



DEDHAM Parish Magazine



March 2025

Dedham Parish Magazine

First Published in 1876

March 2025

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

Rural Missioners Phillip Young
Tel: 323 919
John Saxon
Tel: 01255 781859
Assistant Minister Merv McKinney
Tel: 322 136

PARISHES OFFICE

Assembly Rooms, High Street, Dedham.
CO7 6HJ. Tel: 322 136
Office hours - Monday 9.00am to 1pm.
Parishes Administrator Deb Turner
Email: stmaryda@gmail.com

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKER

Claire Arculus
Email: stmarydacypw@gmail.com

CHURCH WARDENS

Peter Wilson Tel: 323 179
Email: peter.wilson2@btinternet.com
Sharon Sarson Tel: 07876 114418
Email: sharonsarson@hotmail.co.uk

MUSIC

Director of Music Antony Watson
Tel: 322 425

ASSEMBLY ROOMS Tel: 323 921

CHURCH FLOWERS

Coordinator Helen Sims
Tel: 321 286
Wedding Flowers Wendy Sarton
Tel: 323 027

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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

The deadline for April 2025 magazine entries is the 10th March.

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Cover Photo - Springtime in the Drift - 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: Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598.**

If you would like a lift to church contact Sharon Sarson Tel: 07876 114418

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, 2nd March

9.30am Cafe Church Ardleigh
 11.00am 9 Together Service Dedham*
 5.00pm Evensong Dedham*

Wednesday 5th March

8.00am Ash Wednesday service Dedham

Sunday, 9th March

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh
 11.00am Holy Communion Dedham*

Sunday, 16th March

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

Sunday, 23rd March

9.30am Morning Praise Ardleigh
 9.30am Holy Communion Dedham*

Sunday, 30th March

9.30am Mothering Sunday Service Ardleigh
 9.30am Mothering Sunday Service Dedham*

* = Services which are live streamed.

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

Ardleigh Friendship Group: every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: 10am to 12 noon - Ardleigh Church.

Ardleigh Craft Group: every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month: Meeting at Ardleigh Church from 10am to 12 noon. During the winter months, this group is held in members' homes. Please contact Ardleigh Churchwarden for more information.

Little Steps Pre-School Group: every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month: 9.30am-11.30am in Ardleigh Church.

Men's Breakfast - Saturday 1st March 9am - venue tba. For bacon butties, tea, coffee and chat.

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

Walk and Talk - Thursday 13th March Dedham Arts and Craft Centre. 10am for a walk, or at 11am for just a chat.

FROM THE REGISTERS.

Baptisms:

Beatrice Young, 12th January
 Noel Haynes, 9th February

Funerals:

Michael Atkins, 21st January
 Christopher Pertwee, 22nd January



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



Follow us on Facebook, search - Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes.

Dedham and Ardleigh parishes website - QR code




Dear Friends

Happy March! Yes, we're here already – hard to believe I know, but thankfully the frost and chills of a bleak mid-winter are ebbing away and the effulgence of spring is now (or at least soon to be) in full flow.

The seasons point us to the inevitable flow of the moribund and the bountiful, much like the penitential season of Lent and the contrasting celebration of resurrection power at Paschaltide. It is, as well as a general theme of life, one that is reflected in the experience of the Christian believer.

Times of reflection, of fasting, of prayer and of emptying the self can be contrasted with times of hopefulness, of feasting, of rejoicing and of a healthy confidence. The Christian life embraces both in its own way and time.

Where do you sense a need in your life today? Do you need to stop or slow-down, to give up something, to give your mind and spirit some space to process what's going on in your life or to begin to move away from a stream of unhelpful thoughts and actions? Maybe you're more prone to that already and so could do with concentrating your energies on sources of abiding joy, goodness, blessing and deliverance?

Both rhythms of life can be found in the Christian faith, for the same faith that proclaims victory over sin, sickness and suffering, takes each of those things very seriously.

On 5th March Lent begins and in our parishes we will be meeting together mid-week to uncover ancient riches from the early church to help us in some of our situations today. If you'd like to learn more, why not pop in to a service in one of our parishes or find out more on our website.

www.tendringdedhamparishes.org.uk

We'd love to help you recover joy or make space to slow down and reconnect with something bigger than all that vies for our attention in this fleeting age.

Best wishes,
Phillip

MISSIONS BAKE SALES



The dates for the 2025 Mission Stall are as follows:

On Saturday 15th March there is a joint event in the Duchy Barn. Books, bric a brac, some cakes, coffee and tea 10-2pm

Saturday 10th May is our first real mission stall. The Dedham Horticulture Society also have their spring fair outside the church 9-12

Saturday 28th June 10-12 noon

Saturday 26th July 10-12 noon

Monday 25th August 10-4pm bank holiday

Saturday 27th September 10-12 noon

Saturday 25th October 10-12 noon



REFLECTION

I'm no poet, but I woke one morning
with these words in my head.



Walking on the beach
Sand between my toes.
Staring at the ocean deep
Shining blues and grey.
Wondering why you made me Lord?
“I know “
To share your day.

Liz Reed

TWAM

Thank you to everyone who has put used postage stamps in the box in either Dedham or Ardleigh church. I am unable to tell you how much these stamps have raised for TWAM but I do know that £1590 in total was raised from all of the stamps that have been donated through the various collections. Coins have also been collected and these brought in £900.

The more valuable stamps and coins go to auctions and the majority of stamps and coins go to our partner Xchange Master who pay TWAM for them. Stamped postcards are more valuable to Mission Aviation Fellowship, so these are passed on to them and complete First Day Covers are sold separately from the used stamps and bring in more money for TWAM that way.

