

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



May 2022



DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

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 MAY 2022

Sunday, 1st May

9.30am	Rise N' Shine	Dedham*
11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ardleigh
5.00pm	Evensong	Dedham*

Sunday, 8th May

11.00am	Benefice Holy Communion with Bishop Guli	Dedham*
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Sunday, 15th May

9.30am	Matins, BCP	Dedham*
11.00am	Holy Communion, CW	Ardleigh

Sunday, 22nd May


8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Ardleigh*
9.30am	Morning Praise	Dedham*
5.00pm	ReVive@5	Dedham*

Thursday, 26th May

7.00am	Ascension Day Holy Communion	Ardleigh*
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Sunday, 29th May

11.00am	Benefice Holy Communion	Ardleigh*
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Our services are on  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 & Friday Evening at 6pm

Ardleigh Friendship Group – every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month
10am to 12 noon in Ardleigh Church - outside when weather allows

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



Follow us on facebook
Dedham and Ardleigh parishes



Pray for Ukraine

The war in Ukraine and the enormous suffering of its people was something unimaginable and yet the unimaginable has happened. St Mary's response has been first and foremost to raise our voices in prayer for Ukraine, its people and the current situation.

We are encouraging giving to the Disasters Emergency Committee and we supported the collection and sorting of goods which were taken to refugees on the Polish border. As we write this our Diocese of Chelmsford which is working alongside Citizens UK, has

called a meeting to explain how its church communities can coordinate its support to those who have offered accommodation to refugees and in what way we can welcome refugees who arrive in our parishes and help them to settle into new surroundings. Please join us in prayer.

Vee Drutt & Peter Wilson

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
For wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
That you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen

*We would like to thank all those who supported the sale in the church. We raised a massive £1050 which has been sent to Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). They support 15 charities. The money will be used to buy the necessary items in Ukraine or neighbouring countries.
Thank you for your generosity*

War in Ukraine

“We know very well that today it is Georgia, tomorrow it will be Ukraine, the day after tomorrow the Baltic States, and perhaps the next one in line will be my country, Poland.” Late President Lech Kaczyński during his visit to Tbilisi, Georgia.

On August 12, 2008, President Kaczyński appeared in Tbilisi alongside the leaders of Ukraine and the Baltic States. This was as the Russian forces were bombing civilian populations under the pretext of a “peacekeeping operation” thirty miles from where Kaczyński and other world leaders stood. The occupation continues today, and more and more people are finding themselves on the other side of the fence and barbed wire that Russia continues to erect to isolate the occupied regions from the rest of Georgia.

When a huge concentration of power fell into the hands of a vicious former KGB colonel, obsessed with the nostalgia for the old Soviet system that consumed millions of lives, it was inevitable that he would be ruthless in trying to restore the lost “glory”. In 2005 President Putin announced in his national address that the collapse of the Soviet Union was the 20th century's biggest geopolitical disaster.

When Russia invaded Ukraine this year on February 24, overnight, millions of Ukrainians had their lives stolen away from them because of circumstances

entirely out of their control. Houses lost, families separated, and the atrocity of war surrounding the neighbourhoods they call home.

We are Sophie and Gega, living in Dedham and wanted to do our bit to support Ukraine. We have Georgian roots and know what it feels like to be invaded by Russia. With the support of the local community in Dedham and the Parish Church, we organised donations of essential items for the people of Ukraine.

The response was overwhelming! Within hours, donations started to pile up in the Church, and in a couple of days, we filled up and delivered a van load of essential items such as toiletries, medical supplies, batteries, baby formula, nappies, sanitary products, and clothes to local distribution centres in Essex. Donations kept coming in for days and we continued making deliveries that we understand went straight into Ukraine.

We want to thank everyone for their kindness and contribution, particularly Paul and Amanda Brebner, the Church for their support and Simple Van Hire for offering a 2.5L van for free to make the deliveries possible. I am sure what we have done collectively will have made a difference to people affected by this terrible conflict.

Glory to Ukraine and all the freedom-loving nations!

#StandWithUkraine



How I Came to Faith

The process by which I came to faith was by many routes; by reason (Thomas Aquinas' Five Ways,) by evidence (scientific studies of Catholic Eucharistic shrine miracles,) by personal experience (alone and in group encounters with the supernatural.)

But the most profound path transcended reason as I encountered Christ in music.

I was listening to Spotify one afternoon when I heard the final movement of Mahler's 2nd Symphony. The Resurrection movement contains a sequence known as the "death shriek," when the full orchestra equipped with church bells and a 900 piece choir, reaches an almighty crescendo and screams with one collective voice, " you shall rise again."

