



# DEDHAM Parish Magazine



# February 2024



# Dedham Parish Magazine

First Published in 1876

February 2024

## DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

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## DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

**The deadline for March magazine entries is the 10th of February.**

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Cover Photo - John Goldsbrough

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

### 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: Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598.**

***If you would like a lift to church contact Sharon Sarson Tel: 07876114418***

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 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, 4<sup>th</sup> February**

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

Ardleigh  
 Ardleigh  
 Dedham\*  
 Dedham\*

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30am Morning Prayer  
 11.00am Holy Communion

Ardleigh  
 Dedham\*

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February**

7.00pm Ash Wednesday Service Ardleigh

**Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30am Holy Communion  
 9.30am Morning Praise  
 5.00pm ReVive@5

Ardleigh  
 Dedham\*  
 Dedham\*

**Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30am Morning Prayer  
 9.30am Holy Communion

Ardleigh  
 Dedham\*

\* = 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**

 **YouTube** Our services are on  
 YouTube. Search Dedham and  
 Ardleigh Parishes.

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

Dedham and Ardleigh  
 parishes website - QR code



**Living Stones Prayer Group:** every 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month: 6.25pm  
 Ardleigh Church

**Ardleigh Friendship and Craft Group:**  
 every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month:  
 10am to 12 noon in Ardleigh Church

**Little Steps Pre-School Group:** every  
 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month:  
 1.00-3.00pm in Ardleigh Church.

**Men's Breakfast - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
 9am - venue tbc. For bacon butties, tea,  
 coffee and chat.

**Monday Lunch Club – Monday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
 February 12.30pm, **Essex Tea Rooms.**  
 Phone 322192 to reserve a place  
 indicating it is for the Lunch Club.

**Walk and Talk - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**  
 10am - Meet at Dedham Arts Centre at  
 10am for a walk or 11am for a chat

**FROM THE REGISTERS.**

Funerals details:

20<sup>th</sup> November, Interment of ashes for  
 John and Jenny Creswell

11<sup>th</sup> December, Funeral for Shirley  
 Marsham

*Opinions expressed in contributed  
 articles are those of the contributor and  
 do not necessarily represent the  
 position or opinions of the PCC or the  
 Editorial team.*



# 2024

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Friends

I am writing this in early January when there has been the usual promises of making New Year Resolutions mentioned in conversations. There have been aspirations to be more healthy, less lazy, more generous and so on but a theme I noticed has been to 'try one small thing'.

Rather than promise radical change, we ought to be more realistic and promise to make changes, small steps at a time. If you made any resolutions this year, I wonder how they are going... Preaching at the last Sunday service of 2023, the Venerable Ruth Patten, Archdeacon of Colchester, encouraged us to consider new beginnings rather than to make New Year Resolutions.

Considering a 'New Beginning' doesn't ignore what has happened in the past – the past cannot be changed. But a new beginning does offer hope and the opportunity for change and transformation. It avoids the guilt of failed resolutions and opens the way for small steps in a new direction. Small steps can then grow into extravagant strides as we gain confidence with each little victory.

There are many issues and challenges that face us individually and as a world. Each can seem immense and

insurmountable – like climate change, wars, inflation and so on. We cannot change these things all by ourselves, but we can make small changes in our lifestyles that will help and that, collectively, can make a huge difference.

This month sees the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday on 14 February. For Christians, this marks the journey to Easter with time for reflection and repentance for all our failed attempts at living the way we ought to. Jesus, who we have just celebrated as 'God with us' at Christmas, is God's ultimate gift of a new start to the world and to us. Easter is the greatest new beginning offered by Jesus in his Easter Resurrection. In John's Gospel it says Jesus came not to condemn but to save the world through him (John 3:17).

As the year unfolds, let us resolve to make new beginnings; small steps of change, to live better and more prudently with our resources and to be more compassionate and caring in our attitudes. With God's good grace who knows what transformations and new opportunities may arise.

*With every blessing for 2024*  
*Rev'd John Saxon*



## THANK YOU FROM DEDHAM CHURCHWARDENS.

We have received many wonderful comments from those visiting our beautiful Church over Christmas and New Year. Whether a comment came from one of the 1159 attendees at one or more of our services or from one of the many people who call in for a quiet and prayerful visit, such comments were full of praise for the beauty of our church which was greatly enhanced by the outstanding decorations for Christmas.

People were appreciative of the warm welcome that they received, the special and seasonal music and singing and the overall feeling of celebration in our church.

Thanks to all of you who contributed in any way at all to the care needed to keep St Mary's looking pristine for all and for your contribution towards making St Mary's such a special place this Christmas. Our thanks also go to Hunnaball Funeral Directors for once more donating the fabulous Christmas Tree.

