

# DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

## *March 2022*



**DEDHAM MILL**  
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# DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

## DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

[dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk](http://dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk)

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## DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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**The deadline for magazine  
Entries, 10th of the month**

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**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 Druitt ☎ 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 ☎ 323770

## SERVICES & Events March 2022

### Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March

7.00pm Ash Wednesday Service Dedham\*

### Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Rise N' Shine Dedham\*

11.00am Morning Prayer Ardleigh

5.00pm Evensong Dedham\*

### Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> March

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Ardleigh\*

11.00am Holy Communion CW Dedham\*

### Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am Matins Dedham\*

11.00am Eucharist Ardleigh

### Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, Mothering Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Ardleigh\*

9.30am Morning Praise Dedham\*

5.00pm ReVive@5 Dedham\*

Our services are on **YouTube** Search Dedham and Ardleigh  
Parishes \* = services which are live-streamed

**Morning Prayer** - Every Tuesday, 10.30am at Dedham Church

**Online Prayer** - Monday Morning at 7am and Friday Evening at 6pm

**Ardleigh Friendship Group** – every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month

10am to 12 noon in Ardleigh Church - outside when weather allows

**ACTS Living Stones Prayer Group** – every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the  
month, 6.25pm at Ardleigh Church.

**Men's Breakfast** - Saturday, 5th March, 9am at Dedham Vicarage.

For bacon butties, tea, coffee and chat.

**Monday Lunch Club** – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms.

Phone 323101 to reserve a place indicating it is for the Lunch Club.

**Walk and Talk** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 10am - Meet at Dedham Arts  
Centre at 10am for a walk, or 11am for a chat.



Follow us on facebook  
Dedham and Ardleigh parishes



## Message from your Church Wardens

The Church of England calendar follows a pattern each year reflecting the seasons of the church. This month we commence the period called Lent which reflects the 40 days spent by Jesus Christ in solitude and prayer prior to his death by crucifixion. Lent is a time when Christians try to set aside extra time for prayer and meditation. Some people find it helpful to deprive themselves of something as a reminder of Christ's fasting during his time alone. Lent is also a time when we are asked to give extra time to supporting others in whatever way we can which may mean reducing the time spent on hobbies or entertainment.

This year Ash Wednesday, which signifies the beginning of Lent is on March 2nd and there will be a contemplative service at 7 pm on this day. In church, there are books available to borrow as well as some to

buy. Maybe this is your time to find out a little more about the Christian faith?

In last month's magazine there was an article explaining the plans for the future of our parish in terms of paid ministry. In Dedham we are blessed with a number of people who give their time to ministry but who are not employed or paid for by the Diocese of Chelmsford.

Without this voluntary help, we would be struggling very hard to maintain our ministry and keep our church open. We are blessed to have Revd Merv living in Dedham who, in retirement, gives a great deal in ministry and support to our benefice (Dedham and Ardleigh villages)

In addition we have lay preachers in training in our Benefice who lead and preach at some of our church services. Revd Carol Mitson, also retired, has been helping with many of our services since Revd Antony moved. Now Carol



has decided that for health reasons, she will continue to give pastoral support where she can but she will no longer take services. Carol has been a blessing to many of our community and we give thanks for all her ministry to us as she takes a step back. Although the detail of the future paid ministry is still being discussed, it is clear that much of the day to day running of the church and support to our local community will need to be undertaken by lay personnel. We would love to hear from anyone who could spare a little time to help us with various parish tasks. Please contact us if you feel you could offer us some time.

In February several people joined a course entitled Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG). Growth can be perceived in different ways. People can be new to church and growing the number who attend or be longstanding Christians deepening their faith and learning more about Jesus.

Wherever we are, most of us have questions and church groups can be a good place to ask them. We will be talking soon about providing other places where people can meet and talk about these Big or Small questions.

***Vee Druitt and Peter Wilson***

## **TWAM**

Reusing and Recycling are words that are often heard today to inspire and challenge us about what we do with things we no longer want or need and there are organisations and charities that can make use of these things.