When I heard these titanic words, the fundamental message of the resurrection, that death through Christ's sacrifice, has been conquered once and for all, it all hit me like lightning and I was physically floored. I wept profusely, completely astonished at God's unbearable mercy and forgiveness.

This earth- shattering revelation melted my cold and unrepentant heart, and I knew Christ was more real to me than any philosophical wisdom or theory. It was now all so clear to me: Christ is the resurrection, eternal life, and most of all, those who believe in him will never taste death.

Since growing in faith I have witnessed healings, signs and miracles and no end of blessings that have confirmed God's words. I now look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come, as with fear and trembling, I endeavour to work out my own salvation. Answers to questions

concerned with living and suffering for me can be found in the words of the Bible which has provided me with a coherent view of the world and a way forward in my own life.

Tom Wheeler

What church means to me as a teenager

I like going to church because of multiple things. One of these is that I am a Christian so going to church means I can praise the Lord and pray to him.

Another reason is because it is very inclusive; what I mean by this is that everyone who wants to share what they think about something can say it, knowing they feel safe with people who understand. Also the whole church community is very welcoming and nice, and everybody knows each other.

I know this because when I moved from Martlesham to Dedham I felt very welcomed as people told me where places were and it was really nice to talk to them. Something I think that may encourage people my age to come to church would be if there was a Sunday school.

This would not only be good for teenagers, but also for younger children too because there could be things like Bible readings and stories for younger children, together with a number of other activities.

Another idea that I have would be more outdoor services; I say this because it is a bit more exciting being outside for services.! So these are a few of my ideas as a teenager about coming to church.

Aakshrit John

A Prayer for Growth

God of Mission.
Who along brings growth
to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in
numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local
community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

HOME GROUPS

Church life outside of Sundays

People may not be aware of the number of small groups that meet together each week in people's homes to talk, pray and look at Gods word.

This may be something of interest to you, and if so please feel free to contact the leader of whichever group might suit you and arrange to come along and try it out.

There is a Wednesday evening group, a ladies group that meets on a Friday morning and a group that meets on zoom every Thursday.

These small groups are an excellent way of getting to know people, to find encouragement and fellowship, and discover more about God.

You would be most welcome

Sharon Sarson

Tuesdays 11.00am

(Contact Ann 322192)

Thursdays 5.00pm

(Contact Liz and John 323770)

(Group currently meeting using Zoom)

Wednesdays 7.30pm

(Contact Martin and Jo 323881)

Fridays 9.15am (Women)

(Contact Jo 323881)

Bible Group

We meet every Tuesday morning at 11a.m.and each session usually lasts about one and a half hours. If there are lockdowns we use Conferoo. We each take it in turns to host the meetings in our own homes and whoever is the host leads the session. We always start with a coffee and biscuits; nourishing the body as well as the soul!

Having different people to lead each week makes for an interesting variety of interpretations and leads to lively discussions. During the last few months we have been using Luke's gospel as well as the book of Acts.

Studying the scriptures with others has hopefully given us all a better understanding of our faith and has helped us to be able to raise questions within a friendly and sympathetic group of Christians.

We welcome new members so do contact me, Ann Shaw, if you'd like to learn more about our group.

Ann Shaw

Our Thursday Group

We are a small home group, meeting on Thursdays between 5 and 6 pm using zoom.

We started this during the first Covid lockdown but have continued as some of our members live in outlying areas and find it hard to meet up. We tend to follow a particular study book; at present using the gospel of Luke, and trying to link with the weekly church sermons where possible, discussing various aspects that arise from the studies.

Our discussions are under-pinned by prayer as we think about both personal, local and world situations. Zoom is a unique way of getting together and means we don't need to dress up for a meeting and can fit in other things that need doing around our meetings!

We would welcome new members so please phone either Liz or John Reed if you would like to know more.

Liz & John Reed

Friday (Women)

Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of you."

I asked some young mums recently whether they would like to join a homegroup and their replies were: What is involved? What happens at the group? Do we need experience?

Joining any group which has been established for years is not always easy to attend for the first time but my experience of joining the

Dedham homegroup on a Friday morning was anything but daunting. I felt instantly included, generous hospitality was offered and I was very warmly welcomed by everybody. The next anxiety I had was how I won't know as much as everybody else about the bible to speak or answer any questions. In some ways the less you know the better, you can turn up, and embrace each of the bible studies from scratch. The warm welcome certainly made me feel I could speak up and ask questions or say what is on my heart without being judged. In my experience as a member of the group, for what must be around 4 years now, if a bible passage is looked at for a second or third time, the discussion is never the same – as we bring different perspectives and questions when studying scripture based on those moments in our lives.