*Vee Druitt*

## FROM THE EDITOR.

The Dedham Parish Magazine team (John, Sara, Liz and Sarah) would like to wish all our readers a Happy New Year. The magazine had a good year in 2023, with lots of interesting articles, informative local updates and useful adverts.

We would thank everyone who made contributions during 2023 and are now looking for interesting contributions for 2024.

We are always looking for ways to improve the magazine and with that in mind we are introducing a village calendar page summarising the months events in one place.

Just contact the editor if you have an event that you would like to appear in the calendar page. There will be a regular monthly Parish Council update from one of the Parish Councillors. Our readers enjoy articles about village life in days gone by, so if you have any stories or photographs that you would like to share, please contact us.

The British Newspaper archive has a large number of press reports on Dedham going back to the early Nineteenth Century so we will look for more interesting items to share with you.

Last year saw the magazine published in Flipbook format which is an online format and copies can be found on the Church website and the Parish Council website. Usually they are viewed at least 100 times however our May 2023 issue about the Coronation of King Charles III attracted more than 400 views.

Remember the cut-off date for submitting articles for publication is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the month of publication, we would love to hear from you via [dedhameditor@gmail.com](mailto:dedhameditor@gmail.com).

*John Goldsbrough*

## ORGAN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Now we are in 2024 it is appropriate to briefly look back on what has been achieved since the project began in July 2022 but perhaps more importantly to look forward and see what it is planned to achieve in 2024.

A concert given by the Kelvedon Singers was the formal start of the project and it was at that event that a massive anonymous donation gave the financial side of the project real impetus.

Since that time many individuals, local and national Charities and some local Companies have kindly made donations and there have also been several concerts together with various fund-raising events, most notably a 24 hour "Organathon" over the 2022 August Bank Holiday weekend. These have all contributed to a total of £288,419 having been raised by the end of 2023 towards the overall cost of £300,000 that has been budgeted for the project.

Other key events in the last 18 months were as follows:

- A Faculty (Church planning permission) was applied for and approved, application to Historic England and contracts with Nicholson & Co were signed
- Visit from the Diocesan Organ Advisor who supported the planned project
- The organ and console which will be installed in Dedham Church was removed from its home in the Harvest Church (formerly Mossspark Parish Church) in Glasgow and moved into storage in Kidderminster

- Pipes have been removed from storage for cleaning and, where necessary, repair and design and construction started on new chests and soundboards
- Detailed measurements of the existing organ loft were taken and the design of how the new organ will fit into the space available ongoing
- Information boards have been displayed in Church and regularly updated as progress has been made
- Claims for repayment of VAT under the Government Listed Places of Worship Scheme and Gift Aid on donations were made and have been received.

The original plan was for the existing organ to be removed in the autumn of 2024, with the renovated 1902 Binns organ being installed and ready for use by mid-2025. In December 2023 Nicholson & Co contacted the Church to ask if the programme could be accelerated as they really needed the organ loft to be empty to take very detailed and precise measurements that were impossible with the existing organ in place.

In addition, extensive delays in the restorations of the buildings at Leeds and Manchester Town Halls, where Nicholson & Co are also working, has meant that they could now install our new organ by the end of November 2024, so in time for the myriad of services that we have leading up to and over the Christmas period.



St Mary's kept going through the pandemic and the Interregnum, and has now moved forward creating new opportunities, like the recent establishment of Junior Church, and the ongoing work to appoint a Children and Families Worker.

There is another aspect of "Giving" that is vitally important, and that is the gift of TIME. Volunteers are the bedrock of our Church when it comes to the organising and support of everything that goes on during the course of the year.

We are very lucky to have so many enthusiastic people who give freely of their time, as well as those who give money, or even goods for the Food Bank. Giving of all kinds is so important to the successful running and upkeep of our church.

Even our Government, surprisingly likes Giving. All the donations we receive from UK Taxpayers are eligible to a 25% Gift Aid charitable grant.

Hopefully, I may have convinced you that Giving, in whatever way, large or small, is rewarding, and appreciated.

So, a thank you to all those who are continuing their Giving, in any way possible during 2024, and a special thank you for all those who have already responded to the Rev. Phillip's Pledge initiative.

And finally, we look forward to warmly welcoming new "Givers" who wish to contribute in any form to the future success of St Mary's Dedham.

*John Reed*  
Treasurer

Forms for Gift Aid Giving are in the Church, or can be obtained by a form request to [stmarydafinance@gmail.com](mailto:stmarydafinance@gmail.com)

## BOOK SWAP

The book swap has been going well and Sue McKinney is kindly giving her support and help with it.

We hope you enjoyed the Advent books which were put out; some to borrow or swap, and others free to take and enjoy.

Soon we plan to put out a different set of books and are grateful for recent contributions.

May we please ask that if you see a name in the front of the book would you make sure that after you have read it, you would return it to the Book Swap or to the person concerned.

