy Archer**

With my thanks for help and useful information to the National Trust and William Langton and to Becky, Gus and Sarah Curtis and Maureen Floyd for sharing their memories and photographs.



Raymond Erith at Bridges Farm in 1959



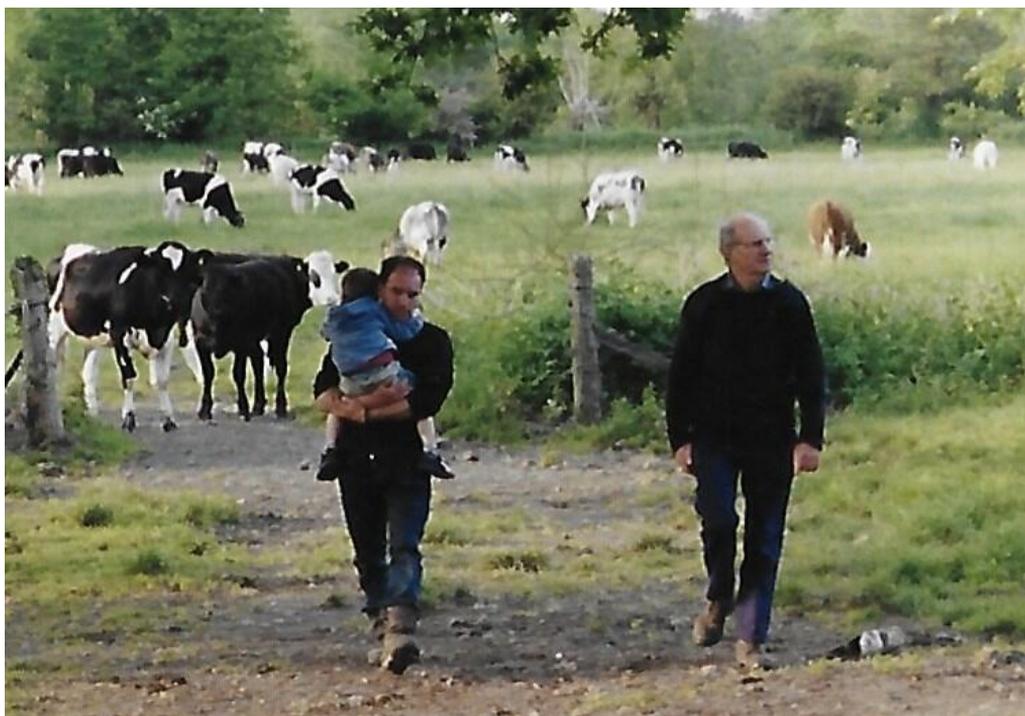
George Soames at Bridges Farm in the 1950s



George Stiff at Bridges Farm with his daughter Maureen c.1955



George Stiff (left) and George Soames planting peas with Prince and Cecil in 1961



George Curtis on the farm with his son Gus and grandson Tom c.2000



Harvesting c.1957. Notice the sheaves thrown out by the reaper/binder and helpers building stooks on the left



George Curtis c. 1992 with his combine, a Claas Matador Standard, 1962



Floods in 2009. On the right is the boathouse built in 1939

TREE SURGERY Q&A...



What is a tree surgeon/ arboriculturist?

In short, it's someone who manages trees - that can mean pruning them, removing them, identifying pests and disease, and many other things! A tree surgeon's day to day life is very different to a forester whose sole purpose is dealing with extracting and felling timber for building materials.

What made you get into tree surgery?

I spent most of my youth here in the Dedham Vale, enjoying the beautiful surroundings and climbing the local trees (much to my parents' dismay!). This passion for the outdoors, combined with the element of adrenaline, meant that tree surgery was a natural profession for me to step into. I enrolled on a course at Otley College and the rest is history!

What is your favourite thing about being a tree surgeon?

It's hard to narrow it down to one thing, but I would probably say the versatility of what we do. I love being constantly presented with new challenges, so working in different environments and situations everyday suits me perfectly. I

am also incredibly lucky to have a great team to work with who are like family to me.

What is your favourite tree you have worked on in the area?

It would have to be a large Copper Beech in Stratford St Mary, (roughly opposite The Black Horse pub).

It initially looked condemned, but after extensive scanning of the tree using a Picus tester, we were presented with positive images that meant the tree could remain for years to come. Although removing trees is a part of my job, I absolutely love saving a veteran tree like this and keeping the local landscape as natural as possible.

How do you ensure you remain environmentally friendly whilst removing trees?