The group is for an hour and a half and study guides are often used. However, we have also had meditative reflections & prayer, listening to God time and discussion sessions. Our group wouldn't be our group without our wonderful leader Sharon who keeps us on the straight and narrow (we like to chat!) and our amazing host Jo.

I think the question that really needs to be asked is what impact has the group had on me? The simple answer is huge! To have such an incredible group of ladies as friends, who care about me, pray for me, look out for me but most of all that study the word of God with me, can only build and strengthen faith – and I praise God so much for this.

Claire Arculus



LIVE-STREAMING AS 'GOD SERVICE'

The German word for 'church service' is 'Gottesdienst': 'God service'. And this is what live-streaming means to me.

It all began in 2020, during the Covid pandemic. Our vicar was showing a group of interested people some cool-looking camera and sound equipment that had been newly installed in Dedham Church. Having no background in IT, I felt daunted at first. But I just loved the idea of making our services available online. One of these moments when you just know that you've got to do something, even if it's challenging at first.

Especially during the pandemic, I found it a great privilege to be able to live-stream funerals and weddings to those who could not attend in person due to the restrictions in place at the time. And it is perhaps one of the few good things to come out of the pandemic that we continue to live-stream, esp. where friends and relatives live abroad.

And if you had told me before the pandemic began that I would feel privileged

to sit in front of a camera in my home to live-stream Morning and Evening Prayer, I would have (politely) laughed at you. And now, our online prayer community has become very important to me. Surprising, how something like live-streaming can be a spiritual experience. But then again, it is also part of our worship community.

When I say 'live-stream', I also mean record/upload. At times, the internet connectivity (or lack thereof) in our villages definitely adds very real excitement to what we do. When technical challenges come (and they do at times), it is good to have Ben from Marks Tey Radio at the other end of the phone. We really could not have done it all without his patient advice – thank you, Ben!

Our 'AV Team' currently has nine very friendly members. We live-stream our regular services, usually two or three every Sunday between Dedham and Ardleigh Churches.

Interested in having a look? Why not drop by to one of our services? Or contact Deb at our Parishes Office (stmaryda@gmail.com). We're always looking for new members, esp. during the summer months when some of us have community or work commitments on Sundays.

You can find us online on our YouTube channel 'Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes'. See you soon!

Christina Volkmann

Stour Valley Castaways

Ruth Higginson is known to many as the friendly face behind the Mission cake and bric-a-brac stall. She helps with the church flowers, is involved in one of the Dedham book clubs and as if that isn't enough she also volunteers at Beacon House - the centre for homeless people in Colchester.

But all of this is going to come to an end because we are going to be casting Ruth away to a long - lost island on the River Stour.

I put a few questions to Ruth to find out how she is going to cope.

P - First of all will you enjoy being on the island?

R - No, I'll miss my friends and family. I think I'll be alright to start with but after a while it'll get boring and lonely.....

P - Which painter's works will you miss most when you look out at the Dedham vale from your island - Munning's or Constable?

R - Well I love Constable but I think it would be Munnings. I love his early works.

P - And which football team will you be wondering how they're getting on? Ipswich Town or Colchester United?

R - Well Andy and Bobbie would want me to say Ipswich Town.

P - To entertain yourself who would you bop to - Bach or the Beatles?

R - You can't bop to Bach so definitely the Beatles.

P - Well I secretly bop away to Bach!

Which beach would you most miss -

Aldeburgh or Frinton?

R - Aldeburgh for the shops but Frinton for its sandy beach and swimming.

P - In the highly unlikely event of you being rescued would you make a dash for the pub or the church?

R - I would go to the pub for a gin and tonic and then take it over to the church.

P - In addition to the Bible and the complete works of Winnie the Pooh, we are allowing you to take a book of your choice. What would that be?

R - War and Peace.

P - Also you get to take an original work of art.

R - A lino print by Richard Bawden of one of his cat pictures. I think I prefer his work to his father Edward.

P - That's nice. It will remind you of your darling cat Sparky too. What music will you take?

R - Leonard Cohen "Hallelujah".

P - What hobby will you want to do?

R - Painting, of course.

P - And finally, what luxury?

R - Insect repellent. There won't be any insects though.

P - There will be! There will be midges.

I have to say it was an absolute delight to sit in Ruth's home eating one of her sensational tray bakes and talking about religion, cooking and art. The questions were compiled by Team Family Black and friends and put to Ruth

Philippa Black

Victoria Baker PILATES

When I was asked to write about Pilates for the magazine I was a little apprehensive as it has always been hard to define and describe what it is so I will start with a little history of the man Joseph Pilates and his exercises.