Your contributions are always valued, but we are trying to use books that are in good condition and up to date and which would also encourage each other to grow in faith through their Christian message.

*Thanks everyone Liz Reed  
and Sue McKinney*

## BIBLE VERSE COMMENTARY

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the place where I am going."*

John 14 : verses 1-4

I have read these verses twice at the funerals of very dear friends and they give great consolation to the loss of loved ones. Jesus speaks these words to his disciples at the end of the last supper, reassuring them that they will be with him again after he leaves them. It is a promise and words of comfort to his disciples and we too can take comfort from them.

*Jill Strangward*



**Junior Church**  
Bible, games and fun!

Junior Church is our children's group for 3-10 year olds during the usual Sunday service in Dedham.

With games, crafts, Bible stories and snacks, we always have lots of fun!

Please contact Louise Young  
youngle@cantab.net for further details.

All are welcome!



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

## February 11<sup>th</sup>

The Deanery choir will be singing at St Georges Church, Great Bromley, CO7 7HZ at the 11.00am service. The choir will sing a version of Ubi Caritas by Ola Gjeilo. In his undergraduate career, Gjeilo studied at the Norwegian Academy of Music and transferred to the Juilliard School. He studied at the Royal College of Music, London, and received a bachelor's degree in composition.

## March 29<sup>th</sup>

GOOD FRIDAY - Advance notice. The Deanery choir will be performing John Rutter's 'Requiem' at 6.30pm at St Marys Church, Little Bentley. More details will follow in the next publication.

*Graham Bell, Deanery Choir*

## MISSIONS BAKE SALES



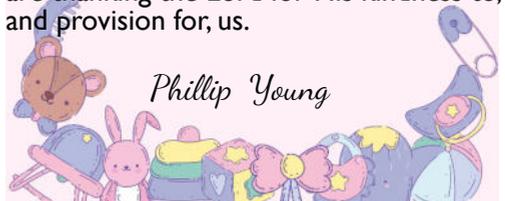
The dates for the Mission Stall are as follows:

- 11<sup>th</sup> May 10am to 12noon (shared with the Horticulture Society)
- 29<sup>th</sup> June 10am to 12noon
- 27<sup>th</sup> July 10am to 12noon
- 26<sup>th</sup> August Bank Holiday Monday 10am to 4pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> September 10am to 12noon
- 26<sup>th</sup> October 10am to 12 noon

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Louise and I are delighted to share news of the birth of a daughter, Beatrice Ruth Ann (Bizzy), weighing 7lbs 5ozs, on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 14:22 at Colchester General Hospital. Mother and daughter are in good health and we are thanking the Lord for His kindness to, and provision for, us.

*Phillip Young*





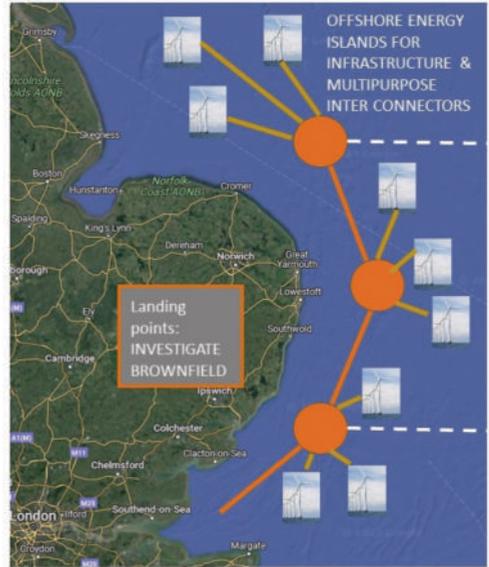
## ESSEX SUFFOLK NORFOLK PYLONS UPDATE

- **New year, new phase in the offshore grid campaign.**

Our campaign petition call is: 'say no to pylons and say yes to an offshore grid'. And you may have seen or heard us say that an offshore grid is better, faster and cheaper. Why is that?

Put very simply, by integrating the grid infrastructure offshore and pooling the electricity, you reduce the overall infrastructure required by 50%. That makes far more sense than the dreadful 'piecemeal' approach employed by National Grid, in which each wind farm and interconnector is offered a separate onshore connection (miles inland). An offshore grid would be faster to implement because there would be fewer planning applications and fewer angry locals to contend with.

This is what we are arguing for - keep the power offshore for as long as possible, pool it and bring it onshore at fewer, consolidated brownfield sites:



- **At long last, the ESO review!**

National Grid Electricity Systems Operator (ESO) is at long last carrying out its review. Several of us from the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons campaign group have attended their round tables. ESO is fully independent from NG Electricity Transmission (the one wanting to build pylons).