One of these charities is TWAM - Tools with a Mission, a Christian Charity based in Ipswich, that has a mission to empower people living in extreme poverty to create their own livelihoods. It does this by sending trade kits full of refurbished donated tools that are used in skills training centres, offering the trainees a way to put poverty in the past for good and begin their own sustainable careers. Tools with a Mission began as a small group of people working out of a garage in 1984 and has since developed into a nationwide medium-sized organisation with a substantial impact overseas and at home.

Every year, around 225 tonnes of tools which are donated by members of the public are refurbished and sent out. The tools are collected by a team of over 200 volunteers and brought back to our centres where they are refurbished and packed into trade kits. These kits are designed to contain everything that a trainee needs to learn and begin working in specific trades such as tailoring (dressmaking), carpentry, mechanics, plumbing, building and knitting, amongst others. These kits are then packed into containers and are sent to African skills training centres to

## TWAM

training centres to be used by trainees. We usually send approximately 18-20 20' containers full of around 15,000 tool kits each every year. Many organisations also gift their trainees a tool kit once they graduate, allowing them to begin working immediately.



*Nakakabala Women's group in Uganda. is a typical ultra poor community relying on growing vegetables to survive, none of the parents could afford school fees, so no child went to school. Now because of the tailoring/dressmaking group every child goes to school.*

We send tools to over 500 community organisations, each serving between 20 and 120 vulnerable members of their communities. We currently send to four countries in Africa: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and DR Congo. These countries all struggle with extreme poverty, human trafficking, prostitution, alcoholism, domestic abuse, HIV/AIDS, and lack of access to education, health care, food supply, water, sanitation, and housing. These problems also lead to the countries having a high number of orphans. These orphans have no opportunities and are often forced to go into sex work, which then leads them into a life of violence and sexual illnesses. The tools that we provide offer them the chance to learn valuable skills and build their own careers, giving

them a sustainable way to generate their own income and escape their dark pasts, leaving poverty in the past for good.



*Bidocha Furniture in Zambia.. Bidocha helps young people to learn carpentry, the person in the middle wants to use his skills to earn money to pay for teacher training and the carpentry kit he will receive from TWAM will help him to fulfil his dream beyond the skills training.*

There is a strong environmental focus, as our work helps to keep hundreds of tonnes of tools out of UK landfills every year. We refurbish and reuse all the tools that we are able to, which usually amounts to 225 tonnes, but some tools are too broken or unsuitable for us to send to Africa, so we send them to recycling centres and local tool dealers, some things are sold on eBay to raise money for TWAM. Our work recycling and refurbishing tools saves around 1,134,000kg of CO2 emissions every single year.

If you would like to read more stories of the difference a tool kit makes you will find some at [twam.uk](http://twam.uk) where there are also details of how you can donate any tools that you no longer want.

**Sue McKinney**

## **Stamp and Coins collection for TWAM**

The coins and bank notes  
that have been donated

**raised £204.31**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH**



## **The Stour Valley Antiquarian Society SVAS**

Started just after the first World War, the Society was put together by a very diverse group of people including professionals, clergy, farmers, landowners and others. Mostly retired, their aim was to foster new friendships and provide the opportunity for members to appreciate the huge number of fascinating places in the Stour Valley and its surroundings. We've just celebrated our Centenary and are looking for new members to join this friendly group and participate in our programme of excursions.

I have sent one large envelope of stamps but I don't know how much these have raised but I am hoping that TWAM will learn what has been raised from all the stamps that have been sent in. Thank you for what you have donated, please continue to save your used postage stamps and leave them in the box in the church along with any foreign currency you have.

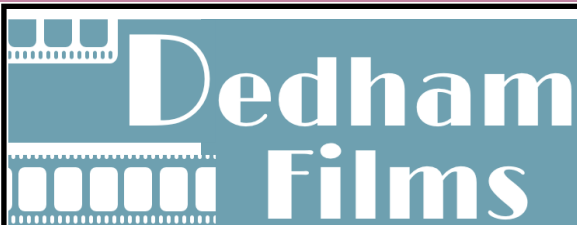
Typically, we meet at a central point near Ipswich, board a comfortable coach and set off to the arranged venue. Visits to a wide variety of places of interest, including 'stately' and private homes, National Trust and Historic England Properties, National Gardens, river cruises and places of historic importance within a two-hour drive, are arranged between May and September. A Buffet Lunch takes place in October and an AGM in April/May, accompanied by a talk, starts the following year's programme of events.