Please continue to put your used stamps in the boxes and if you have coins to donate for funds for TWAM please give them to Merv or to me. Old pre-decimal coins including old pennies, all foreign coins and bank notes have a value that TWAM can benefit from.

Thank you very much for supporting TWAM in this way, the sales of these bring in much needed funds.

Sue McKinney

LILIES IN REMEMBRANCE OF SOMEONE



If you would like to buy some lilies in memory of a loved one, to be arranged in church for Easter Sunday, please place your order in the Parishes office mailbox which is on the side of the Assembly rooms. Simply place the cost of the lilies (£3 each) in an envelope with your name and telephone number on the front.

The final date for ordering is FRIDAY 11th APRIL. If you have any queries, please contact Helen Sims (07899 061840).

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKER

That Sacred Time

There are never enough hours in the day! A phrase I find myself saying increasingly more often these days. As a parent, the rushing around from one thing to the next just seems to be part of a parent's job description. However, when an opportunity arises when your child needs to talk, there is no 'hang on a minute' or 'let's talk a bit later', that opportunity needs to be grasped then and there as the opportunities are too good to miss and too fragile to handle roughly or halfheartedly.

I found this to be the case recently when one of my children slumped on my bed at a late hour of the evening to spill the beans on an incident which happened a few months ago and how guilty they felt for not owning up to the incident sooner. I wasn't quite prepared for the outburst but knew I had to listen and give my full attention, something I haven't always done in the past I confess.

Why hold on to the guilt and not own up at the time it happened? Easy for me to think (and thankfully not say!).

It was evident that they felt a compulsion to admit to the incident then and there to me and it did in fact explain why my child had been quiet and not quite themselves the past few weeks.

Was this the Spirit of God at work in my child, bringing up this issue to deal with it? Why now? Well, we don't know the reasons behind the timing of these confessions but this was a realisation and confession to own up to wrongdoing and to make amends. Sound familiar? Luke 15:11-32 describes the parable of the prodigal son. The father so filled with compassion and joy his lost son had returned and repented for his wild living, he immediately embraced and dropped

everything to celebrate his son, his son realising the error of his ways.

How did I feel when my child spoke to me that evening? Exhausted yes, but so relieved I listened patiently, comforted and supported them. It's with age and experience I have learnt this, but God breaking into our busy, distracted lives with events like this one put in to perspective the ordered, mundane tasks that come with parenthood.

Claire Arculus

Children and Young People's Worker
Dedham Parish
stmarydacypw@gmail.com

BIBLE QUOTE COMMENTARY

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever". Hebrews 13 v 8

This is what I believe :

Jesus never changes.
I can trust and believe in Him.
He is always there for me.
He is a merciful Lord.
He forgives me if I say I am truly sorry.
He laid down His life for me, so that through redemption, I could have everlasting life.

He loves each and every one of us.
Thanks be to God - Amen

Liz Reed



St Mary's Church Dedham Awarded Silver Eco Church Status



The Church of England has set a target of reaching Carbon Net Zero by 2030. To that end it has asked a Christian Charity called A Rocha to encourage and involve Parishes around the country to move towards this goal and to make "Caring for God's Creation a priority.

They have called the Project "Eco Church". Depending on how "Eco" your church is and becomes, it is possible to achieve Bronze, Silver and eventually even Gold Eco Church Status. We are delighted that St Mary's Church, Dedham has now achieved and been awarded Silver Eco Church Status.

Caring for God's Creation or Creation Care means that we acknowledge the amazing miracle that God has performed in creating the universe, right down to the smallest intricate and most beautiful detail and

that we commit ourselves to looking after our planet and God's glorious creation to the best of our ability.

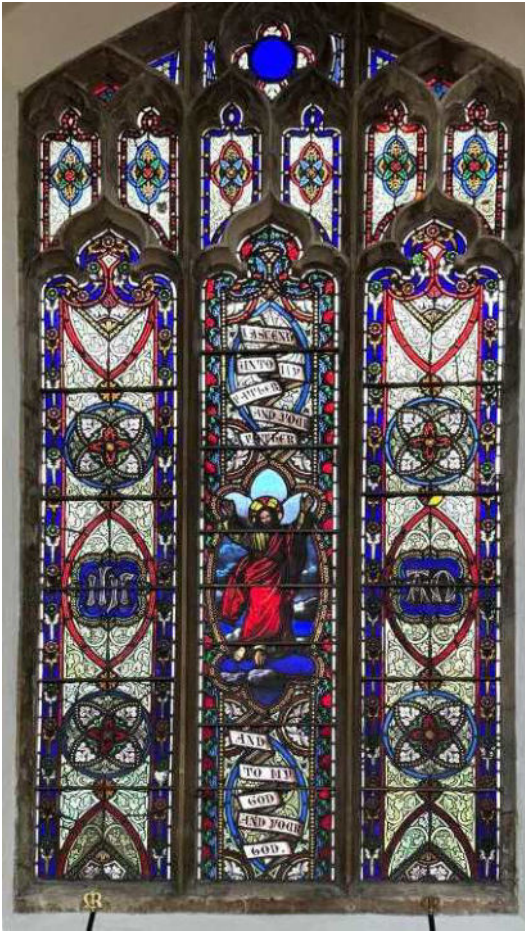
Our Church embarked on this project with A Rocha a few years ago. Achieving the Silver Award has required an immense amount of work and we have to thank Sara Marshall for completing the vast majority of this and we are indebted to her for all her hard work. Recently Janet Titterton and I have taken over the project and our modest contribution was to tick the final boxes and submit our silver award application.