The formal remit of ESO's review is much too narrow. It is only looking at scenarios involving Norwich to Tilbury Pylons, Sea Link, North Falls and Five Estuaries. The reason for this is that Government's Offshore Coordination Support announcement only included the latter three.

It is far from ideal because the offshore benefits we cite above come from maximum integration, not from cherry picking. Yes, we want Five Estuaries and North Falls connecting offshore but as part of the big picture.

One key omission in the very limited OCSS area is Tarchon, an interconnector offered a connection at Ardleigh. For as long as Tarchon connects there, the pylons project remains alive and kicking. Our argument for some time has been that Tarchon should connect further south at a brownfield landing point and that Five Estuaries and North Falls should connect into Tarchon.

Aside from Tarchon, the OCSS and ESO review ignore the other twelve or so wind farms and interconnectors in planning in the North Sea. These need to be integrated.

Informally, we have been told by ESO that they are in fact also analysing our offshore grid proposal. That sounds like great news and we are seeking more information.

- **Final pylons consultation**

In the meantime, we know that NG ET will launch its final pylons consultation as soon as it can after the ESO review. That ends 9 March. So, we are busy getting prepared for that...

If you would like to donate, now is a great time to do so, as we're bringing on board landscape, environmental and heritage expertise to supplement our excellent barrister's knowledge.

- **Fundraising - Pylons East Anglia**

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website (or sign up there for our emails). Thank you to all those of you who support our campaign.

*Rosie Pearson*

Pylons East Anglia website  
QR Code



## FLOODING IN DEDHAM

*The British  
NEWSPAPER  
Archive*

**Suffolk and Essex Free Press  
1<sup>st</sup> March 1893**

DEDHAM. Heavy Floods. The continuous rains have caused the brooks to overflow. About 7.30p.m. Tuesday a dam burst, with the result that a large volume of water was discharged into Brook Street. The low-lying cottages, occupied by Msrs Blyth, Summerson, Dent, and Mrs. May were immediately flooded, in some cases to depth of two feet, causing furniture, etc, to float about, and doing much damage. It is 30 years since such an occurrence has happened here. The new Grammar School opposite was also flooded to a depth of several inches. The Stour has also overflowed the meadows very considerably.

**East Anglian Daily Times  
1<sup>st</sup> March 1916.**

FLOODS IN THE STOUR VALLEY - PIGS DROWNED AT DEDHAM. As a result of the heavy fall of snow of last week, followed by rapid thaw and the many hours' rainfall during Monday night, the brooks in the Dedham locality have become swirling torrents, flooding the meadows on each side, The thoroughfare leading from Crown Street, via Southfields and The Drift, is quite impassable to pedestrians, whilst Brook Street is covered with water. On Tuesday morning it was found that 21 young pigs, belonging to Mr. Saunders, had been drowned in the barn in the meadow opposite Hallfields, and it was only in the nick of time that two sows were rescued.



## Notes on the Parish Council December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The main focus of the meeting was on agreeing the budget for the following year. It was noted that there was still a healthy surplus in the current financial year. This was due to capital projects that had not yet been agreed or commenced. It was also noted that the proposed increase in income from the parish precept is less than current rate of inflation.

## Elections for the Council in 2024

There will be elections for the Parish Council in May 2024. Further details to follow.

## Dedham Christmas Lunch on January 6<sup>th</sup>

A grant towards this event was agreed, but it was felt that, in future, consideration needs to be given to greater publicity about it.

## Dedham as a Rural Parish

It was agreed to the proposal to designate Dedham as a rural parish. It was felt this would help to give some protection to the village in terms of possible development.

## Petalog Lodge In Boxhouse Lane

The developments at this residence have been an ongoing concern for the Council. It was noted that Councillor Rowe from Colchester City Council has asked the proposed developments to be 'called in'.

This means no progress can be made until it is discussed by the relevant City Council committee.

## Pylons Update

It was noted that Colchester City Council wished to have meetings with local residents about the impact of the proposed pylons on the area.

## Royal Square Update

The consultation process is still taking place. An independent person has been appointed to analyse the consultation replies..

## Parish Council Facebook page

It was agreed that the Council would have its own Facebook page to keep the village informed of developments that occur between monthly updates appearing in the Parish Magazine.

## Resignation of Clerk

It was noted that the current Clerk Carol Harbach had handed in her resignation. She was thanked for her excellent work and that Grahame Walkingshaw had been appointed, initially on a temporary basis.

## Notes on the Parish Council January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Grahame Walkingshaw was welcomed to his first meeting as Clerk to the Council and his appointment as Clerk confirmed.

## Friendly Bench Idea

It was agreed to investigate further the possibility of having a friendly bench along lines outlined by the Friendly Bench network with the Council agreeing to visit existing one in Ipswich and report back.