We love to plant, and we source all of our tree stock from a well-known Dedham Nursery so there's minimum carbon impact. We also send all our woodchip to biomass which means the trees that we cut are directly feeding the national grid, which reduces the burning of fossil fuels. Locally, I also like to help the community and often donate woodchip/logs to forest schools, community farms and those looking to build wildlife refuges or bug hotels in their garden.

Would you recommend it as a career choice?

If you are an outdoorsy, hard-working, social and fearless person then this could be the career for you. It's certainly not for the faint-hearted and you work very hard for every penny you earn, but

it has high job satisfaction. We are always looking for local talent and run a successful apprenticeship team, so if any readers like the sound of what we do, please don't hesitate to get in touch!



What are the difficulties you face when working in our local area?

We are lucky to live in an AONB, but

this can present issues. It can get very busy in the summer, and therefore working in the centre of some of the villages can be an issue due to parking and access. Although it's good that there is so much to protect our local trees (tree-preservation-order/conservation area protection etc) it makes for lots and lots of paperwork. Although paperwork isn't the most exciting part of the job, it separates us from the cowboys that wouldn't know where to start when it comes to a protected tree!

To find out more about

Dedham Vale Tree Surgery visit
www.dedhamvaltreesurgery.co.uk
or call Harry on 07756 811 098

Don't forget to connect with them on social media - you can find them on Instagram @dedhamvaltree and Facebook 'dedhamvaltreesurgery'

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY **2022 Village Quiz**

We very much hope that the annual Village Quiz for organisations or groups based in Dedham will be able to be held once again and the date

for your diaries is: **Saturday 29TH January 2022**

in the Assembly Rooms, 7:00 for 7:30 start

with SIX people per team and a maximum of 20 teams

Tickets will cost £12.50 per person and will include a light supper.

There will be a bar and a raffle.

All proceeds will be donated to the **Colchester Korban Project**

www.korban.org.uk

a Charity founded to provide supported housing for 16 to 25 year olds

As this event is run to raise money for a very worthwhile charity we respectfully request that only drink purchased at the bar is consumed on the night

To enter a team please contact **David DrUITT 01206 322000**

or Jill Strangward 01206 322006

daviddruitt@gmail.com / jillstrangward@gmail.com

Traffic In Dedham

dangerous driving.



Many of the issues that our village faces are a result of us being “a political island” completely bounded by other authorities.

We of course are Colchester Borough Council, whereas across the river is Suffolk (Babergh) and to the south and east is Tendring District Council. This is where our traffic problems began as few of us can have failed to notice the massive development of new housing in Manningtree, Lawford and Mistley. Tendring reaps significant financial gain from this development whereas Colchester BC was not even involved in the decision-making process.

The result is that much of the increase in traffic uses the lanes of Dedham to access the A12 via Birchwood Road and Stratford St Mary. Historical data from our Community Speed Watch team shows that that traffic volume has increased considerably along with associated problems of speeding and

This seems to be counterintuitive with the drive elsewhere in the country for a sustainable approach to the environment and particularly in reducing emissions. We do after all live in an A.O.N.B.

So Dedham is left with the issue of how to manage the traffic. The responsibility for traffic management lies with Essex Highways who work under the strict guidance of the “Essex Speed Management Strategy”. In order to initiate any change the Parish Council has been working on a Local Highways Plan. This is a lengthy and complicated procedure because we know that replacing a few signs will not solve the big issues, and we must be careful not to shift the problems from one area to another. With this in mind we have been working on a plan for the whole village. This is an outline of the proposals we are making to Essex Highways.

- **DATA COLLECTION** In order to prove that we have a problem (I know, I know!) data needs to be collected. DPC is willing to support Essex Highways by collecting data in areas that they would not normally cover. To support our case we have been collating outline data collected by our Community Speed Watch that was previously only passed on to the police. Many thanks to CSW for their excellent efforts

- **GATEWAYS.** Dedham is a series of hamlets, and many drivers are not aware that they are passing through the village let alone that it is in an AONB. We do have Gateways but they are not very visible. For example, you would need a machete to even see the ones on Coggeshall Road. We would like the Gateways to be more visible and informative.

- **UNIFIED SPEED LIMIT.** Speed limits vary enormously throughout the village. This coupled with a lack of signage makes it very confusing for drivers-even those of us who have lived here for years. We would like to see a uniform 30mph throughout the village except in the village centre. We are aware however that this is one of the most difficult things to change.

- **VILLAGE CENTRE 20 MPH LIMIT.** We believe that this should run from the bottom of Castle Hill right through to Stratford Road and include Mill Lane. This would make it much easier for residents crossing and parking in the High Street and Mill Lane. Most importantly it would make it safer for our children to walk to school.