Moving on we would like to see our Church progress towards achieving Gold Status by becoming Carbon Net Zero but more importantly we want to become a community where we give consideration to Caring for God's Creation in everything we do. Whether that be looking after our buildings and land; or dealing with our waste; or directing our purchasing; or the usage of our energy; or teaching about and trying to take action on Climate Change.

We need to do this not only within our Church setting but also in our own lives and the wider community. To that end we would like to build a team of people with enthusiasm for Eco matters. Although this is set up to be led by the Church we hope that anyone who wants to be involved will join with us, you only need to live in the area and be an enthusiast to be very welcome on the team.

We do hope that some of you will join with us, it should not be too arduous an undertaking but with an enthusiastic team in place we should be able to reach Gold status in the not too distant future but more importantly develop an ethos which encourages and sustains the Creation Care efforts of our Church and our whole community for the long term future.

Adrian Beckingsale
abeckingsale@aol.com



This month we are going to look at two windows in the South aisle of St Mary's Church, Dedham. Towards the Eastern end a three panel window shows "The Ascension" of Christ. This window is attributed to J. Powell and sons in 1848. The Powells ran the Whitefriars glassworks in London for five generations in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

They brought many innovations to both the production and colouring of stained glass and were probably the most prolific makers of stained glass in England during this period. There are very many examples of their windows throughout Churches in the UK.

In the centre panel a text ribbon extending above and below the figure of Christ reads "I ASCEND UNTO MY FATHER AND YOUR FATHER AND TO MY GOD AND YOUR GOD".

In the middle the figure of Jesus rises up into the clouds with his arms raised in blessing. In the Bible, The Ascension is recorded in Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:6-11. It is worth looking at the wonderful painting of the Ascension by John Constable, which we are fortunate to have, hanging over what was the old South door.

In the left hand panel we see inscribed IHS. These letters are very often seen in association with images of Jesus but there is some controversy about their origin and meaning. If they originate from the Greek tradition then they simply translate as JES, which is, of course, an abbreviation: the first three letters of Jesus. However if they arise from the Roman tradition then they may stand for the Latin "In Hoc Signo" (vinces), "by this sign" (you will overcome). The sign in question being the sign of the cross. Contemporary sources tell us that, the night before the Battle of the Milvian Bridge in 312 AD, Constantine had a vision of the cross and told his soldiers to paint this on their shields. Constantine won the battle. As a result he became the Emperor of the Western Roman Empire and converted to Christianity stopping his predecessor Diocletian's vicious persecution of Christians.

In the Right hand panel we see the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, Alpha and Omega, again a commonly seen image in Christianity. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelations 1:8).

Towards the Western end of the South aisle is another three panel window in a similar style which is also probably by J. Powell and Sons.

The central panel depicts Jesus as “The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18) with a shepherd’s crook and a sheep carried round his shoulders. The text ribbon reads: “The Son of man is come to save that which was lost”. At the top of the window in the tracery we see “Alpha and Omega” again.

The side panels show four winged creatures. In the Bible in the Book of Revelation we read of the vision of four winged creatures, a lion, an ox, a man and an eagle at the foot of God’s throne. Over time these became interpreted as representing the four Gospel Writers.

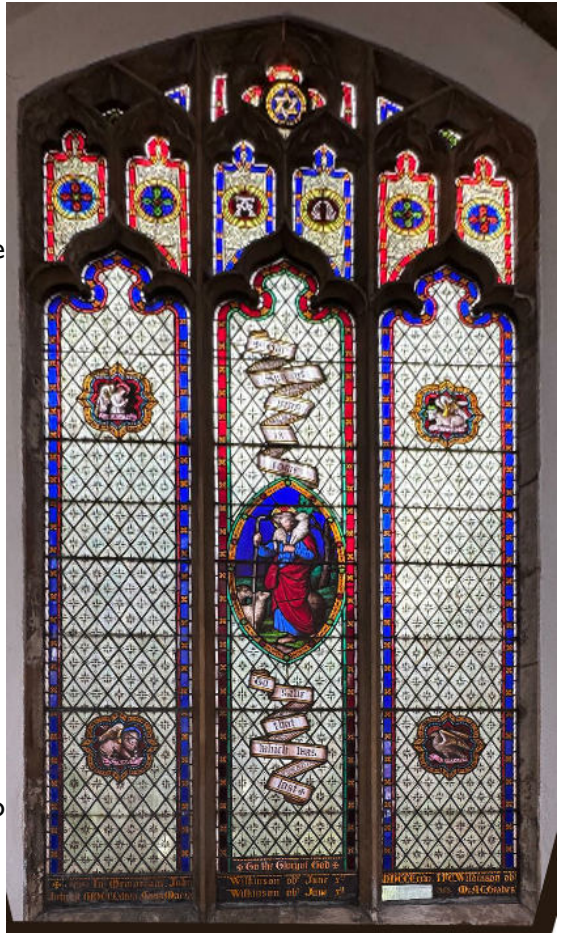
The winged lion stands for St Mark as his gospel emphasises the royal dignity of Christ.

St Luke is suggested by the ox, as his Gospel stresses the sacrificial nature of Christ’s ministry.

The winged man, or angel, came to represent St Matthew as his Gospel opens with the human antecedents of Jesus.

The winged eagle, the creature which flies closest to Heaven, symbolises St John because of his visions and heavenly opening of his Gospel.

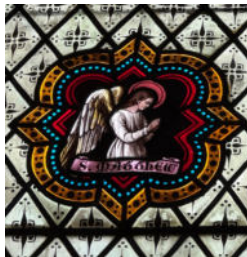
These four symbols are known as the Tetramorph and are commonly seen in Christian manuscripts and church edifices.