## Dedham Therapy Farm

A series of ideas were submitted to the Council for supporting the Therapy Farm following a meeting by the Sustainable Dedham group. There was general agreement that the Therapy Farm was providing an important service. It was noted that any financial support from the Council needed to be linked to direct benefit to the village. It was agreed that members of the Council would visit the Therapy Farm to discuss further and to come back with more detailed plans.

## Royal Square Update

The Parish Council has received 210 returns from the consultation process on the Royal Square. These returns will now be sent to an independent company to produce results based on the findings. The results will be discussed at a Parish Council meeting once completed.

## Social Media

The Parish Council welcomed the launch of Dedham Notes, the Facebook page for Dedham Parish Council. It was noted that the role of these pages was to provide information only, the page will not be a discussion forum. Councillors will be able to submit material on the page as long as it is just information.

## Traffic & Highways

It was noted that there was some progress with several issues with Essex Highways concerning traffic and speeding through the village. It was noted that four TruCAM speed camera sites, had now been approved. There was also concern about the state of the pavements on Grove Hill. It was also noted that Dedham may be chosen as a trial location for Essex's '20's Plenty' Speed Campaign. The Parish Council will be represented at the next meeting of the Local Highways Panel at which these

matters will be raised.

In taking forward Dedham Parish Council's support for the '20 is Plenty' campaign, it was agreed to purchase stickers for local residents to put on their bins or other appropriate places.

## Re-opening of the Dedham Youth Club

The Council welcomed the interest in re-starting Dedham Youth Club and it was noted they may well need financial support from the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed in principle that they could help support the Youth Club but required further information on this in advance of any commitment and would require a detailed plan of the new Dedham Youth Club.

*Douglas Bourn*

## The next meeting of Dedham Parish Council.

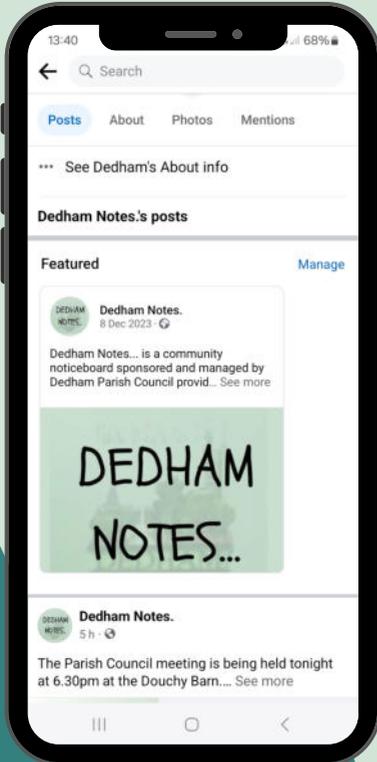
This will take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 6:30pm in the Duchy Barn.

The Agenda for the Parish Council meeting always includes an open session - Have Your Say and visitors reports (CCC and County Councillors). The agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting can be viewed on the homepage of the Parish Council website.

[dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk)  
QR Code



# COME JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!



**Did you know the DPC are sponsoring a Parish Facebook page?**

**The page will provide relevant information for Dedham residents, it will feed in information from other relevant FB pages so that all information will be in one place.**

**The page will allow local clubs, places of interest and event organisers to advertise.**

**The page will run in conjunction with the Parish Magazine and the DPC website.**

**The page will NOT be a discussion forum.**

So if you wish to advise residents of a new hazard in the village or advertise a club or event please email:

[Clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:Clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk)

To visit, follow or like our facebook page scan the QR code or search for facebook.com/DedhamNotes



[dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk)



Here is one of the winning entries to last year's Dedham Primary School's anti-speeding poster campaign sponsored by Dedham Parish Council. We are looking forward to this year's competition which we hope will be even bigger and better.



**CANCER RESEARCH UK**

**COLCHESTER LOCAL COMMITTEE OF CANCER RESEARCH UK CELEBRATE RAISING £45,000**

We are incredibly proud of our fund raising achievement with the help of local people! Most of our well supported events are held in Dedham where most of the committee live and in the surrounding villages. If you would like to join us having fun and raising money for CRUK please get in touch!

We have a busy year coming up:- Who wants to be a Millionaire "Style" Quiz Night on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024. Tickets £15 pp inc Fish & Chip Supper, teams of 6, in the Assembly Rooms. A Forensic Talk, "Blood Sweat & Fears" by Mary Newton, a recently retired Forensic Biologist on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April in the Assembly Rooms. Please phone 0779590947 for tickets.

*Marion Livermore*



A Colchester fundraising group is celebrating raising £45,000 for Cancer Research UK in the last year. The Colchester Local Committee began

fundraising for the charity's life-saving work in 1962. The £45,000 was raised through a variety of events, including a Race Night, Quiz, Christmas Wreath-Making and their annual Summer Ball, as well as In Memoriam donations from funeral directors in the local area.

