

DEDHAM

Parish Magazine



April 2023



Dedham Parish Magazine

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April 2023

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH
dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

Rural Missioner Phillip Young
Tel: 323 919
Assistant Minister Merv McKinney
Tel: 322 136

PARISHES OFFICE
Parishes Administrator Deb Turner
Tel: 322 136
Email: stmaryda@gmail.com

Assembly Rooms, High Street, Dedham.
CO7 6HJ

Tuesday 10am-12pm
Thursday 10am-12pm

CHURCH WARDENS
Vee Druitt Tel: 322 000
Peter Wilson Tel: 323 179

MUSIC
Director of Music Antony Watson
Tel: 322 425

ASSEMBLY ROOMS Tel: 323 921

CHURCH FLOWERS
Co-ordinator Helen Sims
Tel: 321 286
Wedding Flowers Wendy Sarton

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

The deadline for magazine entries is the 10th of the month

Editor: John Goldsbrough
Email: dedhameditor@gmail.com
Advertising Sara Marshall
Email: dedham.advertising@gmail.com

MAGAZINE CONTENT

2. Contacts/contents.
3. Services & Church events.
4. Rural Missioners Letter.
- 5-8. New Boundary Wall.
9. The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse. Dedham Lecturer
10. Deanery Choir, Missions Bake Sales.
11. Ardleigh surgery.
12. Dedham Films.
13. Sustainable Dedham.
14. Dedham Parish Council - Coronation Grants.
- 15-16. Gardening Notes.
17. Dedham Primary School.
- 18-24. News and Events.
25. Kingsleigh.
- 26-48. Advertising.

Cover Photo - Easter flowers, John Goldsbrough

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 **Tel: 322 192.**

If you have been bereaved or know of anyone who has, please contact Vee Druitt **Tel: 322 000** or Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598**

If you would like a lift to church contact
Ann Shaw **Tel: 322 192** Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598**

If you need any further support, please contact the Parishes Office
Tel: 322 136 and your call will be returned.

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

Sunday, 2nd April

8.00am Eucharist BCP
9.30am Rise N' Shine
9.30am Café Church
5.00pm Evensong

**Ardleigh
Dedham*
Ardleigh
Dedham***

Maundy Thursday, 6th April

7.00pm Maundy Thursday Service

Dedham*

Good Friday, 7th April

2.00pm Devotional Service at the cross

Dedham*

12.00pm Stations of the cross service

Ardleigh

Easter Sunday, 9th April

8.00am Eucharist, BCP
11.00am Holy Communion

**Ardleigh
Dedham***

Sunday, 16th April

9.30am Morning Praise
9.30am Holy Communion (informal)

**Dedham*
Ardleigh
Dedham**

11.00am APCM

Sunday, 23rd April

9.30am Holy Communion (informal)

**Dedham*
Ardleigh
Ardleigh
Dedham***

9.30am All Together

10.45am APCM

5.00pm ReVive@5

Sunday 30th April

9.30am Joint Benefice Holy Communion

Ardleigh

* = Services which are live streamed.

 **YouTube** Our services are on YouTube - search Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes.

 **Follow us on Facebook, search - DedhamandArdleigh**

Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday, 10.30am at Dedham Church

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

Benefice prayer meeting on Zoom each Monday at 5pm. Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

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.

Ardleigh Craft Group – every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month: 1.30-3.00pm Ardleigh Church – in the Heritage Cafe.

Little Steps Pre-School Group – every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month: 1.30-3.00pm in Ardleigh Church.

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, 1st April, 9am, venue to be confirmed. For bacon butties, tea, coffee and chat.

Monday Lunch Club – April 3rd 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms. Phone 322192 to reserve a place indicating it is for the Lunch Club.

Walk and Talk - Thursday April 13th 10am - Meet at Dedham Arts Centre at 10am for a walk or 11am for a chat.

No register entries for February.

Scan this QR code to access the Dedham and Ardleigh parishes website





Dear friends,

I love a good comeback story – you know the sort: where someone is ‘down and out’, given no hope of success in their field of sport or career or romance – then, all of a sudden, they experience a meteoric rise and succeed in an incredible way.

One example in recent history was Leicester City, who started the 2015-16 Premier League season 5,000/1 to win the title. But we all know how it finished up for them: victory, fame, jubilation and celebration.

Comeback stories also justify those who were loyal to the ones who were down and out, written off and given no hope of success. The long-term Leicester City fans would have felt all their loyalty, their hopes, their wardrobe of football shirts were not in vain – they did, ultimately, have a Club that was the best of them all.

And just as that is true in sport or in a career or romantic endeavours, so it is also true in matters of faith. Because before we celebrate the extraordinary historical event of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, we must face up to the seeming despair of so-called ‘Good’ Friday.

Jesus, the one person in the history of humanity who always did what His God and Father asked of Him (even when it cost Him greatly), was put to

death for charges that had no substance to them.

His followers would have been downcast and desperate in the aftermath... Unless, of course, they had remembered these words which He had spoken to them before His crucifixion: “...unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” John 12:24

Jesus spoke these words (and many like them) to His disciples so that when all seemed lost, they would not give up hope.

In our world today it might seem like all reason to hope is fast disappearing – wars rage, economic prospects are tight, relationships keep breaking down – but the lesson from Jesus’ resurrection is that just at the point where things look completely irretrievable God acts to bring extraordinary good out of great evil.