- **LANE NARROWING.** Our rural lanes were not constructed to deal with the volume and weight of traffic now using them and this contributes to the poor state of our roads. Strategic narrowing would help to control speed and discourage unsuitable vehicles from using our lanes.

- **VAS SIGNS.** Lewis Barber our Essex County Councillor is working hard to provide us with more “Vehicle Activated Signs” that can be moved around the “hot spot” areas. Research shows that the “Smiley Face” type are most effective.

As stated before we are very much dependent on the support of Essex Highways to achieve any of this. We would also like to discuss the possibility of average speed cameras and low noise rumble strips. There remains the question of what can we as a village do whilst we are waiting for decisions from Essex Highways? The obvious answer is to stay within the speed limits ourselves. As well as making the village a safer place for us and our children it may well have the bonus effect of slowing down the person behind you using Dedham as a “rat run”.

Also please support our Community Speed Watch, a friendly wave or thumbs up is always welcome and if anyone can spare a few hours a month they could run even more checks. They really do have an impact especially in the light of the limited resources Essex Police have to offer. Meanwhile we will keep you up to date with any progress and please keep emailing your incident reports.

Gill.neville@dedhamparishcouncil.c.uk

Dedham Primary School

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time but this year it really has been wonderfully special. After 531 days in bubbles, Dedham Primary School and its 207 children and 33 staff can once again learn, play and celebrate together. There's a real buzz around the school and everyone is looking forward to a brilliant year.

Having had separate class playtimes for such a long time, playtimes are now a real adventure with the whole school site once again available for play. A large number of children are choosing to play with friends and siblings from other classes, including a number of our Class 6 children who are loving the opportunity to organise games for children in other classes. One lunchtime, they initiated a game of 'Duck, Duck, Goose' which couldn't fail to bring a tear to the eyes of staff as they watched our 10 and 11 year olds give a masterclass in entertaining 5 year olds! Class 6 are desperate to begin 'buddy reading' with our new reception intake and they don't have long to wait!

Another highlight has been having assemblies all together in the school hall rather than classes participating through a video call. Music is such an important part of life at Dedham and to once again have the sound of whole school singing drifting down the corridor has been fantastic. Watch out for the nativities and productions this year because we're certainly going to make up for the past eighteen months!

In 2019, the local authority gave us the accolade of having the worst demountable classroom in the county which delighted us because it meant that we could get a new classroom! After almost thirty years of use our old demountable was to be replaced! Just before the summer holiday, our new classroom was craned in and pieced together much to the excitement of the whole school who came outside to watch! Class 6 are now settled into their new classroom which we're really pleased with. We're also very happy with the increased playground space which we now have owing to the new location for the classroom.



It will make a huge difference when the playing field becomes too wet to play on over the winter.

This academic year is already on track to be a brilliant one and we very much look forward to sharing our adventures with you all.

*Mr David Larner
Headteacher*





Our five roses classes are always popular and the sight and scent of hybrid tea, floribunda and shrub roses amassed on the bench is incredible. Arguably the most popular classes in our autumn show, Jo Wilson walked away with the trophy this year.

It's not all about the plants of course. As well as fruits from apples to blackberries

We're back...

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Horticultural Society's first show since Covid and to everyone who came along to support it. Our autumn and spring shows are incredibly important to maintaining the Society and are a key event in the village calendar.

We had hundreds of entries from flowers to fruit and vegetables, cookery from bakes to jams and pickle, and beautiful flower arrangements. The autumn show focuses on dahlia classes (in spring it's narcissus) and there were some colourful – sometimes bench-breaking – exhibits. Dahlia classes can look daunting but we put an explanatory chart on our website and if you've never grown them, they add vibrant and

welcome colour to the border from late August right up to the first frosts. We missed some of our regular exhibitors and enthusiastic dahlia growers, but were pleased that Carolyn Clayton won trophies for flowers AND fruit this year.

and a bunch more besides, people brought a wealth of vegetables to the show benches this year. We had the longest bean and the heaviest pumpkin, tomatoes and potatoes, squashes of some very unusual shapes and more. And with entries in nearly every class, Hugh Richards took away the hotly contested cup.

Miniature and full size flower arrangements are also a mainstay of our shows and given the time of year, brightened up the show. Committee Secretary Elizabeth Ellis won the trophy for the section, while Avril Biggins was awarded best floral art exhibit.