Jill Davies, Chair of Colchester Local Committee said: "One in two of us will be diagnosed with cancer in our lifetime, but all of us can support the research that will beat it. I would like to thank the people in Colchester for their generosity."

They've always supported our fundraising activities and are the main reason that we have been so successful in raising this amazing sum.

So many of us have been affected by this devastating disease and it's this that keeps the committee going. "In the last 50 years, Cancer Research UK has helped double cancer survival in the UK - for us, there's no greater motivation than knowing you're helping to save lives."

Thanks to research, more people than ever are surviving their cancer for ten years or more. Together with its supporters, Cancer Research UK is working towards a world where everybody can live longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.

The charity's fundraising spokesperson for Colchester, Gill Burgess, said:

"We're fighting over 200 types of cancer and for the last 62 years the unwavering dedication of the Colchester Local Committee has helped drive forward research that is unlocking new and better ways to beat it.

Every day we see the benefits of work the charity has previously funded being realised, with new clinical trials opening and breakthroughs being reported. We would like to say a heartfelt and sincere thank you to the

Colchester Local Committee for the incredible part they have played in our progress.”

For over 120 years, Cancer Research UK has been at the forefront of cancer research. From proving the link between tobacco and cancer to being a key player in the development of radiotherapy, the charity's discoveries have saved countless lives and benefit millions of people around the world each year.

## About Cancer Research UK

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research, influence and information.

Cancer Research UK's pioneering work into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer has helped save millions of lives.

Cancer Research UK has been at the heart of the progress that has already seen survival in the UK double in the last 50 years.

Today, 2 in 4 people survive their cancer for at least 10 years. Cancer Research UK wants to accelerate progress and see 3 in 4 people surviving their cancer by 2034.

Cancer Research UK supports research into the prevention and treatment of cancer through the work of over 4,000 scientists, doctors and nurses.

Together with its partners and supporters, Cancer Research UK is working towards a world where people can live longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.

Find out more about supporting Cancer Research UK's work at [www.cruk.org](http://www.cruk.org) or by calling 0300 123 1022.



What a fantastic Poppy Appeal we had for 2023. Previous records have been broken and as a community, we have raised over six thousand pounds. I am still waiting for the overall figure from the Royal British Legion. The cash is easy to count, the electronic Gift Aid donations are completed by the British Legion and take a bit longer.

This is an incredible amount for a small village and is testament to the hard work of our volunteers, local businesses and members of the public who gave so generously. It was at times chilly on the Royal Square; however, our volunteers were kept warm with hot drinks from The Essex Rose, The Little Merchant, Dedham Church and The Marlborough Pub. An enormous thank you.

I would also like to thank Richard Brown who I took over from as the Poppy Appeal Organizer for Dedham. Richard still helps behind the scenes and has given me so much advice and support. Without this help I would have struggled. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers to assist in street collections or manning the stall in the Square. It is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and raise much needed funds for a wonderful Charity. If interested in helping with the 2024 Appeal, please message me on 07941952125.

*Airin Andrews – Dedham Poppy Appeal Organizer*

## GET OUT IN A GARDEN

If you're like me and there's not much happening in your garden this month, why not get out to one of the region's great gardens to see what inspiration they have to offer instead?



Snow drops at Anglesey Abbey

For instance, Anglesey Abbey's gardens boast more than 300 different species and cultivars of snowdrop, or you could explore the snowdrop trail at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. The latter also has a winter garden of ornamental trees, striking-coloured stems, fragrant shrubs and beautiful bulbs to enjoy.

But while gardens are also great attractions for half-term with the family, I'm afraid 'not much' still leaves room for a few jobs you can do at home.

If you lifted your dahlias as I did this year, you can start them into growth towards the end of the month and get them ready for you to take cuttings. Add tubers to trays or pots, just lightly covered with compost (too much can lead to water logging and rot) and put them somewhere bright and warm. (bottom heat is best.) You should see new shoots in a couple of weeks and be able to take cuttings about three weeks after that.

New plants from cuttings apparently make better show blooms (if I can tempt you to exhibit in our show this September).



Dahlia trial at RHS Wisley

Apparently February is also a chance to sow summer bedding and tender annuals, including cosmos, nasturtiums and snapdragons. Personally, it feels much too early and, in my experience, cosmos especially are better off sown later. However, if you have a heated propagator or a spot on a warm sunny windowsill above a radiator, you could sow some slow-to-germinate chillies. Use free draining compost and keep them well-watered but don't let them sit in soggy compost. Once they have true leaves, pot them on and help them become good and bushy with a high nitrogen fertiliser. Switch to a high potash feed when the first flower buds start to appear.