This year we shall start by having a party and private view of the refurbished Munnings museum in March and an expedition to the Kelvedon Secret Nuclear Bunker in May. If you would like to join us please contact our Hon Secretary Ann Davenport at

**[ann.davenport@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.davenport@btinternet.com)**

for more information

Membership is open to anyone enthusiastic about our part of the UK. Subscription is £12 a year, £23 for a couple.



We are pleased to announce that monthly screenings will recommence on **Wednesday 16 March at 7.30 pm** with **THE CALL OF THE WILD PG (2020)**

**Directed by Chris Sanders, Starring Harrison Ford and 'Buck' The Dog**

Adapted from the Jack London novel, *Call of the Wild* is the story of Buck, a big, kind-hearted dog. Stolen from his comfortable home in California, he is taken north and sold in Skagway, Alaska, then further north to the Yukon where sled dogs were needed for the gold rush. He had been spoiled, suffered, but survived, becoming a mail delivery sled dog, then finding his last owner and finally responding to the 'Call of The Wild'.

*We are aware of the ongoing issues with Covid and mindful of the need for our audience and volunteers to feel comfortable. With this in mind ticket numbers will be limited to 60 and will only be available for purchase from Ticketsource and no ticket sales on the door*

**Refreshments will be available once again but only on cash only service**

## Colchester Film Makers

Formally Colchester Film Makers Club and before that Colchester Cine & Video Club, was formed back in 1959 as Colchester Cine Club. In those days amateur cinematographers used celluloid film stock which clattered through a mechanical camera before being processed and then edited by being cut up with scissors and then reassembled using film cement.

Since those days club members have embraced the ever-developing technology to pursue their film making interest. In the late 1980s it was tape-based video cameras using full size VHS and Betamax tapes that were available to members but during the early 1990s the tape size and the camera size diminished and in 1999 Digital8 cameras became available to members.

With the availability of better video

cameras (including mobile phones and tablets), faster home computers with affordable storage together with professional standard video editing software, the ability to produce more "home" movies has progressed by leaps and bounds. Members now use a wide range of cameras to capture videos and software such as Adobe Premiere, Da Vinci Resolve, Final Cut Pro, and even iMovie running on an iPhone or iPad to achieve quality edits.

We meet every Tuesday Evening at the Hythe Community Centre from mid-September through to the end of May with a Christmas break. During the summer period members are encouraged to make films and usually a filming project will be organised where many members will take on specific crew or acting roles. Members often write their own storylines and scripts,

sometimes act in or direct a film, as well as obviously acting as a camera operator or sound recordist, some members can write and play music for their soundtrack, and most often actually produce the final cut by editing the raw footage. One of the benefits of being a member of CFM is that when ever you need it help and advice is available!



Another reason to be a member is that we have film competitions or filming challenges. You are encouraged to create and submit a film as an individual or by working with other members. We then hold a members' viewing evening and one of the films is selected as the most enjoyable or best made film. Some of these films are entered in other external film competitions by the CFM or the individual member.

Popular evening meetings are the technical talks where either an external speaker or a member talk about and often demonstrate an aspect which is important when filmmaking. For example, recently two members talked about how to achieve good focus when you are filming and also demonstrated how pull focus can be achieved using a digital SLR camera. Before that we had an evening during which we discussed and were shown how to achieve the best recorded audio in difficult

situations. Other evenings are devoted to practical filmmaking activities where we plan the project one evening and then during a future evening, we capture and edit the source material to make the short film.

As a non-profit organisation our members include both amateurs and semi-professionals working on both solo and group projects. We welcome working with other community organisations in the filming of their events such as the Oyster Feast, the Maldon Barge race, Colchester Operatic Society, Colchester Voice Academy and Colchester Archaeological Society. A donation to our funds is always welcome! Over the years our members have recorded some of the major changes that took place in Colchester and we can provide access to our extensive archive of our films through a film show evening.



We welcome new members - whether you have any previous experience of filmmaking. Please visit our website at <https://www.colchesterfilmmakers.com/>, where you can watch some of our films and if you are interested in joining please complete the contact form. You will be very welcome to join us at three meetings on a 'free trial' basis.