And the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is not the first time He has done this – nor was it the last. Come and join the celebration of Christians of the greatest comeback story humanity has ever seen, the death and resurrection of Jesus, this month in your local parish. Best wishes, Phillip

*Revd. Phillip Young
Rural Missioner to the Harwich Deanery*

New Boundary Wall at St Mary's Parish Church, Dedham High Street

Dedham has probably the most attractive High Street in Essex. Lined with a fine collection of traditional buildings, the High Street is at the heart of the village and has a genteel timeless air. Part of this character is the large Horse Chestnut tree on the churchyard boundary, which adds scale and colour to the High Street, and is a feature in one's mind's eye when one remembers a visit to Dedham.

The importance of preserving Dedham's natural and architectural heritage was recognised as early as 1938 with the formation of the Dedham Vale Society. Their influential work has largely been successful, but it is an ongoing battle and small unsuitable changes can lead to a gradual, unstoppable erosion of the scene and any changes to the High Street need to be carefully considered.

The churchyard boundary wall, which lines the south side of the High Street from Royal Square to the vicarage, is seemingly insignificant in its surroundings, dominated by St Mary's parish church with its imposing sixteenth century west tower and the horse chestnut tree which is over 200 years old.

However, it is these small structures that bind the scene together and play a role greater than the sum of their parts in maintaining a village atmosphere. The age of the boundary wall is uncertain, but it was probably built early in the twentieth century when the tree was already well established.

During the years the tree (which has a tree preservation order protecting it) has continued to grow, and the pressure of its roots has pushed the wall out towards the pavement. This was

managed in the 1980s with the introduction of metal straps fixed along the wall, and connected to tension rods set in concrete blocks below ground in the churchyard. This successfully anchored the top of the wall with the bottom of the wall anchored at ground level.

As the tree continued to grow these two fixed points have remained stable but, acting like a hinge, a large crack opened along the centre of the wall to relieve the ever-growing pressure from the roots.



In recent years (the picture above) this crack has increased dramatically along with concern about the tension rods rusting, which could result in a sudden failure and the wall collapsing onto the footpath. Something had to be done.

In consultation with the PCC and Chelmsford Diocese it was agreed that the wall should be taken down and rebuilt with the design intent of rebuilding a traditional brick wall to match the existing, but robust enough to withstand any future growth of the tree. Planning and Listed Building Consent was granted for the proposals with the support of Erini Dimerouki, the Historic Buildings Officer at Colchester Borough Council.

The wall was taken down between the octagonal gate pier and the low wall

NEW BOUNDARY WALL

at the vicarage. These provide fixed points for the wall to start and finish but the alignment has changed, moving the wall away from the tree. The gap created is filled with pea-shingle which acts as an expansion zone for the tree roots to grow into without adding pressure to the wall.



As well as growing behind the wall the roots also extend below it. These are substantial and provide the necessary stability for such a large tree. During the works David Carmichael, of Hayden's Arboriculturists, has given practical advice about the tree's protection and, in consultation with Panos Pinidis of The Morton Partnership structural engineers, helped devise a new foundation from which to build the wall.

As this must be above the level of the roots a reinforced concrete beam supported on small piles carefully inserted between the roots was devised. This is an extremely robust, stable structure and should stand up to any

future growth for a considerable time.

The lowest bricks are supported on stainless steel angles below the level of the concrete, giving the appearance to match the existing walls. Above the level of the concrete, the wall is constructed in the traditional way. The bricks are a blend of bricks reused from the dismantled wall and new bricks from Bulmer Brick and Tile, near Sudbury.