I bought some amaryllis (Hippeastrum) bulbs this Christmas – something I haven't grown for years – and they are just starting to sprout as I write. Fingers crossed they make a colourful display for the gloomy months and, once the flowerheads fade, I will let the stalk die down naturally before cutting it off and storing the bulbs for next year.

I'm trying again with pelargoniums (tender 'geraniums') despite overwintering being a disaster in the past – probably because the frost has got them, or I've overwatered. This year, I've flung some fleece over them and if the weather gets colder, I may bring them into the house. It's important to regularly remove dead leaves, keep them cut back to healthy growth and ensure plenty of air circulates around them to ward off the dreaded botrytis.

I've a large hardy cranesbill – the true *Geranium* – that needs dividing. It's a beast of a thing that will take some digging out, then a good chop into several pie-shaped pieces with a sharp spade, before spreading it around the borders.



Hardy Cranesbill

I'm also going to take some root cuttings. Good plants for this include perennial poppies, *Verbascum*, Phlox paniculata, the flowering quince and lilacs – some of which don't take readily from shoot cuttings. If it tends to sucker (hello, Japanese anemone taking over that bed at the back), it will usually be good for this technique.

Start with a big, healthy mother plant, lift it and wash as much soil off as you can to expose the roots. Cut off young, pencil-thick samples close to the crown and discard the thin end. Remove any



Phlox, Gladioli and Agapanthus at Wisley

fibrous roots before making 2 to 4-inch lengths with an angled cut at the bottom and a horizontal cut at the end that was nearest the crown.

Insert the cuttings, pointy end first, into pots of gritty compost so that the top is just below the surface. Then top dress with a 1cm layer of grit before watering and storing in a cold frame. They should be ready to plant out in spring next year.

You may not be able to lift woody plants like the quince or lilac, so dig down and take roots up to finger thickness. Others, like Phlox, have thinner roots and will need longer root sections (3 to 5 inches) to be successful. Lay these horizontally, about 1 inch apart, cover with 3/8 inch of compost and top-dress with grit.

Whether you're getting out in your own garden or visiting a garden attraction this month, enjoy – as spring is on its way.

*Elliott Frisby*

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



The chilly days haven't stopped our children from getting outside and over the past couple of months, there have been class trips, new extra-curricular clubs, sports fixtures and Forest School adventures for children to enjoy.

At the end of last term, Class R had the opportunity to take part in Forest School sessions and their visit to Colchester Zoo enabled them to learn lots about penguins (and to meet Father Christmas!) Class 1 visited Jimmy's Farm to support their work on animal classification and Class 2 especially enjoyed toasting marshmallows in the woods!



In Key Stage Two, the netball and the two football teams have taken part in matches against other local schools and despite fantastic perseverance and great sportsmanship, unfortunately the UKS2 football team weren't successful in a recent tournament which would have seen them play at Wembley! Also, we



now have a girls' football team and they are building skills as a team to hopefully compete in a match later in the spring.



Of course, as well as getting outdoors, it's also nice to be able to snuggle up in the warm with a book and thanks to our fantastic Parent Group, our Key Stage Two children are able to have their own individual copies of class texts during reading lessons. This term, the books being read are: *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo, *Beetle Boy* by MG Leonard, *The Boy Who Fooled the World* by Lisa Thompson and *The Lost Whale* by Hannah Gold. Our Class 2 children are also enjoying taking part in whole class reading for the first time and they are currently reading *Rabbit and Bear* by Julian Gough and Jim Field.

*Laura Valentine*

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## DUNTON'S ALMSHOUSES CHARITY.

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Applicants must be over 60 years of age, in housing need and live in Dedham or nearby or have close association with the village.

Application forms from the Clerk to the Trustees by emailing [watkinsa@btinternet.com](mailto:watkinsa@btinternet.com) or for further information telephone 01206 322565.

Closing date for applications is February 17th 2024.

## DEDHAM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY.

The party took place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Ninety people accepted the invitation but unfortunately six cancelled due to ill health. So on the day there was a grand total of 84 guests and Kenny, the trainee Guide Dog. We also catered for three people in wheelchairs.

A three course meal was followed by great singing from entertainer, Graham Long who is a Dedham Boy, a professional singer, now also known as "Just G" since he started his solo career. He gave his time for free to entertain everyone.

Fund raising is carried out through the year, including help from the management, staff and customers at The Marlborough Head who try to hold a meat raffle every week. David & George Halsall donated all the potatoes for the Roasties and Dedham Parish Council made a large contribution, as the event is for Dedham Parish people past and present.

The actual event also raised £600 for the Alzheimer's Society.

There is an extensive invitation list each year, but we can accommodate another 10 guests. So if anyone meets the following criteria, please email their details to [miles@mlpanels.com](mailto:miles@mlpanels.com) to be included next year.