We also like to encourage people's baking and photography skills. I've discovered the complexity of keeping a sourdough starter alive AND making an edible loaf with it is beyond me, and I enjoyed (but lost) a private family bake-off in the cupcakes class and had a go at making onion marmalade for the first time.

This is the essence of our shows – have a go, you may surprise yourself!

Well done to Maureen Floyd who won the cookery section and Adrian Beckingsale who took home the photography trophy.

If you've ever wondered what a horticultural show is all about, have thought about exhibiting or just want to see what other people grow and find out how they do it, our shows are a great way to start. Or come along to one of our evening speaker events on the first Wednesday of the month. You can find all the details on our website.

...and they're here.

The dreaded (and dreadful) box tree caterpillar (*Cydalima perspectalis*) has arrived in Dedham. Still relatively new to Britain, not found in private gardens until 2011, it has already made it into the RHS' top three pests of the year. Active from April to October, the caterpillars can completely defoliate box (*Buxus*) plants before attacking the wood and causing the plant to die; so the sooner we spot it and treat it the better. Look for white webbing spun among leaves and twigs, which hide pupae and greenish-yellow caterpillars merrily munching on your plants. You might also spot the mushroom brown moths lurking deep in the bottom of the bushes.

You may have seen coverage of measures that Ham House is taking to deal with the problem on its iconic box hedging (they have regular updates on their website – this month, jackdaws!) and they – like topiary specialist



@James_Todman on instagram – work with the European Boxwood and Topiary Society to raise awareness and recommend solutions to combat the pest.

There are traps and treatments – available to the amateur gardener and professional – for different stages of the pest's lifecycle with most considering *Bacillus thuringiensis* to be the best option for killing the caterpillars.

If you grow box, please check it and take action as soon as you can.

Elliott Frisby
Dedham Horticultural Society



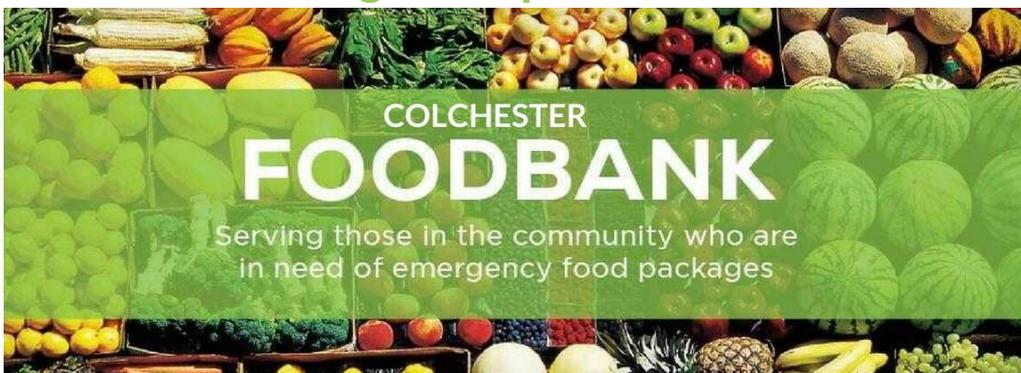
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is pleased to announce Peter Dyson has been appointed their Musical Director. Peter is a Graduate of the Advanced Conducting Course at the Royal Academy of Music and elected an Associate in the year 2000. Peter has a wide experience with different orchestras and choirs at home and abroad, including the BBC Singers, and is the founder and Musical Director of the Belmont Ensemble of London. Under Peter's baton Clacton Choral Society begin the new season of rehearsals and concerts on Monday 6th September, at St James' Church Hall, Clacton, commencing at 7.15pm until 9.30pm, with a coffee break.

Enquiries to June Fieldsend, secretary, at june.fieldsend@googlemail.com

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On 31st July, the Trustees of Dunton's Almshouses in Crown Street held a tea party with musical entertainment in their garden for residents and guests to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Almshouse Association to which Dunton's is affiliated. A lovely occasion made all the more enjoyable by fine warm weather!



(Pictured are 5 of the residents with some of the guests).



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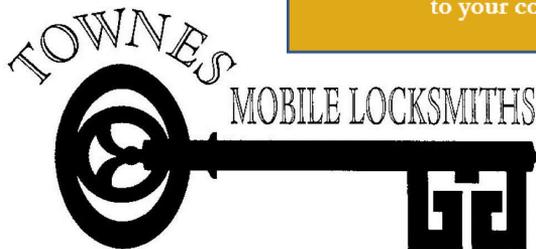
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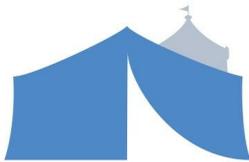
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