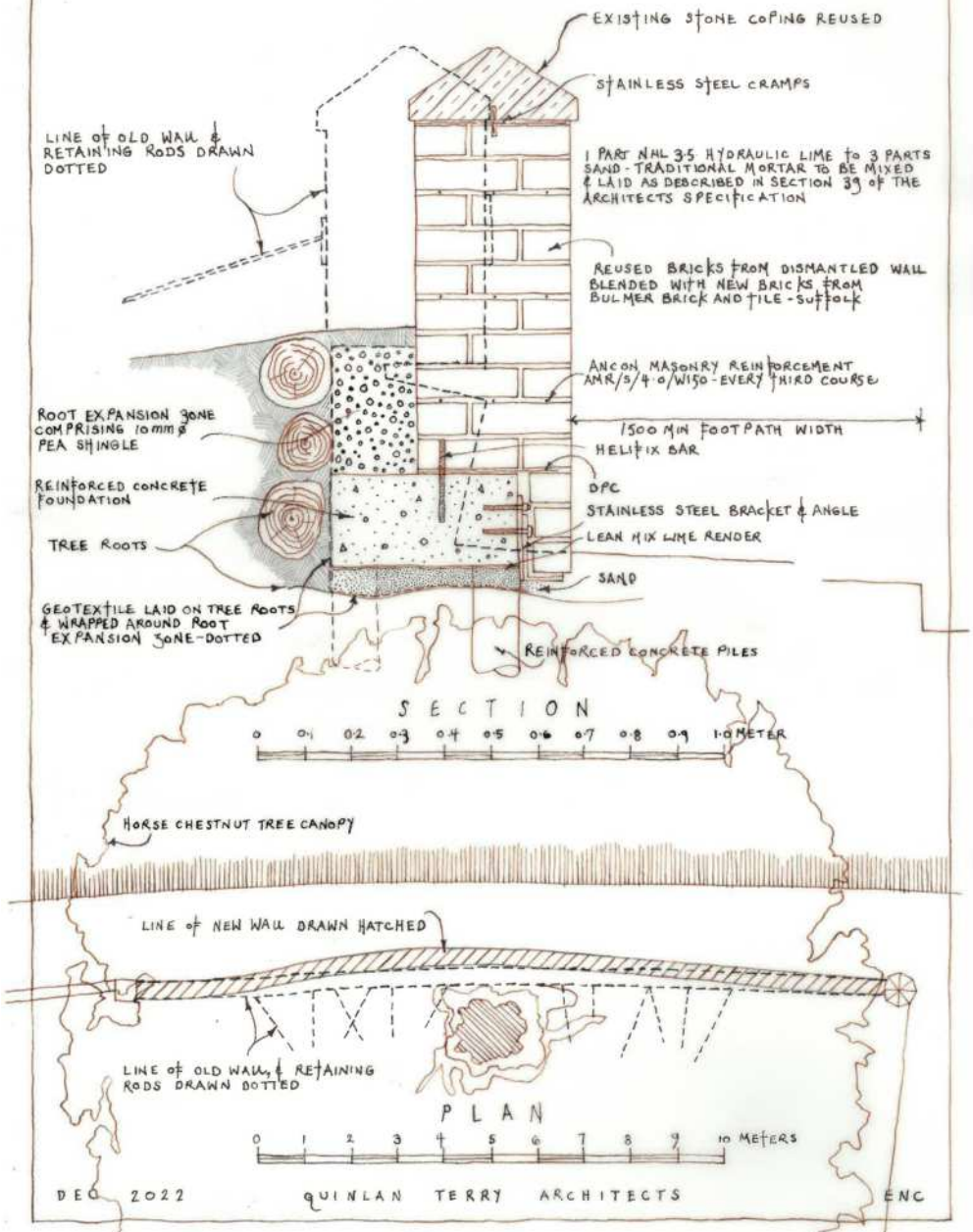
These are a good colour match from the closest brick manufacturer to Dedham. Many houses in the village have red brick chimneys of a similar colour which may have come from the same historic source. Blending with the old bricks retains the historic fabric, prevents the wall from looking too new and gives the wall a very lively colour, helped by a light-coloured lime mortar with a good blend of aggregate.

The only change is the introduction of reinforcement to the mortar joints which will help stiffen the wall and improve durability. The old coping stones have been reused on the new wall. However, as the new alignment means the wall is longer than it used to be, a short section of new coping has been added.

The wall is designed to look as much like the surrounding walls as possible and it will mellow with time and the seasons to be an unintrusive part of Dedham High Street.

NEW BOUNDARY WALL

NEW BOUNDARY WALL AT ST MARY'S CHURCH DEDHAM ESSEX



NEW BOUNDARY WALL



Completed wall

The work has been expertly undertaken by F. A. Valliant and Son under the management of Les Hopton.

The groundworks and concrete foundations were constructed by Vincent Snell with Chris Jenks who made the timber formwork.

The bricklayers were Nick Goodson, David Bragg, and Chris Harvey. A fabulous team.

Eric Cartwright - Quinlan Terry Architects



The flower team will again be arranging flowers in church for Easter Sunday. If you would like to buy a lily in memory of a loved one to be included, please put your money in a plain envelope marked 'Easter Lilies' with your name and contact number, and place it in the Parish office mailbox near the entrance to the Assembly rooms. The cost is £3 per stem, and the deadline for ordering is SUNDAY APRIL 2nd.



Book Swop

Do you have a recently read book with a Christian message that you would like to share with fellow church members? If yes, would you be willing to donate it to the Book Swop and in return pick up one from our collection that you would like to read?

Hoping this will be an enjoyable shared experience for us all, so do come and look and maybe instigate a book swop too! Books can be found in the Resources area at the back of the church.

Liz Reed



Please contact Louise Young on youngle@cantab.net for more details.

“The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse”

Over Christmas 2022 I watched the short animation film of Charlie Mackesy’s book *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* with some of my family, and I was so moved by the film that, I then read the book that was first published in 2019.

I feel that everyone, young and old, should read the book or watch the film, as the values it espouses are to do with tolerance, love and understanding are, in my view, sadly fast disappearing in today’s social media driven world.

For example, early in the book when the Boy who was lost, is asked by the Mole, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”, he says very simply, “Kind”. The Boy then asks the Mole “What do you think success is?” and the answer is, “To love”.

There are many other quotes from the book that I could pick out, but one right at the end of the book, when the Boy is together with the Mole, the Fox and the Horse, struck me as particularly appropriate: “Sometimes all you hear about is the hate, but there is more love in this world than you could possibly imagine.”

How does this all relate to our life as Christians? – in my view, very simply. This is how we should be leading our lives, and hope that others will understand and agree that the world, and in particular those countries where Christians are persecuted for their beliefs, would be a much better place if we all conformed to the same values as those personified by *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* in Charlie Mackesy’s wonderful book.

If you haven’t read the book or seen the film, I urge you to do so.

David Druitt.

Vacancy - Lecturer of Dedham

The Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust has its roots in the 16th century, but is very much alive today and is looking for a new Lecturer for the parish of Dedham. The Trust was set up in 1577, through local support, to appoint a “Lecturer” – which meant a preacher – for Dedham.

This tapped into a feeling held strongly at that time, that the word of God should be taught through excellent, Bible-based sermons that anyone could come and hear.

For many years, Lecturers appointed by the Trust supplemented the work of Vicars of Dedham by regularly preaching in the parish in accordance with Church of England principles. In some cases their sermons attracted audiences from far beyond Dedham itself.