**Peter Noakes**  
**Honorary Treasurer**



## Dedham Primary School

The schools which existed in the village before 1800 were all privately endowed but during the nineteenth century Dedham had both a National (Anglican) and a British (Non-Conformist) School, examples of the many free schools which were being set up by charitable organisations at that time to provide education for the children of the poor. The National School in School Lane had an adjacent teacher's house (now the Old School House) dating from the seventeenth century. At the time of the 1911 Census it was known as School Cottage and was home to the headmistress Ellen Walden, her widowed mother and two nineteen-year-old girls who were school teachers boarding with her. It continued to be the headteacher's house until after the School relocated to Parson's Field in 1973, when it was sold off as a private house.

In c.1842 the Dedham Lecturer, Dr Taylor, established a separate small school for boys and girls aged five to thirteen in a converted malting at the "Anchor Corner". It taught up to fifty or sixty pupils living on the Heath or on the Long Road but came to an end after a virulent fever wiped out many of the inhabitants of that part of the parish in 1856. The following year Dr Taylor, launched a successful appeal for funds to build a new schoolroom designed with diaper-patterned brickwork, Gothic windows and gabled porches on a freehold site at the Heath crossroads

which he provided himself. The building which opened in 1858 was also licensed to hold church services and Sunday School was still being held there when I was a child. The number of pupils in that part of the parish gradually dwindled until the school closed down in 1951. The building is now a private house called Old Church House.

A surviving commemoration stone, now displayed on the front of the almshouses in School Lane, tells us that in 1825 a new school on that site was "erected upon land granted by the Crown at the sole expense of Edward Betts Esq of this Parish". As time went on the school outgrew this building. In 1813 it taught twenty boys and seventy girls but by 1841 numbers had risen to 69 boys and 60 girls. In 1859 the older boys were moved out to the English School at Shermans and eventually to a new Boys' Elementary School built in Crown Street in 1882 (now The Old School House). The younger children remained in School Lane but as numbers increased more space was needed there. A simple rectangular red-brick School with a low-pitched slate roof was built in 1875, either incorporating or replacing the 1825 building, and projecting classrooms were added at the front in 1891 and 1904-5.

This School, known by now as The Dedham Mixed School, was subsequently absorbed into the State system and reorganised as an infant and junior school; this went on to become Dedham's Church of England (Controlled)



Dedham Junior School c.1915, photographed in the south-west corner of the playground. South Cottage can be seen in the background.



*Peggy Bullet's year, Class I, in 1931*  
*Left to right, Back row: Dennis Tucker, Fred Barber, Claude Bird, Peter Barber, Jim Eley, Derek Thorpe, Ron Tucker, Frank ?*  
*Middle row: Eileen Scowen, Ivy Osborne, Peggy Payne, Mary Rudge, Lily Smith, Doreen Starling, Stella Clary, Pam ?, Thelma Offord*  
*Front row: Ken Starling, John Clary.*

Primary School in 1954. Eleven-year-old Peggy Payne was among the first of its pupils to move on to the newly-opened senior school in Manningtree in 1937. The headmistress at that time was Miss Mabel Nye. After she retired in 1949 she lived at Colwyn next to the Assembly Rooms with her friend Miss Smith, another former teacher at the school and I remember that they were very proud of their garden which was most beautifully kept.

The next headmistress was Miss Wenda Hooker, appointed in 1949. The original school building had three rooms. In the late 1950s to early '60s two classes were taught in the largest, middle room, which served multiple purposes as well, even accommodating the desk where the School Secretary worked. The pupils' desks had to be cleared away for morning assembly and again at lunchtime when the room was used as a dining room for the school lunches, which were delivered on a van from Manningtree by Mr Harold Read and dished up in an adjacent kitchen by the dinner ladies, Mrs Marsham and Mrs Daisy Duff. The room on the right was for the youngest pupils taught by Miss Steggall. She drove over from East Bergholt in a little Morris with her dog Bessie, who was a great favourite with the children. The room on the left was for the top class taught by Miss Smethurst, whose pupils were preparing to move on to secondary school. An extra class for children in their penultimate year, taught by Miss Smith, was held in a side room of the Hewitt Hall (as the

Assembly Rooms were called then); those pupils had to shuttle backwards and forwards between the two buildings many times in the course of the school day. The playground attendant was Mrs Winnie Coates.