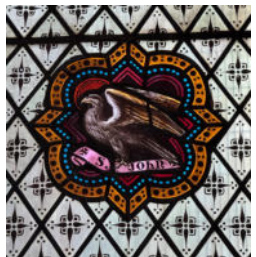
St Mark



St Luke



St Matthew



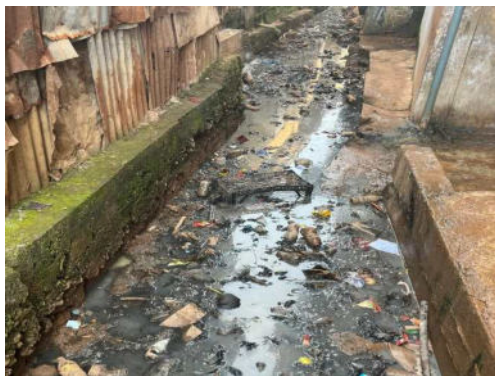
St John

Adrian Beckingsale

Sierra Leone Education and Development Trust (SLEDT) is an amazing small UK charity which supports the secondary education of bright children from poor homes in Sierra Leone. Although the government provides free education the children from poor backgrounds cannot afford the uniform, books, charges for some lessons and exam fees without help.

Half of the children in Sierra Leone do not attend secondary school. With the support of SLEDT, 85 children, who all achieved a very high score in the national primary school exam, are currently receiving a secondary education.

The scheme is very successful. The first pupils have now completed their school education through the scheme and all have good jobs or are in further education. The children on the programme are supported by a dedicated team of volunteers and will have the opportunity to build the lives of themselves and their families and contribute to the development of Sierra Leone. SLEDT spends no money on premises, salaries or any overhead costs. Every penny raised goes directly to support children in Sierra Leone.



The sewerage system in Kroo Bay.

This article may be jogging your memory, I wanted to report on my recent visit, at my own expense, which has reinforced the significant impact of SLEDT's work in Sierra Leone. My friend Laurel Spooner and I visited six children on the secondary education scheme in Kroo Bay Freetown, one of the poorest slum areas in the world.



Two of the girls, Aminata and Mariama, who are on the education programme and are clearly very bright.

The guy in the white shirt is Zoro a SLEDT volunteer, who liaises with the children in Kroo Bay. Like many volunteers Zoro came through the SLEDT secondary education programme and is currently studying to be a pharmacist.



This photo shows Ibrahim (yellow shirt) who is also on the programme.



This is the one room home of Mariama where she lives with her family of four.

Aminata, Mariama, Ibrahim and the other three children we met are all thriving at secondary school. Hopefully they will go on to have careers which will help them to lift their families to a better future, as well as contributing to the economy of Sierra Leone.

Laurel and I also visited the primary school in Mofos; a very poor remote village which we reached after a three hour motorbike journey, mainly through the jungle. SLEDT provides books and solar lamps to all children in their final year six. This will significantly boost the studies of the children before their important national primary school exam, next year.



Year six children in Mofos receiving books and solar lamps from SLEDT.

SLEDT supports year six children at several primary schools in poor areas.



Nabi, a pupil at Mofos Primary School, in his mobility cart. SLEDT provided the purpose built cart to Nabi which has transformed his life.

It costs £25 per month to support a child in secondary education in Sierra Leone. Do contact me, Andy Higginson on my mobile 07984 349909 or using my email, andyhigginson729@gmail.com if you would like to make a donation, or to give by standing order to SLEDT, or simply want further information about SLEDT.

The SLEDT website is at www.sierraleoneaid.org.uk. I have been heartened that many residents of Dedham have already responded to appeals, and are supporting the education of bright children from poor homes in Sierra Leone, through SLEDT.

Andy Higginson



SUMPTUOUS CONSTABLE PORTRAITS RESTORED AND REUNITED

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Constable Research
Project. All Rights
reserved

'A Tale of Vanity Fair:
Constable's Treslove
Portraits
Rediscovered'.



A talk to be given at the Constable Hall in East Bergholt, will mark two reunions: one personal, the other historical. Accredited Painting Conservator and technical art historian Sarah Cove ACR, who gave the inaugural Constable Trust lecture in 2005, will return to give an expert insight into the local painter's sumptuous 1826 portrait of his socialite neighbour Mrs Emily Treslove.

Drawing upon her own cleaning and restoration work, as well as privileged access to the sitter's personal diaries and a garnet jewel featured in the painting, the talk will highlight changes made to 'tart up' Emily's appearance during a second sitting. It will also delve into the Bloomsbury social milieu, her husband Thomas's subsequent career and the fashion and politics of the Regency period. An intriguing story of extreme wealth, vanity, politics and nepotism in Regency society it will reveal the Bridgerton-like privilege and frivolity of the nouveau riche in the early 19th century.

This painting of Emily Treslove in all her finery is arguably one of Constable's finest portraits, yet until 2019 its whereabouts were unknown. It had come down through five generations of her family to the present owners, along with a garnet from the matching jewellery set that Emily is seen wearing. Following its discovery, a completely unknown companion portrait of her husband, Thomas Treslove QC (1775-1841), painted four years earlier in 1822, came to light. Sarah Cove's initial interest in these related 1820's portraits grew out of her own restoration work on them. This led in turn to some fascinating contextual research, drawing in particular upon the 22 volumes of Emily's diaries, one of which records the experience of sitting for Constable, not once but twice.

It is hoped that in Constable's anniversary year of 2026, which marks 250 years since the painter's birth, both portraits will be loaned to Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich, where they will be put on public view for the first time since they were painted.