In the early 20th century the Trust was altered, so that in future the Vicar of Dedham would also hold the office of Lecturer (you may have noticed that the title of our recent Vicars of Dedham has been “Vicar and Lecturer”). However, the Trust scheme also provides that, if at any time there is no Vicar or Priest-in-Charge of Dedham resident in the parish, the Trustees must appoint as Lecturer, a suitably qualified communicant member of the Church of England.

As many of you will know, at present Dedham shares a Rural Missioner with a number of other parishes, but has no Vicar. This has triggered the duty to appoint a Lecturer. The Trustees are seeking to appoint a person to be the Lecturer on an unpaid basis. The main function of the Lecturer will be to preach regular sermons in the parish of Dedham, in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.

The sermons will be part of usual church services in Dedham. In contributing in such a key way to our worship the lecturer will be an important member of the team that makes those services happen, working collaboratively with the PCC and our Rural Missioner.

This is a great opportunity for a committed, experienced preacher with a Church of England background to teach the word of God and encourage people to listen to what God has to say.

If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact Richard Hopkins at richard.hopkins7@btinternet.com for more information about what is involved and how to apply.

The closing date for applications is Monday 1 May 2023.

Richard Hopkins



April 7th (Good Friday)

The Deanery Choir will be singing Faure's Requiem at 6.30pm at St Mary's church, Little Bentley. This wonderful work will be performed with soloists Patrick McCarthy (Baritone) and Shirley Davison (Soprano), conducted by Sally Pudney with Peter Clayton on organ.

April 9th (Easter Sunday)

The Deanery Choir will be singing at St George's church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ, at the 10.30am communion service. They will be singing 'This Joyful Eastertide' a 1894 Easter carol. The words are by George Ratcliffe

Woodward and the tune, from the Netherlands (1624), was harmonised in 1894 by Charles Wood, a truly Joyful work!

April 23rd

The Deanery Choir will be supporting the last service of Revd Margaret Shaw, Rector of St Nicholas Church Harwich. CO12 3DS at 3pm. With all the hymns chosen by Margaret, who retires on this day, the choir will sing 'The call of wisdom' by Will Todd.

This radiant anthem was commissioned as part of the celebrations to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and first performed in 2012 at St Pauls Cathedral by the 'Diamond Choir', formed from young singers across the UK.

The Deanery Choir wish the Revd Margaret Shaw many more years to come in her retirement and thank her for the sterling support she has given to us over the years.

*Graham Bell
Deanery Choir*



2023 dates.

Saturday May 13th 10-12 noon (shared with the Horticultural Group's Spring Sale)

Saturday June 3rd 10-12 noon

Saturday July 29th 10-12 noon

Bank Holiday Monday 28th August - 10-4pm

Saturday September 30th 10--12 noon

Saturday October 28th 10-12 noon

Ardleigh Surgery

Appointments.

We continue to have much strain on appointments, due to high demand and staff illness. At one time we had four clinicians off work, so we do thank you for your patience with us.

We have created more appointments by taking calls directly from reception as they come into us. By doing so we have been able to create six extra appointments a day. We have also put in some telephone appointments for our GP assistant to call you, mainly about about blood test results.

These appointments also appear on your NHS App, even though you may not have booked an appointment. If this happens please do not worry; we will try to call you and if we cannot get hold of you, will send you a text.

Lastly we do ask you to remember to cancel your appointment if you are unable to attend. On Monday 13th March, six appointments were not attended.

Surgery news.

Receptionist Nikki Read will retire at the end of April, thank you for your service. Also one of our dispensing staff has left and we are now trying to recruit a replacement..

Compulsory Surgery Training Days.

The next compulsory Northeast Essex Surgery training afternoon will be on the 26th of April 2023. The surgery will be closed from 12:30hrs and the dispensary from 12:00hrs.

Other dates are

- 18th May 2023
- 28th June 2023
- 25th July 2023
- 22nd August 2023

From The Partners.

From the 1st of April 2023, HRT will be available for £18.70 for a year's prescription. 8% of our patient population are on HRT, and as the cost is now vastly reduced, more patients will now be able to afford this drug. We will strive to provide stock for everyone, but we may have to limit it to 1 - 2 months' supply at a time.

Did you know that ..

GP services are not an emergency service? If you or your loved one is seriously unwell, please call 999 or go to A&E.

If your call is to a GP surgery or 111 and your case is triaged into an urgent band, a call back should take place within two hours.

A second band of call back will take place within six hours, and routine cases will receive a call back within twelve to twenty four hours.

This is why when you call our receptionist and say you have chest pains, they will advise you to call 999 or go to A&E.

Please be aware that if you say you will wait for a GP call back, it may not be for at least two hours.

15/03/2023

Dr Cole and partners.



Dedham Films - Your Community Cinema.

Dedham Films was set up in 2010 to give Dedham residents and those from further afield, a special local cinema experience where they can meet friends, have a glass of something from the bar, and then sit back and enjoy a great film on a large screen, on their doorstep.

Monthly screenings are held in the Assembly Rooms at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of the month. The films selected include everything from blockbusters to foreign, new and old and films our audience didn't even know existed!

Tickets are only £5 and are easily available either online at www.dedhamfilms.co.uk or on the door on the night. Why not come along to this social community activity, see a good film and have a chat with friends old and new without having to leave the village, and do please tell your neighbours about Dedham Films if they do not know about us or are new to the village.