In the playground there was a drinking fountain for the pupils mounted on the side wall of the headteacher's house. The row of outside toilets for the boys was on that side of the school building, those for the girls were inside. There were two air raid shelters, one in the north-west corner of the playground and the other behind the teacher's house. By then they were used for storage and the pupils were forbidden to go into them. In poor weather, the children sometimes went out by a door at the back of the School to play in the Vicarage garden; the main schoolroom had a window with a shutter on that side. Practice for maypole dancing took place in the playground in front of the school to music supplied by a wind-up gramophone. A path behind the garden of the headteacher's house led through an orchard of apple trees to the recreation ground which was used at play time and for games, including rounders.

By the 1960s there was serious overcrowding as well as a lack of extra facilities which could not be provided on such a limited site; so it was decided that the Primary School should be moved to a new £50,000 purpose-built school in Parson's Field. Its open-plan classrooms were furnished with low-level units round the walls and with the

help some of the older boys their grey plastic drawers were taken out and carried over to School Lane, so that they could be used as trays for the children to ferry their personal belongings across the playing fields from one school to the other. On Friday 23rd February 1973, carrying these and assorted cardboard boxes, they set off across the Vicarage garden and along the churchyard to walk through the playing fields and up Crown Street to Parson's Field. Miss Hooker retired the following year and Michael Atkins, who was one of eighty applicants for the post, was appointed Headmaster in 1974. In the half-century since then the school has gone from strength to strength.

After the children left the abandoned school stood empty and deteriorating

for eleven years while rampant purple-flowering buddleia invaded the playground. The building was demolished in 1984 when it was decided to sell Samuel Barker's almshouses in East Lane, dating from 1862 and use the proceeds to build new ones here near the centre of the village.

© **Lucy Archer**

*With my thanks to Roger Barrell, Philippa Black, Maureen Floyd and Anthony Marven for kindly sharing their detailed and vivid memories of the old school and the names of the staff and also to Anthony for his kind permission to reproduce his photograph of maypole dancing. I am greatly indebted to the late Peggy Bullet (née Payne) for her recollections of her schooldays during conversations in 2007 and especially for the photograph of her classmates in 1930, which she labelled with all their names. I am grateful too to Michael Atkins for his help.*



*Dedham Primary School in School Lane in the 1950s, showing, on the left, the two extra classrooms added to the front of the original building in 1891 and 1904 -5.*





*A maypole dancing performance in the school playground c.1960 with music from a wind-up gramophone.*





*Pupils leaving the old Primary School on Friday 23 February 1973, carrying their belongings to the new school in Parson's Field.*



*Ten-year-old Kerry Scolding presenting Headmistress Miss Wenda Hooker with a gift from staff and pupils at her retirement party on 18 July 1974*



*The old Primary School in the 1970s after the children left, showing the front classroom and the disused air-raid shelter. The wisteria-covered house in the background (now the Old Post House) was the former home of builder Harry Windell (1882-1965), whose wife Rose (1880-1950) was a teacher at the school.*



*The last remains of the old school in 1984. On the left is the door which led out into the Vicarage garden.*



# DEDHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

*Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society*

**Do you enjoy gardening or are you a new gardener?**

If the answer is “yes” to either of these questions then why not join Dedham Horticultural Society (DHS).

This friendly club offers the perfect way to find out more about gardening and related topics; members are always happy to help with advice as well as sharing their own problems!!

For a modest annual fee of £8 members are entitled to:

- free entry to seven SPEAKERS' EVENINGS in the Assembly Rooms - 7.30 pm: first Wednesday of the month [Oct – June];
- Spring and Autumn FLOWER SHOWS;
- an annual GRAND PLANT SALE at Dedham Church;
- a summertime COFFEE MORNING and plant sale at the home of one of our members;
- 1-2 reasonably priced COACH OUTINGS to popular gardens in the summer months.

DHS is looking for new members so why not check out the website to find out more, including dates for all the forthcoming events:

[www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com](http://www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com)

Alternatively, give Chairman **Colin Biggins**  
a ring on 01206 322565 or  
email him on [colinbiggins869@btinternet.com](mailto:colinbiggins869@btinternet.com)  
for more details.