The Pilates Method of exercise has its origins in the work of the late Joseph Pilates, who was born in 1880 near Düsseldorf, Germany. He was a frail child and turned to physical fitness programmes to improve his body image, becoming a keen sportsman, developing talents in sports as varied as diving, gymnastics and boxing.

He was interned during the First World War on The Isle of Man in a camp which had a mixture of civilians and prisoners of war. There are various stories of why Joseph Pilates came to be in England at the start of the war some of them are myth and as he didn't talk about this period of his life it is not exactly known why. However it is widely believed that his 5 years spent in prison was where he developed a system of exercises to keep himself in shape and fit.

Returning to Germany after the war he came into contact with a dancer called Hanya Holm whom on her recommendation suggested that he should go to New York and investigate teaching his exercises there. After an

initial trip he decided to immigrate to the United States in 1926 and either just before he left or on the boat over to New York he met Clara Zuener. According to Joe's story, he and Clara were both passionate about studying movement of the human body and what they could do to make a living by using their knowledge to improve people's lives. And because of that shared bond, they'd fallen in love on the voyage over.

In 1927 he and Clara opened a gym on 8th Avenue in New York. He named his programme Contrology. Reconnecting with Hanya Holm he had a steady flow of dancers needing physical therapy. His clients included such luminaries as George Balanchine and Martha Graham. By the 1960s the heady early days of its popularity were on the wane but Joe remained convinced his exercise programme was a sure means to health and happiness but it would take another 40 years for the world to awaken to his discovery. He died in 1967.

He did not lay down a formal training programme and 'Pilates' as it is now known is taught in several forms. On his death, his 'disciples' continued teaching by adding their own variations to the core philosophy and exercises.

I myself came to it about 19 years ago having heard about it but didn't really know what it was. I had seen some apparatus unlike anything I had seen in a gym and was suspicious but my interest was piqued. Initially I started with matwork exercises and even though it was very different to anything I had

MISSION BAKE SALES



14th May, We combine with the Horticultural Spring Fair, 10 am to 12 noon
25th June & 30th July, 10 am~ 12 noon
29th August, Bank Holiday Monday.

All day

24th September, 29th October
 10 am~ 12 noon

done before I really liked the way I felt after a class. If you ask around people say they feel taller, maybe stronger, more flexible but really it is something you need to try for yourself and decide what you think.

Encouraged by my first teacher I qualified as a Matwork Teacher in 2010 with Body Control Pilates who are one of the leading trainers in the UK and Europe but also run courses elsewhere in the world. In 2018 I took a trip to New York the spiritual home of Pilates to spend an intensive week studying anatomy at The Mount Sinai Hospital by day and experiencing various renowned studios and teachers.

I have been teaching in and around Dedham since qualifying and some of my first pupils are still with me 11 ½ years later. I personally love exploring anatomy and bringing it alive in my classes. Joseph Pilates had a rather strict teaching style which is still alive and well in many a studio however my style is pretty relaxed and I like to keep it fun.

Pilates is suited to all abilities but if you have a specific rehabilitation needs then a private lesson is probably better than a class to start with.

If you've read to the bottom of this article and you are interested feel free to drop me an email:

victoria@victoriabakerpilates.com



DEDHAM FILMS

West Side Story (12A)

Directed by Steven Spielberg
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
7:30 to 10 PM

An adaptation of the 1957 musical, West Side Story explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks -- two rival gangs vying for control of the streets.

Tickets £5 will be available Online on our website, In-person at RSVP Dedham High Street or on the door.

From TV Producer to Personal Trainer My lockdown career change



For me, as I'm sure it was for many people, the first lockdown in March 2020 was a time of change.

I had been working as a Children's Animation Producer in London for over 21 years and was somewhat fed up with the long and expensive commuting. Then lockdown put a stop to all that. All TV production work was halted so I had little to do but reflect on my work / life balance. Could I really see myself travelling between London and Manningtree for another 20 years? Wouldn't it be nice to have more time with the family? In that calm, sunny April 2020, my daily commute felt like an old life that I'd left behind (and one to which I didn't wish to return).

Yet if I was really to give it all up then what would I do next?

One April morning on a run I had my eureka moment. Keeping fit was something I loved doing - but it also made me fitter, stronger and healthier than I'd been since my teenage years -

and in this time of national health worries that could only be a positive thing.

We all need to stay fit and healthy. I realised if I could convince other people to do the same thing then why couldn't I make my daily treat my daily job? With this in mind, I enrolled on a full time PT course. Six months later, with all the exams and coursework completed I became a qualified personal trainer.