Criteria: Minimum age is 60 and their partner can be younger. Need to be Dedham resident.

Details required: Full name/s, address including post code, landline and mobile telephone number/s

The Dedham Community Christmas Party is all about the supporting and strengthening the community spirit in Dedham and as well as helping the lonely.

*Miles Wilson*

## DEDHAM ART SOCIETY

Come and join our friendly art group. Guests and visitors are welcome to attend our sessions in the Assembly Rooms. Your first 'taster' visit is free where indicated. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. We are an amateur group who enjoy painting regularly.

Occasionally we have guest tutors, the rest of the time we help each other, beginners welcome. If you require any information about our activities or joining the Dedham Art Society please contact us by email at [dedhamartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dedhamartsociety@gmail.com) or visit our website at <http://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk>

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 10am - 12noon**, at the Assembly Rooms

Members painting together session. This is an opportunity for members to create a life study in a medium of their preference. A clothed live model will be available for a life study or portrait. £5 Members; Non members £10  
Phone 07872 334729 to book

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 2pm - 4.30pm**, at the Assembly Rooms.

Painting together session Assembly Rooms. This week's optional theme is to create a night time scene.

First session free, call 07872 334729 to book

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Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, East Bergholt. Come along, meet some members and decide whether you'd like to join.

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

**On 14<sup>th</sup> February we have a talk by Dr Tobias Capwell**, curator of arms and armour at The Wallace Collection. Please take a look at our website [www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley) for more information and contact details.

---

## SOCIAL TABLE TENNIS AT DEDHAM.

Monday mornings 10-30am to 12-30pm in the Dedham Sports Pavillion.

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For more details contact:

Maggie Earl 01206 323264  
Marjorie Culham 01206 323944

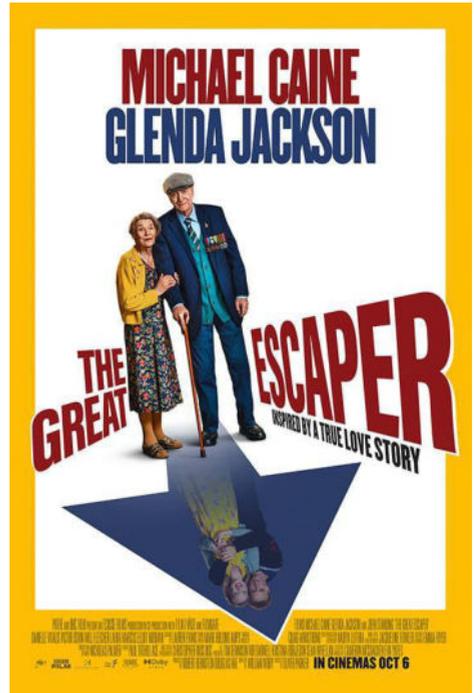


**The Great Escaper Directed by Oliver Parker 2023 (12A)**

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

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The cost is £5 per person. Family ticket available from £10 for up to 5 people. For Tower Tours, children between the ages of 8 and 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Unfortunately we cannot accept any children under the age of 8.

A new Tower Tour video has just been produced in memory of Roy Laverick who was a Tower Tour guide. You can find it on YouTube, just enter this link - [https://youtu.be/tf\\_aG4zREiM](https://youtu.be/tf_aG4zREiM).

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## FEBRUARY 2024

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am, Dedham Church - Rise n' Shine service.
- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm, Dedham Church - Evensong.
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm - Monday Lunch Club in the Essex Rose.
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm - Dedham Parish Council Meeting in the Duchy Barn.
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 10am - 12noon, at the Assembly Rooms. Dedham Art Society - Members painting together session.
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm - Dedham Horticultural Society. Virtual meeting with Adam Pascoe.
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am - Walk and Talk at Dedham Arts Centre.
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, Dedham Church - Communion.
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am, Dedham Church - Morning Praise.
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm, Dedham Church - ReVive@5.
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm, The Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, The Great Escaper.
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> 2pm - 4.30pm, at the Assembly Rooms. Dedham Art Society - Painting together session.
- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, The Assembly Rooms - Cancer Research UK, Quiz night with Fish and Chip supper.

- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Monday

Meet up Mondays - The Sun Inn, 11am to 12pm.

Social Table Tennis - Dedham Sports Club, 10:30am to 12:30pm.

### Tuesday

Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30 to 12pm.

Dedham Carpet Bowls Club - Dedham Sports Club, 7pm to 9pm.

### Thursday

Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30 to 12pm.

MEET UP MONDAYS

@

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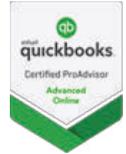
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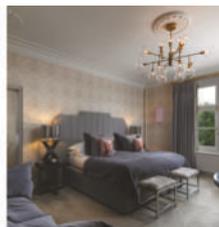
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