## Spring is sprung

The official start of spring, March sees the garden getting into its stride as the clocks go forward and days get gradually longer. It's a great time to be outside but remember it's still early and there's plenty of opportunity for frost and other bad weather to undo your work.

Around the garden, I see pink *Camellia japonica*, flowering currants (*Ribes sanguineum*) and even pink pussy willow (no I'm not sure why either), spring-flowering heathers (I grow pink and white *Erica carnea*), trailing *Aubrieta* in deepest pink and purple, *Clematis montana*, a range of hellebores, primroses, and a rainbow of bulbs. There's blossoming *Amelanchier lamarckii* on the borders, and more shrouding tree after tree .

When I'm not standing around marvelling, chances are I'll still be clearing the beds, scattering some general-purpose fertiliser and mulching with 2-3 inches of homemade compost (mm-mmm, goood). There's rarely enough compost to do every border though, so I rotate through them but half the job is trying to remember which ones get to benefit each year.

The compost will be taken down by the worms and other crawly things to return nutrients, lock in moisture, improve soil structure and (in theory) suppress weeds. Plus it makes the beds look amazing.

Some of my spring bulbs have gone over now and as I'm mulching I snap off the seed heads so the plants focus all their

energy into growing their bulbs for next year. If bulbs are your thing, spring is the time to plant some summer-flowering ones. If you follow these columns (back issues available online), you'll know I do like a lily and you can plant all kinds and colours – several of them strongly scented. But if you do, be prepared to pick off lily beetles so they don't destroy your plants.

If you lifted dahlia tubers for winter protection, pot them into fresh compost now and put them in a light, frost-free place (a cold greenhouse is fine, maybe a cold frame) to bring them into growth. They'll reward you with bigger plants and earlier flowers.

Plant the tubers shallowly so their tops are just showing and keep them well watered. As they start to shoot, I'm going to take cuttings for the first time and try to raise new plants for free. Let the shoots reach about 8cm in length, then use a sharp knife to cut just where the shoot emerges from the tuber, below the lowest pair of leaves. Pinch out the tip and take off the leaves from the lower half of the stem, before dipping in rooting powder. Each cutting goes into its own small pot, in a warm bright spot away from direct sunlight.

Cuttings not your thing? Try seeds! You can direct sow hardy annuals – like poppies – now into weed-free soil: there is a wide range of poppy colours from delicate pastels to deep jewel tones, but all like to grow where they are sown and resent being moved.

You can also try half hardy annuals, like *Cosmos bipinnatus* in colours from white to deep pink and red. I like the tall white 'Purity', but have never had much luck growing them early; someone who's a bit of a *Cosmos* expert plants his late (entirely by design, of course) and gets strong plants quickly and in plenty of time for the summer and autumn border.



Whatever you're planning on doing, I hope the weather stays fine for you this month and you enjoy the chance to be in the garden.

*Elliott Frisby*  
*Dedham Horticultural Society*





## Spring bulbs

As I look around the garden this month, the first flowers I see rising from the ground at the start of a new season are the spring bulbs I planted at the end of the last. Bulbs represent an easy way to fill beds and borders (or containers) with a range of colour and form, and they seem to start earlier every year.

As easy as they are, there are several things to remember when planting with bulbs. First, size matters, so choose the highest quality you can afford. Top size bulbs will give you bigger and stronger plants. Secondly, a general rule of thumb is to plant them at three times their depth, though the deeper you plant tulips,



the stronger their stems tend to be. Sadly it's too late now to plant spring bulbs, but hopefully you can look forward to enjoying some of these as they emerge over coming weeks.

One of the first coming up in my garden is the dwarf iris (*Iris reticulata*) which ranges from icy – almost white – blue through royal to midnight blue and purple. I prefer the darker, jewel-like

tones of 'JS Dijt', 'Blue Note' and 'Pauline'. Last year, I planted some Dutch irises (*Iris × hollandica*) for the first time, which flower later in spring and into early summer (just in time for the bearded iris to take up the baton in the border). Making great cut flowers, Dutch iris are up to 50cm tall in white, dark blue and a wonderfully sunny deep yellow.