Now, I was lucky. I didn't want to work in a busy gym and I'm definitely one of those people that avoids public gyms at all costs. I feel far too self conscious. I wanted an environment in which I could spend many pleasurable hours working... and there's no place better than at the end of my garden. It has beautiful views across open fields and feels a world away from the usual noisy gym environment. So that's where I built my own gym and kitted it out with everything I could possibly need (and a little bit more!)

I'd built it. But would *they* come? Clients that is. Luckily there's good old 'word of mouth'. In late August / early September 2020 I started training three friends. It was admittedly a very easy-going start, but they recommended me to others and the word spread. My client base grew and grew until now I am working almost at full capacity - with 28 clients a week ranging from 19 years old to 89 years old (and over 90s are welcome too!). With such a wide range of people there's always a fresh challenge and an opportunity to increase my own experience.



That's a real problem, because motivation and consistency are vital elements in any form of fitness. In short, you don't just have to do it, you also have to like it. If not then the will power will soon drain away. That's where a PT comes in. We try to get to know you - the client - and work out what best fits your aims in a way that will keep you doing it for years to come.

I'm thoroughly enjoying my new career and pretty hopeful I can sustain this new life for many years to come.

Why keep fit with a personal trainer?

I think we all know it's important to stay fit and healthy. It can reduce your risk of major illnesses, such as coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer; and lower your risk of early death by up to 30%. On top of that it's medically proven to lower the risk of osteoarthritis, hip fractures, falls (among older adults), depression and dementia. It really is one of the best things you can do for yourself!

However working out where to start and - even more crucially - how to keep doing it are difficult problems to overcome. We have vague ideas about getting a bit stronger, wanting to feel more confident about our body or not wanting to run out of breath so quickly but doing something about it seems very much like 'homework' or a 'chore for the day'.

After all, a client isn't just for Christmas... ideally, they're for life!





DEDHAM

Therapy Farm

The team at Dedham Therapy Farm CIC would like to thank everyone that donated to help the farm rebuild after Storm Eunice. We managed to raise £1400 in total which is helping us a great deal in making the repairs we needed after the storm.

Thank you!

This year we are planning on making a start on our new garden area! We are looking forward to growing some vegetables and plants during our therapy sessions.

We are so grateful to the Dedham Horticultural society for their ongoing advice and support in getting this project going. We are still on the hunt for a volunteer gardener to help us with our garden.

If you think you can help us and would like to be involved in working with us, please get in touch at



www.dedhamtherapyfarm.org
and click volunteer!

Bridge in Dedham

“Bridge is the most fascinating game. It is played by millions around the world, from top internationalists to families and friends in their own homes. It is a social asset and a route to new friendships. It is immensely varied, the cards you pick up after each deal will never be the same, so many are the possible combinations. Above all it is fun.” So say Jeremy Flint & John Gullick in the introduction to their “First Book of Bridge”

At Bridge in Dedham we play Duplicate Bridge – the same deal of cards is played at each table and scored on relative performance – which introduces an element of competition.

Being a game played with a partner often excludes players from Bridge Clubs, however at Bridge in Dedham anyone who is beyond the beginners stage is welcome and will always get a game. Since we began in October 2013 many friendships have been made as individuals have found partners.

We play at the **Assembly Rooms on Wednesday afternoons 2-5pm** (please arrive by 1.40pm). About half way through each session we stop for tea/coffee & biscuits & occasionally cake!

Everyone pays £3 (table fees) each time they attend and at their third attendance they are invited to donate £10 to the membership funds annually. Apart from providing for new cards etc the funds cover the cost of an annual Summer Lunch and a Christmas Party.



At our year end any excess funds are donated to charity.

There is no committee, decisions being taken by everyone at our Annual Discussion Meeting in October.

If you would like to know more please contact **Judith on 322 938**

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Calendar for next year's DPC meetings

Usually 1st Wednesday of the month

Tuesday 17th May APM for residents
6:30pm followed by DPC Meeting at 7:30pm

6 th June 22, 4 th July 22

August no meeting

5 th Sept 22, 3 rd Oct 22
7 th November 22 , 5 th December 22

2 nd Jan 23 (Bank Holiday)
meeting will be held on 9 th Jan 2023

6 th Feb 23, 6 th March, 23 3 rd April 23

Licensing Act 2003 Section 17(5)

Notice is hereby given that Dedham Parish Council has applied in respect of the Duchy Recreation Field Dedham for a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 to allow for a Jubilee event from 12:00 to 23:00pm on the 5th June 2022.

Representations to this application must be made in writing, by 6th May 2022 to the Licensing Authority, Colchester Borough Council, PO Box 889, Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3WG.

The register of licensing applications can be inspected between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday at the offices of Colchester Borough Council, 33 Sheepen Road Colchester or online

<http://www.colchester.gov.uk/licensingregister>

It is an offence on summary conviction, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine for which is £5000.