If you want to know what films are coming up just visit the Dedham Films website at www.dedhamfilms.co.uk or see the posters around the village advertising the current month's film. The next two excellent films are Ticket To Paradise and Mrs Harris Goes To Paris.

Help Please. We would welcome anyone who would like to help with the monthly screenings. It is only once a month and just involves helping with the chairs, the bar or the projection equipment and you get to see the film

free. Just come along to the next screening and let us know you are interested.



The Coronation – A Special Free Screening

If you would like to see The Coronation on 6th May on the big screen at the Assembly Rooms then Dedham Films will be screening the BBC coverage throughout the day as a live broadcast free of charge.

You are welcome to join us at any time but please bring your own refreshments. Look out for posters advertising this event nearer the time.



Chelmsford Chronicle - Friday 30 December 1932

DEDHAM - The Wedding took place at the Parish Church on Boxing Day of Mr. Edgar Ernest Attfield, only son of the late Mr. C. and Mrs. C. Attfield, of Nearholme, East Bergholt, with Miss Doris Amelia Appleby, second daughter of Mrs. H. Ellis, of Montrose, Dedham Heath.

The bride was dressed white oyster satin ankle-length gown, trimmed with pearls. She was attended by her sister, Miss Kathleen Appleby, who wore ankle length dress of lupin blue silk taffeta, and her little niece, Miss Phyllis Sage, who was in pale blue crepe de chine.

The page, Master Frank Golden, nephew of the bride, wore a pale blue silk lock-knit suit. The bride carried a sheaf of lilies and ferns, and the bridesmaids bouquets of yellow chrysanthemums and baskets of flowers. Mr. H. Ellis gave his stepdaughter away, and Mr. Eric Sage, her brother-in-law, was best man.

The Vicar, the Rev. F. G. Given-Wilson, performed the ceremony, the service was choral.

Next steps towards a sustainable Dedham.

In the February edition of the Parish Magazine, I outlined some ideas I had about how we could all work towards a more Sustainable Dedham, how we could encourage and support environmental behaviours and policies that can improve the quality of life for us all.

I am pleased to report that I have had some very positive feedback to my ideas and have had discussions with a range of groups in and around the village. There is clearly a consensus that we need to address how we want to see Dedham as a tourist village and attraction in the future, welcoming visitors but at the same time encouraging a more environmentally friendly approach by everyone.

With the Parish Council, I spoke to a grouping of local businesses on the 1st March and there was support from them in developing the idea of a Charter for a Sustainable Dedham that covered matters such as usage of the river, traffic through the village, the pylons issue and perhaps areas such as electric car charging points, dedicated cycle routes and collaborative purchasing policies.

I am planning to continue to have conversations with a range of groups in March and April with the aim of presenting some plans as how best to proceed to the Parish Council. What seems to be emerging is perhaps the formation of two groups, one a Forum of key stakeholders organised in partnership with the Council and Dedham Vale AONB, and the second a grouping of interested individuals to develop an environmental group, that could have close links to similar groups in areas such as Manningtree, Colchester and Bures.

I would welcome your ideas on these suggestions and if you would be interested in being involved in either or both groups. The best way to contact me is d.bourn@ucl.ac.uk

Douglas Bourn

East Anglia Green (EAG) Pylon & undergrounding Proposals – a glimmer of hope.

Following last month's update regarding the fact that the government & National Grid seem to be listening and responding to the concerns of residents, the review by the Electricity Systems Operator (ESO) into alternative options for EAG has now been officially announced.

Timelines are as expected with it due to start imminently and conclude within three months. The ESN Pylons group & Dedham Vale Society will be submitting requirements for the review.

Continuing the theme of major industrialisation surrounding new substations, it was discovered that Tarchon Energy has submitted a request for a license to connect an interconnector from the proposed Ardleigh substation to Germany.

This would obviously be dependent on planning approval and would not be possible at all if Five Estuaries and North Falls Wind Farms connect offshore since this removes the need for the power station in the first place.

Although the ESO review is about to commence, both the EAG 2023 non-statutory consultation and the Stage 2 consultation on the Five Estuaries Project are still planned to go ahead this year. No date, as yet, for the EAG consultation, but Five Estuaries will commence on 14 March and close on 12 May 2023, therefore we need to ensure

we send a consistent message back to both. Specifically, that the ESO review outcome needs to be taken into consideration and that offshore is the answer which minimises impact on East Anglian communities, the environment and cost to the consumer.

A date for the information event in Langham is still to be agreed, but it may fall on the weekend of the 22nd/23rd April.

Recent reports from the Climate Change Committee have shown that, under current plans, by 2035 East Anglia will be producing 5 times what it requires, with the rest being exported elsewhere. London, Southern England, and Wales, however, will only be producing a third of their requirements.

We all need to work towards a sustainable future, but East Anglia and the Dedham Vale AONB should not be bulldozed to facilitate this when there are cheaper, less environmentally impacting, and future proof options such as an offshore grid. Several countries have already fully embraced this approach such as Denmark and just this week I've seen that Ireland have made this it's strategic policy. Let's hope the UK government and National Grid follow suit.

Luke Marshall



Coronation Grants from Dedham Parish Council

On 21st January, Buckingham Palace announced further details on the ceremonial, celebratory and community events that will take place over the Coronation Weekend between Saturday

6th and Monday 8th May 2023. The Coronation Big Lunch, at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together, will take place across the country on the Sunday.

The Coronation Big Lunch

The actual announcement stated the following:

“Neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches on Sunday 7th May 2023, in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship.