The Constable Trust Annual Lecture will be held on Saturday 12th April 2025 at 6.30 for 7pm at Constable Memorial Hall, East Bergholt CO7 6TP.

Tickets for the talk are £15 (includes wine and canapes)
Available from: <https://theconstabletrust.org.uk>



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

March 9th 2025

The Deanery choir will be singing at St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS at the I am Communion service. The choir will sing 'Sicut Cervus' by Palestrina.

March 23rd 2025

The Deanery choir will be singing at St Leonard's Church, Beaumont CO16 0AZ at the 6pm Choral evensong service. The choir will sing the anthem Cantate Domino by Pitoni.

This iconic event brings together local people to walk between two piers, either in memory of their loved ones, or in support of St Helena Hospice and the community. Participating in Pier to Pier helps raise vital funds to ensure St Helena can continue to be there for the people you love.

The walk can start from either Clacton or Walton Pier. You can choose to walk either the 7 miles between the two piers or challenge yourself to make the return journey - 14 miles in all.

On the day, you can enjoy scenic views of the coastline as you walk and explore the extensive event village as well!

This year, Pier to Pier will also feature a Silent Disco! For £16, you get three different music channels to listen to throughout the walk. Feel even more connected as you enjoy the music with your fellow participants.

As St Helena Hospice marks its 40th anniversary, every step you take, every mile you walk from pier to pier, and every pound you raise, helps them continue caring for your community.

Help make sure the hospice remains here for the people you love for generations to come.

The registration fee for Pier to Pier is £10 for adults or £5 for children. St Helena Hospice is asking everyone to aim to fund raise £40 in celebration of its 40th year.

Pier to Pier is open to participants of all ages – including furry friends. The route is designed to accommodate pushchair and wheelchairs as well.

Sign up now at www.sthelena.org.uk/piertopier25



St Helena



ST HELENA HOSPICE'S FLAGSHIP EVENT, PIER TO PIER, RETURNS FOR THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY!

The Pier to Pier Walk is returning on Sunday 18th May.

This year, it is extra special as St Helena Hospice celebrates 40 years of providing compassionate care to the people you love.



JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Council By-Election

With three vacancies on the Parish Council and a request for a by-election, it was noted that if more than three candidates come forward, an election will be held.

Public Forum

An update was provided on the Angling Club, which continues to grow in membership.

The Council acknowledged concerns about the non-functioning cash machine at the Co-op and agreed to follow up on the issue.

The ongoing pylons campaign was discussed, with Councillor Bourn now acting as the primary contact from the Council.

Parking and Traffic

Investigations are ongoing regarding additional signage on the High Street.

A discussion took place with the local primary school about safety concerns in the school area. It was suggested that 20mph speed limit signs could be implemented, and the Council agreed to support a traffic survey and contribute funding.

Recycling and Bin Collection

The Council is aware of differing opinions on proposed wheelie bins and is in discussions with the City Councillor representative about the possibility of exemptions for certain areas, particularly the High Street.

Dog Bins

The Council is compiling a list of current dog bin locations and is seeking input on potential new locations.

Blue Plaque for Alice Lee

The unveiling of a blue plaque in December to honour Alice Lee was a successful event.

Local Government Reorganisation

Essex is set to be one of the first areas to undergo local government reorganisation. If this proceeds, local elections will be delayed. A consultation process will begin in early 2025, with regular updates and opportunities for public input.

Finance and Grants

The budget for 2025/26 was approved, with the precept remaining unchanged from the previous year. Capital expenditure plans will be incorporated into upcoming Parish Plan discussions.

The Council agreed to support funding applications for:
A new mower for the Cricket Club.
A new path connecting the car park to the tennis courts.
A pond at the Primary School, which would also be available for community use outside term time as part of the school's 200th anniversary celebrations.

Petalo Lodge

Councillor Bourn reported on discussions with the owners of Petalo Lodge and ongoing disputes related to the property.

Liaison with Local Police

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have been invited to attend the March meeting.

FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

New Council Members

Three new councillors, Arin Andrews, Sheila Beeton, and Piers Halsall, were introduced following their unopposed election.

Public Open Forum

Dedham Vale Society & Campaign for National Parks: The Chair of the Dedham Vale Society reported a legal victory alongside the Campaign for National Parks. They successfully challenged a planning inspector's failure to apply conservation rules when approving a car park development with lighting at Manningtree Station.

IT Skills Training: A resident proposed IT training courses for the community. The council expressed support for the initiative.

Pavement Conditions on Crown Street: A resident raised concerns about the poor state of the pavement near 1 Kiln Cottages. The eroded kerb poses a safety risk.

Brook Street Roadworks Delay: Planned roadworks for 3rd February were postponed and will commence later in the month.

Angling Club Update: The club now has 50 members, including 15 children, and has raised £150 for cancer research through prize raffles.

Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

Issues with the Co-op cash dispenser have been resolved.

A letter was sent regarding proposals to exclude certain areas of the village from wheelie bins.

Munnings Museum Update

Councillor Bourn reported ongoing discussions with residents and museum trustees regarding a proposed dog exercise area at East Lane and Crown Street. Due to widespread opposition, the council acknowledged the concerns. Additionally, the museum faces long-term financial challenges, and Cllr Bourn suggested forming a working group to support the museum, with Parish Council representation.

Finance and Grants

The council approved revised Finance Regulations, the Code of Conduct, and Standing Orders. The compliance calendar was agreed upon.

A grant application for the Dark Skies Campaign via the Dedham Vale Society was approved.

Community & Environment

Drinking Fountain: A leak was reported in the fountain near the public toilets on the playing field. Regular weekly monitoring will now take place for health and safety compliance.

White Lines in High Street: The repainting of road markings is scheduled for spring.