More Dedham Schools

Shermans Hall

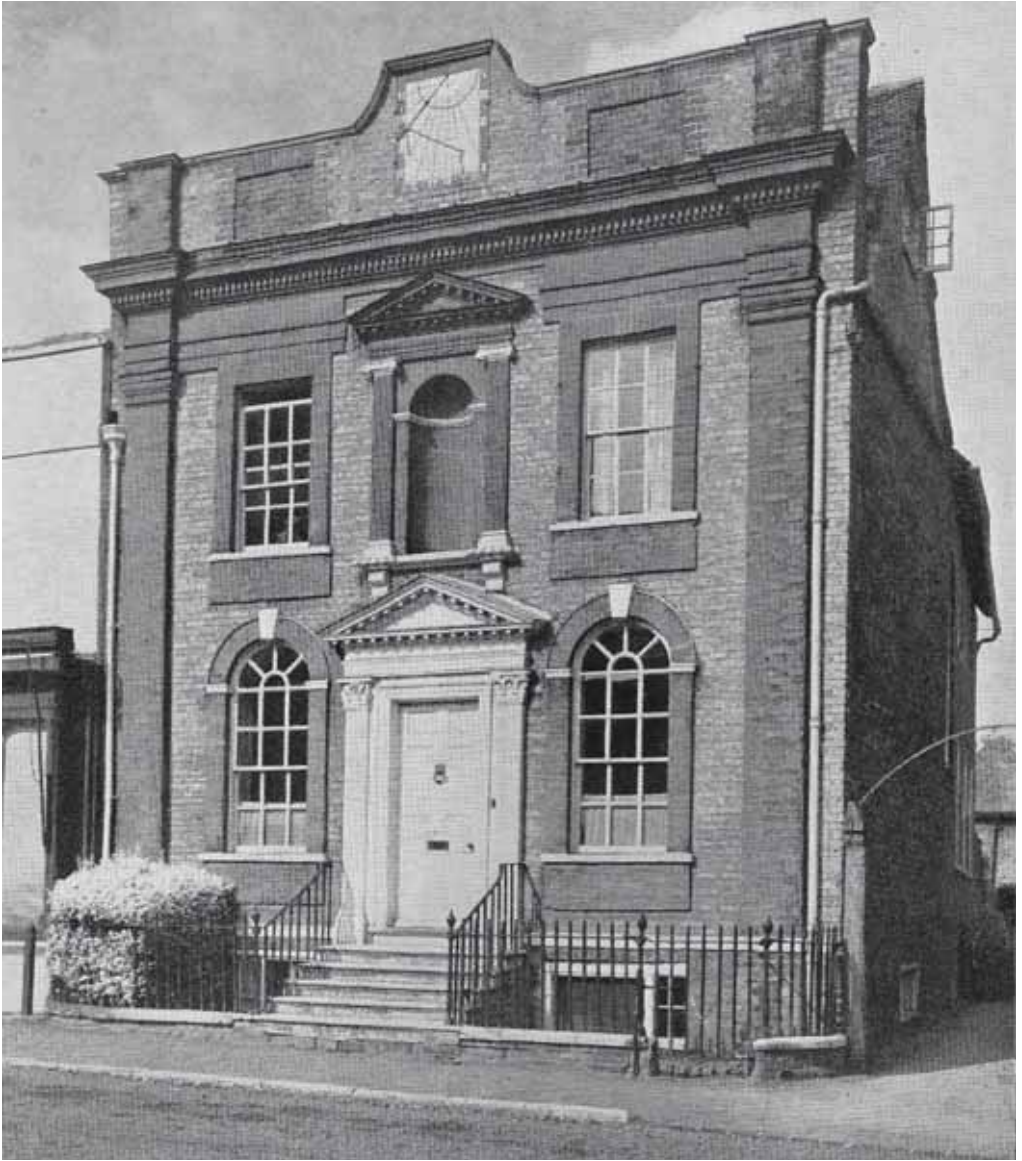
There was already a house on the site of Shermands Hall opposite the church long before Edmund Sherman, one of the original Governors of the Grammar School, left money in his will for it to be improved as a dwelling house for a schoolmaster, "*which schoolmaster should freely teach one poor child.*" A new school was needed because, while the Grammar School offered a classical higher education, it did not include the basic grounding in reading, writing and arithmetic which poorer children needed. It was this which was provided at Shermands, which came to be known as the English or Writing School. Later donors who added to its endowment included John Marsh in 1642, Mr Cockerell in 1719 and a list of benefactors who contributed to enlarging and rebuilding the school in the early eighteenth century. At that time the schoolmaster was William Colchester, who himself contributed to the cost of the renovations.