From a cup of tea with a neighbour to a street party, a Coronation Big Lunch brings the celebrations to your neighbourhood and is a great way to get to know your community a little better.

Free downloadable resources will also be made available online by the Big Lunch team at CoronationBigLunch.com, to help people and communities start their Coronation Big Lunch planning”

Dedham Parish Council do not plan to arrange a large community event but we do want to encourage residents to get together to celebrate in their own way to mark this historic occasion and are prepared to help with coronation grants if appropriate.

If you have any ideas for the Coronation Big Lunch to celebrate with your neighbours or local group which helps to bring the community together for this national celebration and would benefit from a degree of financial assistance, then please apply as soon as possible with details of your plans and how we might assist you.

Email the Clerk at:
clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk
so it can be considered further.

*Jonathan Smith - Chairman
Dedham Parish Council*

Hurrah for Spectacular Hortensia!

Well, what a March it's been. One of the jobs for April was going to be "protect fruit blossom from late frosts" but frankly I'll be amazed if March's weather hasn't put an end to any early spring blossom and – as a result – the potential for fruit to come. Luckily, one thing I can enjoy this month are the tender pink stems of my forced rhubarb; yum.

1st March may mark the start of meteorological spring, but you and I know that the season doesn't really get going until this month when the clocks have changed, the days are noticeably longer and the ground is warming up. April also means tulip-time (it's a proper thing, honest) and – as much as I've been enjoying the colour-pops of yellow daffodils through March – I love the rich range of colour that tulips bring more.



But on to the work. I've never had much luck with hydrangeas, even though their earlier name, Hortensia, suggests to me that any home is much the poorer without one. And they're certainly spectacular. If you're not familiar, there are several kinds and early April is a good time to prune the lacecap and mophead cultivars of *Hydrangea Macrophylla*. *Macrophylla* flower on the previous



year's growth and it's best to leave cutting back until this point in the year. As well as looking nice when frosted over winter, leaving the old flowers until spring will help protect stems and new buds. This month though, you can carefully cut off the old flowerheads just above a pair of buds. You can also remove any weak stems, and maybe a couple of the very oldest, to make room for new growth from the base.

This is also a good month to direct sow the seeds of hardy annuals like sunflowers, nigella and nasturtiums, calendula, Californian poppies and cornflowers. It's probably a good job that they're hardy in case April or May brings more cold weather. We all know it's not beyond the realms of possibility.

Just sow seeds straight into the ground on a dry day. Rake your soil to a fine texture first which will help the seedlings break through and reach the light. Make sure you remove weeds as they usually grow faster and will compete with the plants you actually want. If you sow in straight lines – while it won't look very natural – it will be easy to see anything that grows outside the lines and is therefore likely a weed seedling. Water the seeds in well with a fine rose on your watering can, so you don't wash the seeds all over the place.

Elsewhere in the garden, look for fresh new buds on slightly tender plants like penstemons and lavender. Ideally the buds will be as low down on the plant as possible to keep the plants from getting straggly. The advice now seems to be to prune these plants in spring instead of autumn, once the weather and temperatures have improved. I still trim the flower stalks back in August but save the reshaping prune until now. You can treat sage and rosemary the same.

Our plant sale is on Saturday morning, 13 May, outside Dedham church (mark the date in your diary now!) and we always welcome any spare plants you don't need.

Now is a great time to make new plants (for you or us) by dividing perennials like lemon balm and chives, hostas, asters and daylilies. You might need a sharp knife, two forks, a sharp spade or saw to do it (this is often not delicate work), but just make sure that each division has roots and shoots. Dividing plants also refreshes older plants, helping them grow away more strongly.



Finally, we can still mulch beds and borders now and it will help keep in the moisture from wet March. This could be especially important around rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias which will suffer bud drop if they get too dry over summer. My camellias have definitely been affected by last year's hot, dry weather as flowering isn't anything like as spectacular as normal. I'll make sure to use an ericaceous feed on these plants, as well as on the blueberries I grow in pots to give everything a boost this year. With spring definitely well underway now, I hope you're looking forward to extra time in the garden.

Elliott Frisby



Scan this QR code to access our website, www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com





*Pick up a book, take a look
At the cover and the blurb.
If you like it, dive inside it
Lose yourself in every word.
We'll turn the telly off
And find a cosy little nook
Where you can sit for a bit
And read a book!*

(©Egdy Productions Ltd 2022)

These were the lyrics to the chorus of the song that the KS2 Choir learned and performed to the rest of the school during our World Book Day celebrations at the beginning of March. If you'd like a listen, please visit shorturl.at/dIVY4 and the choir hopes that you enjoy it!

We didn't limit the fancy dress to a particular theme this year and so we had a huge range of costumes and books represented! It was wonderful to not only see traditional and well-known characters such as Alice and Wonderland and Harry Potter, but also characters



from some fantastic modern fiction such as a Smed and a Smoo (from Julia Donaldson's *The Smeds and the Smoos*), Darkus (from MG Leonard's *Beetle Boy*) and a runaway lobster (from Serena Patel's *Anisha Accidental Detective*)!



At the end of the afternoon, the children enjoyed working together to complete the annual Book Day treasure hunt. By answering questions about stories and solving riddles to find the next clues, children could earn their



World Book token to exchange for a book in local shops and supermarkets.

In school, we are currently investing in class sets of books so that each half term, all children are able to have their own copy of the class book to read during lessons. Children's writing is then inspired by the stories which they have read and enjoyed together. Currently in KS2, classes are reading *The Lost Whale* by Hannah Gold, *The Miraculous Journey* of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo, *Brightstorm* by Vashti Hardy and *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo.