At the same time, small clumps of snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) are coming up among the dwarf iris. Although you can find a wide range of different varieties that can be double-flowered, taller than usual, and have yellow touches instead of green, I like the simplicity of the common form that grow to just 6 inches or so with dainty white and green blooms. Although they will thrive in all kinds of locations, snowdrop bulbs can dry out more easily than others if they are lifted and stored to be planted in autumn. Instead, it's better to plant them 'in the green': in other words at this time of year when they are freshly lifted and still in leaf. Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) are the same.

Then there's *Crocus*, which I still think are pretty much a waste of time, though they do tend to come up early following the snowdrops and early iris. Coming in white and shades of purple, yellow or orange, they can be naturalised under trees, through grass and in the border. My problem with crocus is their frailty, a bout of rain or wind and they become soggy, droopy things. I also find the colours a bit weak, so would prefer to plant something bolder and bigger. They do have one major value (at least to me);

encouraging masses of honey bees (and other pollinators) just as they emerge from their winter rest. If you fancy something a little different, try *Crocus sativus*, which flowers in autumn. Harvest the bright orange stamens and dry them to make saffron you can use to cook with.

I love the colour range, different shapes and flowering times of tulips and if you choose different varieties, you can get weeks of blooms in the garden. While most spring bulbs should be in the ground by November, tulips can be planted later – as late as December – so if I'm too busy with other gardening jobs, I can still chuck some in a pot and be sure of flowers in spring.

My favourites are the blousy, peony-like, doubles and the showy parrots, though both are top heavy and can be damaged by heavy rain and strong wind. Darwin hybrids have the classic tulip shape and are more reliably perennial when most other tulips deteriorate year on year. Triumphs offer the widest range of colours, but I find fringed tulips too fussy and just can't get on with the shape of the lily-flowered type. There are others too and a bit of research online will reveal a range of ideas to suit your planting scheme, whether modern, minimalist or cottage-garden.

Along with tulips come good old daffs (properly called narcissi) come in a wide range of colours.

Coming back year after year, trumpet and large-cupped varieties provide a

shape that's most familiar, but there are also perfectly formed miniatures, doubles (doubled flowers, not two or more flowers on a stem, which is different), and poeticus or 'pheasant-eyed' with clear white petals and an orange-rimmed yellow cup. There are also the odd looking *Bulbocodium*, which are so weird they can only be worth growing for novelty value.

I could go on: there are plenty of other bulbs to choose from like *Hyacinthus orientalis* (powerfully scented and often 'forced' for Christmas displays); deep blue *Muscari* or pale blue *Camassia*; architectural alliums (you can keep the flowerheads for winter but mine have usually broken off by then), and the bells of fritillaries (Snakes' head, Crown imperial, Persian and more).

Whatever your favourites, remember that a bulb's foliage feeds it for next year's display, so let it die back naturally rather than cutting it off. If you need the space, you can dig them up and plant them somewhere out of sight.

*Elliott Frisby*

*Dedham Horticultural Society*

[www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com](http://www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com)

**Horticultural Society's  
Spring Show  
9th April**

*check the website for the schedule*

## Dedham Community Speed Watch celebrates 15 years



Back in 2006, in response to increasing concern about the dangers speeding vehicles posed to village residents and visitors on our country roads, former parish councillor Brian Hindley got together with Ray Medler and other

volunteers from the local community to form a Community Speed Watch Group in Dedham.

The Speed Watch initiative is fully supported by Safer Essex, a partnership between Essex Highways, Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Service. A number of safe sites around the village were approved by the police and, after training, the group went live in early 2007. To publicise the launch, the Evening Gazette published an article with the headline "Making a stand against the evils of speed!"

The main purpose and aim of the group is to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and help protect village residents and other road users, including cyclists, horse riders and walkers. Statistics show that country roads are by far the most dangerous roads in Britain, as most are narrow, have blind bends and don't have pavements. We have had a few serious accidents in Dedham and across Essex there were 5 road deaths and 55

serious injuries in December 2021, with careless driving and speeding as the main causes.