Alterations in 1730-31 included the addition of the elaborate brick front which gave the house its present distinctive appearance. Evidently the work of the same master mason who in 1732 built an extension to the Grammar School (now Well House), it made the building appear taller and more impressive at the expense of blocking the view towards the church from the attic windows.

The handsome brick facade with its giant pilasters, ornamental door case, parapet with sundial and pupils' names and initials carved into the brickwork has survived unaltered, apart from the addition of an urn in the empty niche above the front door. This was designed by Quinlan Terry to record the architect Marshall Sisson's gift of the house to the National Trust on his death in 1979.

Sisson (1897-1978) lived at Shermands with his wife Margery from 1934 until 1946 when they moved to Huntingdon. They are both buried (with a headstone he designed) near the south-east corner of Dedham churchyard. In his *Journals of Wartime Colchester* E.J. Rudsdale (1910-1951), a curator at Colchester Museum describes his frequent visits to them there during WW II. After they left the house they leased it to a succession of tenants including, in the 1950s-'60s, Robert Goodden (1909 - 2002), Professor of Silversmithing and Jewellery at the Royal College of Art from 1948 to 1974, his wife Lesley and their four children. It is now let to tenants by the National Trust and is occasionally accessible to the public on Heritage Open Days in September.

The house retains eighteenth-century features such as panelling, fireplaces, a plank door with strap hinges and pupils' graffiti at the back of a bedroom cupboard. The present dining room was probably one of the classrooms and the first floor drawing room was divided to form two more.



The front of Shermans Hall c.1950, unchanged since it was built c.1730/31.

As numbers increased the English School expanded into Ivy House next door and the initials SWC of William Colchester (1708 -1773) and his wife Susannah (1714 - 1799) can still be seen on the plasterwork of its side wall. The two houses are intricately linked and it was she who started a girls' school at Ivy House; it is believed that the east wing dates from her time.

The 1833 Charity Commission's report states that Shermans had a schoolroom detached from the rest of the house. In the mid nineteenth century when Corder Platten was headmaster the school had about fifty paying pupils, all boys, some of them boarders who joined at the age of ten and stayed on average for three years. Twenty-nine were living in the house at the time of the 1841 census and nine in 1851. The cost of pens, ink and writing books was set at no more than a shilling a quarter.

The schoolmaster also had eight free pupils from Dedham and the surrounding area who were taught separately up to 1859. However, by 1873 elementary schools were being set up by the government to educate poor children free of charge. Shermans Hall reverted to the ownership of the Grammar School, which was obliged to close it down and required to pay for building a new Boys' Elementary School in Crown Street (now the Old School House). The pupils were transferred there in 1875 and Shermans was let to tenants.

Ivy House

The provision of education for boys at the thriving Grammar and English Schools led to a growing demand for schools for daughters and sisters in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Among many girls' schools recorded are a young ladies' boarding school in 1750, a school for the daughters of farmers and tradesmen opened in 1769 and a private boarding school in 1824. Emma Barber, a 21-year old trainee teacher of French and Music, was living at Ivy House at the time of the 1861 census and in 1877, on the death of its owner Robert Stannard, she bought the house as "Ivy College" for £875 with the help of a loan from a relative.

Emma was the Principal of a girls' school there which had forty girls in residence at the time of the 1881 census. In 1878 she married the Rev. Henry George Nichols, Minister of the Congregational Chapel in Brook Street, who was eleven years her junior. Mrs E. M. Nichols's advertisement in the *East Anglian Daily Times* of 22 July 1880 says that as well as a sound education her establishment offered "*a generous diet with home-made bread, healthful development of mind and body of Youth, an unsectarian but wholesome religious training, Calisthenics and Lawn Tennis etc.*"

In 1891 she emigrated with her husband to Adelaide, Australia and leased Ivy House to Margaret Booth who probably continued to run it as a school until 1898 when it was sold. She may have expanded the school next door to Shermans, where a private school for

girls is recorded at that time. In 1897 Ivy House was bought by Thomas Alfred Dunnage for £1000. After he died in 1907 it was owned by Harry Gammer, who established his general stores there until 1913, when he sold the house as a private residence to Ida Graham Langton, mother of the family I remember living there when I was a child.

Gould House

The school at Shermans transferred to Gould House after 1914 and was still there in 1937 when my sister Becky Curtis, then a small baby at Dalebrook House, used to be held up to the window to enjoy watching the children going across the street to play in the orchard opposite, where Beech House is now. Run by the Misses Saunders, the school provided tuition in English, French, Latin, etc., music, painting, German and dancing and charged the parents for new books, new music and boarding fees. We know that it was taking boys as well as girls in the 1920s because John and Dick Langton and their sister Joan, who lived at Ivy House, were all pupils there then.