*Miss Laura Valentine
Deputy Headteacher*

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DEDHAM PARENT GROUP

Wine Tasting

£25
Per Person

FRIDAY 19TH MAY
SKYLARK VINEYARD
ARRIVE 18.30 FOR 19.00 START

Includes 4 glasses of wine & sharing platters

BOOK VIA EMAIL
DEDHAMPG@GMAIL.COM

Warm space in the Duchy Barn.



Whilst we are hoping that the need for warm spaces will diminish (along with our heating bills!) in the coming weeks winter can still have a sting in its tail so don't forget that the Duchy Barn is open every Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10.30-12 noon where a warm welcome awaits with coffee, tea and biscuits available.

The Barn is a good place for a warm up and an opportunity for a chat and to browse through the large collection of books and magazines.

The Watercolour Painting group meets most Monday mornings at the same time as the coffee mornings and people are welcome to drop in there too - best to check on 01206 322565 beforehand just to make sure the group is meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

Colin Biggins

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2 – 4.15 pm

Assembly Rooms, Dedham

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non-members: £1

Children to be accompanied by an adult

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The next meeting of Dedham Parish Council will take place on Monday 3rd April 2023 at 6:30pm in the Duchy Barn. The

Agenda for the Parish Council meeting always includes an open session - Have Your Say and visitors reports (CBC and County Councillors).

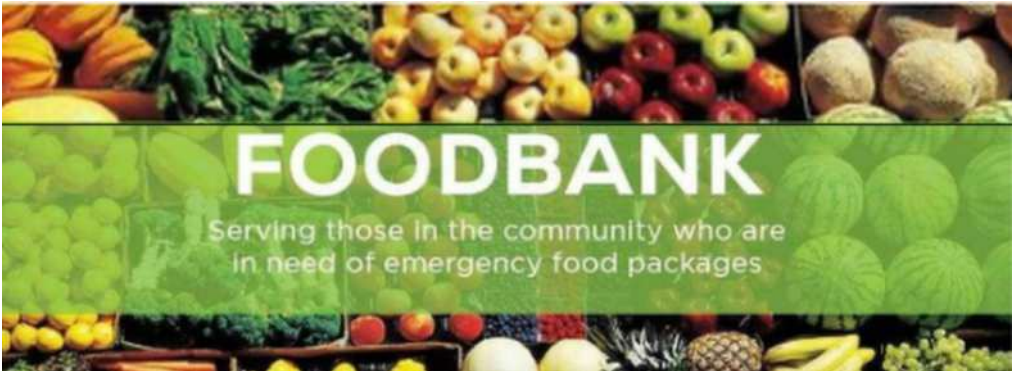
Questions may not be answered at the meeting but may go on to the next agenda. A maximum of 3 minutes per person/group to make representations to the Parish Council, a total of 15 minutes.

The agenda can be viewed on the homepage of the Parish Council website.

Just scan this QR code on your phone to access the Parish Council website dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

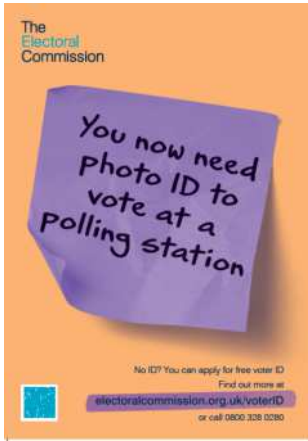


NEWSPAPERS



The Food Bank in the porch of Dedham Church continues to be blessed with the generosity of donations and our Food Bank transport volunteers have recently taken a sizeable donation to the Colchester Food Bank, this after local people have had the opportunity to take items according to their needs. We are hugely grateful for the continued generosity of donors, and to encourage the newer ones among you, we should point out that all gifts should be non perishable and in moisture proof packaging. Our porch is open to the elements, as well as to creatures other than humans!

Vee Drutt, Churchwarden



The Electoral Commission

Voter ID: A summary

On Thursday 4 May 2023, local elections are taking place across 230 councils in England. At these elections, you will need to bring photo ID to be able to vote at a polling station. A wide range of photo ID will be accepted, including passports, driving licences and cards with a PASS Mark.

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

Visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID, call 0800 328 0280, or scan the QR code. This will enable you to find out more.



- Whether elections are taking place in your area in May
- The full list of accepted forms of photo ID
- How to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (if you need one)
- What will happen at the polling station.



THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR


Friday 8th December 2023

This year the Friends have managed to obtain seats for the popular Thursford Christmas Spectacular held at the Thursford Collection near Fakenham.

The coach will leave Royal Square, Dedham at 8.00 am and will travel to the delightful small town of Holt where you will have some free time to shop, dine and wine at your pleasure. There are a variety of restaurants, pubs and cafes for you to choose from at your own expense.


The coach will leave Holt at 13.00 to take us to Thursford for the performance. We will leave Thursford at approximately 5.30 pm and will travel back through Holt to see the famous Christmas lights. We will arrive back in Dedham at approximately 7.30 pm.

The cost of the trip will be £70 per person for members and £75 for non-members, this includes a top priced seat. If you would like to attend please contact Maria Johnston, Highlands, Coles Oak Lane, Dedham, CO7 6DR.



Colchester Branch Proudly Presents

HISTORIC CASES & SCANDALS – A judicial perspective.
An evening with Sir Alistair MacDuff, Retired Judge of the High Court.