Traffic & Parking

Cllr Bourn met with North Essex Parking Partnership to discuss the state of the main car park and the need for improved yellow and white lines on the High Street.

He also raised the need for electric car charging points in the village, ideally in the main car park. However, the Essex County Council representative did not consider this a priority. Cllr Bourn will challenge this and seek feedback from Colchester Council and Essex County Council.

Reform and Devolution of Essex County Council

Discussions are ongoing about potential changes in local government, including the possible replacement of Essex County Council and Colchester City Council with unitary authorities. The council agreed to keep this on the agenda.

Future Plans & Priorities

The March meeting will focus on priorities for 2025 and the committee structure.

The April meeting will discuss the Parish Plan.

Other Items Discussed

Tennis Club Lighting: The club wishes to install lighting for evening play. This will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Emergency Access to Playing Fields: A recent incident highlighted access issues for emergency vehicles. To prevent future delays, local emergency services, the Parish Council Chair, and the Clerk will be provided with the access code.

Police Resources & Support: Concerns were raised about proposed cuts to Essex Police resources. Despite this, it was agreed that a PCSO will attend the March Parish Council meeting.

The March Parish Council meeting to which all residents of the village are welcome is on Monday 3rd March at 6.30pm at the Duchy Barn.

*Councillor Douglas Bourn
Chair of the Parish Council.*

<https://www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk/>



ARDLEIGH SURGERY

The ANIMA patient platform has now been in use for about six weeks, and the reviews are mixed. Many busy mums find it fantastic for its convenience. However, some patients have reported that the process can be laborious, with lengthy forms, and sometimes the options listed don't match their symptoms. Please bear with us as we continue to assess whether this system is an improvement over the previous telephone appointment method.

From our perspective, we encourage patients to fill out the online forms as early in the day as possible. Please be honest on the form – we've had cases where patients have provided one answer on the form but said something different during the consultation.

Do remember, our telephone lines are still open.

Please make sure you stay near your phone after submitting a request, as we may offer you an appointment within the hour. Also, if you're unavailable for an appointment, let us know. If you need to fill out a form while away from home, please mention that in the body of the form.

Lastly, we want to inform you that Dr Gladwin will be leaving medicine to pursue other life goals, and Sister Lacey will be retiring to spend more time with her family.

Ardleigh Surgery

<https://patients.animahealth.com/>

ANIMA LOGIN





NATIONAL GRID NORWICH TO TILBURY - TARGETED CONSULTATIONS AND A FIGHTING FUND.

This year is going to be a pivotal year with regards to the outcome of the consultation and the future impact on the Dedham Vale.

National Grid are finalising their plans with 30 focused consultations taking place in February and March before submitting their final plans to the planning inspectorate in the third quarter of 2025.

You can find the documentation for these targeted consultations by searching on the internet for “Norwich to Tilbury document library” The existing documents for 10 Suffolk and Norfolk consultations can be found under “Targeted consultation January 2025

documents”, we assume that the 20 for Essex will be found there or in a February folder.

In Suffolk, there are a number of changes to the plans within the National Landscape, just outside it and up to the Sealing End Compound. These can be found in the Suffolk 6 consultation leaflet document. The biggest change is a new access road off the B1070 just before Holton St Mary, but there appear to be 2 more access roads within the National Landscape or just on its boundary.

Once these consultations are complete, the National Grid will be drawing up their final plans to submit to the planning inspectorate in the third Quarter of this year. It will be the first time that we will be able to see their final plans.

If accepted, interested parties have three months to submit feedback and objections which will be reviewed at the examination stage (this can take up to 6 months).

It is anticipated that the Secretary of State decision would be sometime in fourth quarter of 2026. Anyone wishing to challenge the decision in the courts would need to be prepared for a Judicial Review by then.

In preparation for this and other legal challenges, the Dedham Vale Society has set-up a fighting fund via a CrowdFunder page. All donations will go towards protecting the Dedham Vale National Landscape.

You can help support this via:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/dedham-vale-society-fighting-fund>

or using this QR Code



FEED, DIVIDE, SOW

Spring is here and there's green everywhere! Spring bulbs are in full flower now and my bees will be taking advantage of every warmer, sunny day to gather pollen and nectar as their colony starts growing. But don't get too confident, as it's very possible that a cold snap could set everything back again, so have some horticultural fleece at the ready for anything tender.

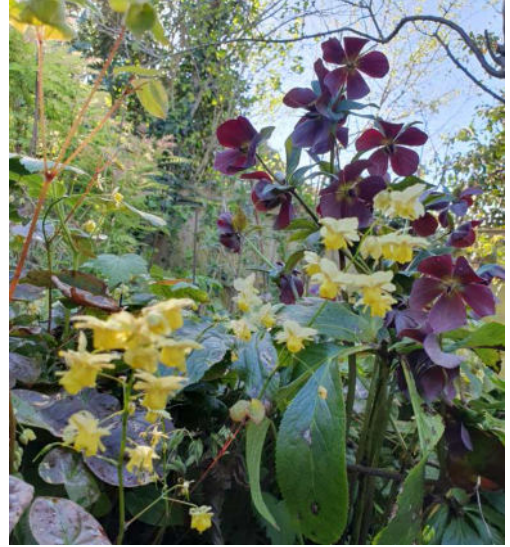
If your snowdrop clumps are getting too big for their space, it's a good time to divide them once they've finished flowering. Dig up part of the clump – roots, soil and all – and drop it into another spot. Snowdrops transplanted like this, 'in the green', perform better than if they are planted as bulbs in autumn.