The volunteers are easy to spot around the village in their Hi-Viz jackets and they place warning signs either side of the site for their own protection to warn drivers of their presence. Using a SaferEssex hand-held radar device, which has a range of over half a mile, the group record the speed and details of speeding vehicles and pass the details to Essex Police for further action.

Essex Police follow up with warning letters to the registered keeper of every reported vehicle and take further action if drivers choose to ignore the warnings to drive more safely and continue to speed.

Whilst a few drivers object to the speed checks, most will give us a wave or thumbs up and we get a lot of support from local residents, who often offer us a cup of tea or stop for a chat on their walk to thank us for our efforts and tell us about their own "near miss".

As traffic through the village has increased in recent years, our checks have shown that Dedham now has a major issue with increased levels of speeding. We are working very closely with Dedham Parish Council and have provided data on the numbers of speeding vehicles and the worst locations in the village to help formulate the proposed Dedham Traffic Management Plan.

When Brian stepped down, Ray Medler took over as the co-ordinator of the group, to be followed by John Tavner and now Steve Redmond.

Over the last 15 years, numerous village residents have generously volunteered their time to help protect our community and visitors and deter the speeders. We are always looking for new volunteers to join our friendly group, so if you can spare a couple of hours a month, enjoy fresh air and want to help keep our community safe, please get in touch for a chat to find out more.

**Steve Redmond,**  
07879 690485

## DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Dedham Parish Council has received several complaints over the last few months from residents regarding badly behaved dogs and their irresponsible owners. It is an unpleasant situation in which to find yourself, if not dangerous, and so we wanted to advise on what to do in order to stop these dogs and their owners from causing upset and injury to other members of the public and their dogs. You or your dog do not need to have been actually physically attacked by the other dog; just feeling physically threatened is sufficient to make a complaint to the police. Please report any incidents to the police on 101 with as much information as possible (location, type/colour of dog, description of owner, time of day), and ideally with photos/video support for identification and to provide grounds for action by the police. The police can only act if they have received complaints.

**Save the date...**  
Dedham Parish Council  
invite you to celebrate  
**The Queen's  
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On the Duchy Field  
On the afternoon of  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June  
**..more details to follow**

## 2022 Village Quiz

Following the postponement of the Quiz in January because of Covid-19, a new date has been arranged for **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June** in the Assembly Rooms

*All teams who had booked a table for the original date have been advised of the new date and we do have room for a few more tables if you could not make the original date or would like to bring a new team.*

**For more details please contact David Druitt 01206 322000 or Jill Strangward 01206 322006**  
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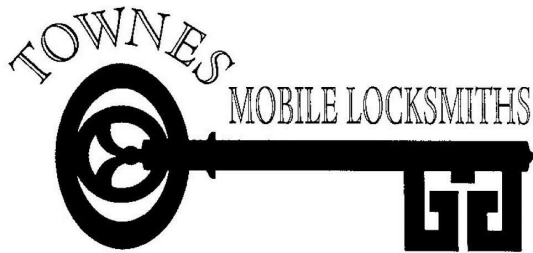
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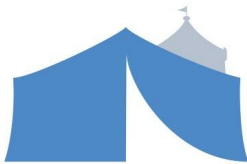
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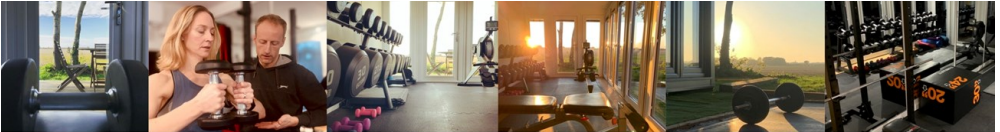


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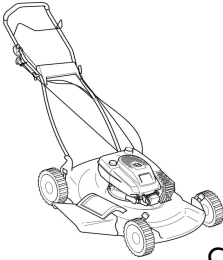


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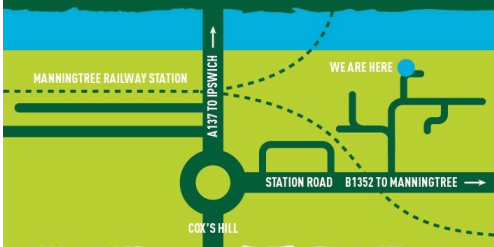


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