The Former Grammar School

A short-lived school in the premises of the former Grammar School, which had recently closed, was run by the erudite philologist the Rev. Richard Morris (1833-1894) from 1889 until 1892. He leased the main building and the new schoolroom on Frog Meadow (since demolished) for three years at a rent of £50 per annum before a terminal illness

forced him retire to Harold Wood two years before his death in 1894.

© Lucy Archer

In this account I have been fortunate in being able to draw on information provided by the National Trust for visitors to Shermans. I am also greatly indebted to Andrew and Leonie McLoughlin, who have kindly allowed me to make use of their extensive research into the history of Ivy House and have helped with many points of detail. I am grateful too for information provided by Becky Curtis and William Langton.



Initials of schoolmaster William Colchester & wife Susannah with date 1767 on west wall of Ivy House



View from the church tower in 2001 showing the complex roofs of both Sherman's and Ivy House.



The back of Ivy House, clothed in Ivy c.1900. On the left is the addition built in the mid eighteenth century; on the right the older timber-framed wing which is now Ivy side Cottage.



The Misses Saunders' school at Gould House in the 1920s. The child in front of the teacher in a hat is Joan Langton and the boy on the right may be her brother John.



The school at Gould House in the 1930s.

The captions to the illustrations were omitted from Lucy Archer's article on 'Dedham's Chapels', as printed in last month's Magazine. A corrected version of the article which includes the missing captions can be found with all Lucy's other articles on the Dedham Parish Council website under Dedham > Historical Dedham > Dedham Reminiscences

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Let's put on a Show

As I write this, Dedham Horticultural Society has just finished its first Spring Show after a two year 'pandemic pause'. Almost two dozen people entered, raiding gardens and allotments (and possibly a verge or two) for daffodils and other spring flowers, blossoming shrubs and assorted other plants. Baking abound with coffee and walnut cakes (of various heights), hot cross buns (a heavyweight class) and marmalade. Creative villagers brought out their floral art skills to mark the Queen's Jubilee and there was a roaring trade at the plant sale.

If you've never exhibited in one of our shows before, it's free and very easy. Although exhibits are professionally judged, they are generous with their assessment and plenty of first-timers have found their entries winning first, second or third place. The vagaries of the British weather means the Spring Show is often a better option if you want to dip your toe into the water of exhibiting your flowers and plants – there's usually less competition and

more chances for a win!

There can't be a garden or container that doesn't have some spring bulbs in it and the daffodil (*Narcissus*) gets pride of place. There are several categories but we are more likely to have trumpet or large-cupped daffodils in our garden.

The corona or trumpet is the part of the flower that sticks out like a nose with (usually) six petals splayed out behind it. If you gently fold a petal forwards and it is no longer than the trumpet, then you have a trumpet daffodil and should enter it into that class. If it's longcler, then you likely have a large-cupped daffodil and the best of these very clearly have a short, wide corona: imagine laying the daffodil on its back so the petals form a saucer and the trumpet makes a squat tea cup. There's even a class for that!

There's also a class for the double daffodil, those multi-petalled, frilly, almost ball-like blooms. But remember two flowers on a single stem is not the same thing as a double. IF you look at



the list of classes and don't see one dedicated for your daffodil, there's even a class for that – basically, 'any other daffodil'!

Another tip for beginners is to enter the 'single specimen' classes. There is usually a 'three of a kind' class for daffodils, but judges expect them to be the same: you really have to grow a lot to find three of anything the same size and colour, unblemished and out at the same time. It's much easier to plonk one of something in a vase and call it a success. Speaking of, you can exhibit in any old vase – we don't mind. Another good class is 12 daffodils in a vase – they can be a mixture of any type: just zush them a bit and try to make them all face the front and you're done.

While daffodils are a focus, there are plenty of other classes you can enter, that just ask you to have a look round the garden: a small branch from that evergreen hedge – consider the foliage class; a tulip – yes there are three classes for that; those lovely primulas – snip a few heads and you've got an entry there too.

We also have several baking classes and

there's usually at least one that's good to do with the kids (Easter cupcakes this year); one we regret putting in (four hours to prove and bake cement-like hot cross buns!); and one that everyone has a go at (coffee and walnut cake).

The Autumn Show is coming up in September – keep an eye on our website for details – and for that, we celebrate the dahlia (also dead easy to grow with varieties suitable for pots or the border). There's baking and flower arrangements, but also fruit and veg to exhibit.



So have a think, have a go – it's free and lots of fun.

Elliott Frisby

Dedham Horticultural Society

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www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com.



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