You can also divide herbaceous peonies now, just as they're coming out of dormancy. According to the National Gardens Scheme, doing this every two or three years improves flowering. I'll try this with one of my larger peonies; digging it up and using a knife to split it so each division has three or four flowering buds at the base. I'll space them further apart and replant them with those buds just below the surface.

Some of my hostas also need dividing as they are outgrowing their pots. I've had to saw these apart in the past as the roots can be compacted and tough, but they quickly recover for a great display over the summer. You can do this with

agapanthus, delphinium, primula and plenty of other plants now too.



Epimedium and Hellebores

If you buy dahlias as tubers, you can plant them in your beds about six weeks before the last frosts are expected. After six weeks, the new growth will be coming through, so if you time it right you can get an early start with your plants and protect the new growth from frost damage.

If you lifted your tubers in autumn, you can also start propagating them for more plants. Get them out of storage and pot them up using multi-purpose compost. Choose pots that will just fit the tuber – you don't want too much wet soil surrounding them as they can rot – and fill them so that the old stalk or the top of the tuber is just above the surface. Water them and then leave them in a warm, light position or in a propagator.

Check on them occasionally as they start to put on growth, and they'll be ready to be planted out after the danger of frost has passed.

Once the fresh shoots have grown to about 8-10cm, you can take basal cuttings. Select a healthy shoot and, using a sharp knife, cut just above the point where the shoot emerges from the tuber and just below the lowest pair of leaves. Cut off the leaves from the lower half of the stem – they will just rot once inserted into the soil. Pinch out the growing tip and dip the base of the cutting into hormone rooting power. Then push them into a pot containing cuttings compost and put them into a propagator or under a plastic bag supported by sticks. They should root after a few weeks.



Camellia

If you grow dogwood (such as *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica') or willow (try yellow *Salix alba* var. *vitellina* 'Britzensis') for colourful stems in winter, it's time to cut them back at the end of this month to just above ground level. This will stimulate fresh growth over the season, which will give you the most colour by the time winter rolls round again.

Having cut back and pruned my roses last month, March is the time to feed them with a slow-release, granular fertiliser forked into the soil around them. I'll also give my rhubarb plants a high-nitrogen feed like sulphate of ammonia or chicken-manure pellets, so I can harvest the first stalks next month.



Early staking Delphinium

Finally, I'll get my plant supports into the beds and borders: getting stakes, tripods, grow-throughs, wigwams, hoops and fluted peony supports into the ground now, as well as trusty twine, will ensure they get hidden by the plants as they grow.

As the season gets busier, so does Dedham Horticultural Society's programme. Speaker Evenings on 5 March and 2 April are followed by the Spring Show on Saturday 5 April. It's free to enter any classes you like, and you will find the schedule and entry form on our website.

Elliott Frisby

dedhamgardening.wordpress.com - QR code





River Stour Trust

Registered Charity No. 257806

Spring is nearly here and members of the public will soon be out and about in the beautiful Stour valley and Constable country. The River Stour Trust, run almost entirely by volunteers, came into being over forty years ago when the then Anglian Water Authority attempted to remove navigation rights.

The Trust works to keep the river open for all sorts of river craft, operates private charters, and runs short boat trips almost every day, weather permitting, which are thoroughly enjoyed by both the public and our own members.



We welcome new members, volunteers and potential skippers, both male and female - anyone with a love of the countryside and the great outdoors and who likes meeting new people.

Whilst useful, previous boating experience is not essential. A calm and confident manner and an outgoing personality are all that is needed. If you like the idea of becoming a skipper, taking people out on trips or helping out in any way, then please get in touch.

Our skipper training programme begins in the spring each year and on completion and assessment, you will be

qualified as an Inland Waterways accredited skipper. We would ensure you felt totally at ease before operating boats yourself. After training you are free to give as much or as little time as you would like.

To find out more about this volunteering opportunity, please ring the Trust's Training Manager, Kevin Taylor, on 01206 322122. More information on the Trust can be viewed on

www.riverstourtrust.org



COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS.

Who are Community First Responders?

CFR's are a group of people who 'volunteer' to respond to emergency calls on behalf of the East of England Ambulance Service in the community where they live.

Why do we need your help?

The answer is that it has been recognised that sudden cardiac arrest claims around 150,000 lives each year in the United Kingdom, with survival rates of only 5% outside a hospital setting.

If a person's heart has stopped due to an accident, or heart attack and is in a rhythm called ventricular fibrillation, the only way to get the heart into a more regular sustaining beat is to pass an electrical charge through the heart muscle.

The first eight minutes are the most vital for the collapsed person and if we can get somebody who is trained in first aid and the use of a defibrillator to the patient, then the chances of survival will increase considerably.

Is it just cardiac arrests I would attend?

The answer is no, there are many incidents that we could attend, difficulty in breathing, trauma, diabetic coma, chest pain to name just a few.

What training is involved?

There will be a few things to do before attending a training course, DBS checks, occupational health check and some pre-course training. Once this is completed you will attend a intensive 5 day trading course, normally in Chelmsford. This is can be during the week or occasionally at the weekend.

This course aims to provide you with the knowledge and skills to act as an agent of the East of England Ambulance service and to be able to attend life threatening emergencies.

Once training is complete, you will buddy up with an experienced CFR until we feel you are ready to attend incidents by yourself.

Once a year we have assessments on Basic Life Support and CPR. We have a monthly training session in Stratford St Mary.

What do I do now?

If you are interested in finding out more about First Responders please contact me and I can let you know all about it. At the moment we only have 2 responders covering Langham, Boxted, Stratford St Mary, Higham and Dedham, we would like to increase this number if we can.

You could make a difference and save somebody's life. If you want to find out more, please text me (Peter Dawson) on 07775667753.