Sir Alistair MacDuff

"Just the right balance of comment & humour"

"Left us clapping for hours"

After a successful career as a barrister practising in London, Sir Alistair MacDuff was appointed to the Circuit Bench in 1997, he was made a High Court Judge in 2008 and given the customary lengthhood. He retired from the Bench in 2015, since when he has become a regular visiting speaker on Silvernet Cruisers as well as a sought-after speaker on the after dinner circuit.

Dedham Assembly Rooms
Friday 28 April 2023 7pm for 7.30pm
Tickets £15.00 to include a glass of wine & canapes
Call 07795 909471 for tickets.



Dedham Art Society Open Call for Artists (North Essex & South Suffolk)

An opportunity for artists from Dedham and surrounding villages to participate in the Dedham Art Society 2024 programme.

We are looking for all types of artists and expertise to expand our 2024 programme at The Assembly Rooms, Dedham. By leading a painting & drawing workshop (all mediums), demo or providing an art related talk.

For more information about us visit www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk

If you have any ideas on a session that you could lead or questions regarding our 2024 programme, please email the dedhamartsociety@gmail.com by 30th April 2023, using 'Open Call' in the subject line.

Colchester Committee for Cancer Research UK.

The annual CRUK Quiz was held on 18 February at the Assembly Rooms. The event was a sell out with 19 teams. It was a lively evening with our Quiz Director Jan Derbyshire superbly directing the teams through the questions, picture quiz and brain teasers. £2,100 was raised for Cancer Research – A huge thank you to all who helped raise this considerable amount!

Our next event is on Friday 28 April when Sir Alistair MacDuff, Retired High Court Judge returns to Dedham for an evening of **“Historic Cases & Scandals – A judicial perspective”** Tickets £15 to include glass of wine & canapes. At the talk you will be given insights into Oscar Wilde, Alan Turing and some Royal scandals. For tickets call 07795909471.

Holiday Inn, Birchwood. Asylum Seekers

Do you have any items of nearly new men's clothing such as jeans, tops or trainers in good condition, that you would be willing to donate ?

If yes, please take them to the Holiday Inn at Birchwood where they will be much appreciated. Many thanks for your support .



Walk Pier to Pier for St Helena Hospice this May

St Helena Hospice's popular sponsored walk is returning on Sunday 14th May 2022 and the local charity is urging people to sign up to help ensure more patients and families facing incurable illness and bereavement can receive the support they desperately need.



The scenic walk starts from either Clacton or Walton Pier and participants can choose to walk the 7 miles between the two piers or challenge themselves to make the return journey – 14 miles in all!

Lisa Chenery, St Helena Hospice fundraiser, said: "We are so excited to launch everyone's favourite event, Pier to Pier! Last year over 500 people joined us on the beautiful Essex coast to walk for their local hospice and this year we hope to see even more. Registration is just £5 for adults and children over 5, with under 5's and furry friends walking for free. Sign up now at www.sthelenahospice.org.uk/piertopier.

St Helena Hospice's Pier to Pier walk has kindly been sponsored by Pickering Electronics Ltd.

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requiem

Friday 7th April 2023

6.30pm

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We have over 40 interest groups including walking – from strollers to 5+ milers – theatre, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, science group, keep fit, pickleball there's something for everyone.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, East Bergholt.

Our monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday at 2pm in the Constable Hall, East Bergholt. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4.

12th April. Mark Carroll will be talking on “DNA and Family History”.

10th May. Paula Short will tell us about her travels in Vietnam.

14th June. There will be a talk on the Commonwealth War Graves.

Please take a look at our website www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley for more information and contact details.

Dedham Horticultural Society

SATURDAY 13 MAY ANNUAL PLANT SALE in front of the church 9.00 am till about 11.30 am.

Joining us as usual will be Mission Bake with their cake stall. Come along early with anything we can sell and, hopefully, you can take a bargain or two home with you.

Dedham Art Society

Guests and visitors are welcome to attend our sessions in the Assembly Rooms. If you are considering joining the society and would like to try out one of our sessions in our programme, your first 'taster' visit is free. Beginners welcome. If you require any information about our activities or joining the Dedham Art Society please contact us by email or visit our website, see below.

Thursday 13th April.

Painting outside in Woodbridge. Meet at 10.30am in Woodbridge. We plan to spend the day painting at Woodbridge. Accessible by train with lots of scenes to paint as well as cafes and galleries to visit.

Members and guests welcome

Thursday 27th April 1.30pm - 4.30pm at the Assembly Rooms and in Dedham village.



Half day workshop with Wil Harvey
This is a pen and ink sketching workshop led by Wil Harvey.

Booking and prepayment in advance will apply for this session: £5 for members, £10 for guests and non-members.

Full details and changes to the programme are published on our website at <https://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk/> programme or contact us by email at dedhamartsociety@gmail.com

*Non - Members, please phone 07872 334729 to book



TICKET TO PARADISE Directed by Ol Parker (12A) (2022)
 Wednesday, April 19, 2023
 7:30 PM 10:00 PM

Academy Award winners George Clooney and Julia Roberts reunite on the big screen as exes who find themselves on a shared mission to stop their lovestruck daughter from making the same mistake they once made.

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

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Please join our Facebook Page and feel free to message us with any queries 'Dedham Baby & Toddler Group'



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- FRI 14** WINE TASTING
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- FRI 21** WINE TASTING
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- SAT 22** DUKES SEAFOOD
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR EVENTS SCHEDULE AND BOOKINGS



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