Peter Dawson

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We have over 40 interest groups including walking (from strollers to 5+ milers), theatre trips, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, international dining, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel there's something for everyone.

Membership costs only £15 a year. Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, Gaston Street, East Bergholt.

Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join. Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday at 2.15pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4.

Our speaker on **12th March** is Claire Benn who is returning to update us on "Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT", on **9th April** Sally Sibley who will tell us about the latest happenings at Sutton Hoo and on **14th May** we have Sally Hattingh from Right at Home talking about safety issues so that seniors can remain in their own homes as long as possible.

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



Paddington in Peru PG Directed by Douglas Wilson 2024

Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 7:30 PM
- 10:00 PM

PADDINGTON IN PERU brings Paddington's story to Peru as he returns to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy, who now resides at the Home for Retired Bears. With the Brown Family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey through the Amazon rainforest and up to the mountain peaks of Peru.

Starring Hugh Bonneville, Antonio Banderas, Olivia Colman, Emily Mortimer, Julie Walters, and Ben Whishaw.



Tickets £5 will be available online on our website or in person at St Helena Hospice shop in Dedham High Street or on the door or our Box Office on 0333 666 4466

STOUR CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

Stour Choral Society will perform **'Messiah' by Handel** on Saturday 29th March 2025, 2.30pm, at Mistley Church, New Rd, CO11 1ER. The concert will be directed by Susanna Rose, and accompanied by Stephen Smith, organ, Glyn Sweeting and Geoffrey Harniss, trumpets, and Ben Steinitz, timpani.

The soloists will be Anna Maria Rose, soprano, Joanna Arnold, mezzo-soprano, Philip Clieve, tenor, and Peter Grevatt, bass.

Tickets (£15 adult, free for under 18s) are available from Howell's hardware store in Manningtree, by email: info@stourchoralsociety.co.uk, telephone 07511 908213, or from choir members.

We recommend buying tickets in advance as recent performances have been close to capacity, but there will still be some tickets available on the door. We now have a card machine for payments at the door, but cash and cheques will still be accepted. Keep an eye out for our posters, Facebook posts, and website, www.stourchoralsociety.co.uk, and feel free to contact us for further information. Do join us for an uplifting performance of this popular Oratorio.

Dedham Parish Church Pipe Organ Project Completed December 2024

We are truly grateful to all who have supported this project.

The money raised includes donations, income from events, gift aid claims, grants and interest from accumulated funds.

We are indebted to Scott Hamilton and his team from Harvest Glasgow for allowing us to have the Binns pipework and the console.

To Andrew Caskie and all the staff at Nicholson & Co Ltd who have worked tirelessly on this project.

To Andy at Reds Scaffolding & Daz at D Electrics.

To Languard Engineering Ltd. for the loan of the barricades.

To The Essex Rose who supported the lunches.

To the many others who have given advice, help & support, in so many other ways and for all who have prayed for this project.

THANK YOU

This huge project has ensured an incredible pipe organ in Dedham Church which will serve this church and community for the next 150 years.

Dedham Horticultural Society

OPEN SHOW

All welcome to exhibit - no charge

Saturday 5 April
2 - 4 pm

Assembly Rooms, Dedham

Admission: members and children free
non-members £1

Children to be accompanied by an adult



Download the schedule and entry form
at www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com

DEDHAM ART SOCIETY

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 the Dedham Art Society please contact us by email at dedhamartsociety@gmail.com or visit our website at <http://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk>

Here are the sessions for this month, if you are interested in attending please call 07872334729.

Saturday 2nd March

HMS Vale, Woodbridge
(Saturday morning plein air group)

Thursday 27th March

Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm
Members' painting together session
– Using photographs

Stour Valley Arts & Music



Kammerphilharmonie Europa - Sunday
9th March 2025 at St Mary's Church, East
Bergholt CO7 6TG at 4pm

Henschel Quartet - Sunday 23rd March
2025 at St Mary's Church, East Bergholt
CO7 6TG at 4pm

Tickets: £18 or buy a season ticket for
£54. Tickets can be purchased from the
Booking Secretary using the booking
form or online from TicketSource.
Unless the concert is sold in advance,
tickets will be available on the door.

<https://www.svam.org.uk/>

On Tuesday 4th February, the 37 members of the Key Stage Two Choir travelled to the O2 Arena in London to perform in a Young Voices concert with thousands of other school children. In fact, the Young Voices choir is the largest children's choir in the world!



The school choir had been working on the repertoire and dance moves since September and were very excited about the opportunity to perform in a venue where their music idols perform!



As well as performing themselves, children also had the chance to watch guest artists perform, including MC Grammar (a teacher who raps on social media), Tommy Blaize (lead singer on Strictly Come Dancing) and fifteen-year-old Souparnika Nair, a star of Britain's Got Talent, who performed in a Young Voices concert as an eight-year-old just seven years ago.

With benefits, ranging from inspiring a love of music and providing a sense of achievement, to gaining confidence and enabling teamwork, the experience is one that I'm sure many of the children will never forget. The children's quotes and photographs certainly suggest that they enjoyed themselves!



"It was a once in a lifetime experience and I LOVED it!" Olivia, age 10.

"It was incredible and I loved everything, especially when the whole choir were singing together because there were 8722 of us!" Esmae, age 10.

"The lights were brilliant and the music was iconic! It was really fun! My favourite song was Marley Magic and singing with Tommy from Strictly." Arthur, age 8.

"It was my second time at Young Voices. I loved Birdhouse in Your Soul and the Hairspray medley. I also liked singing with MC Grammar." Lennon, age 9.

"I loved connecting with people who have the same passion as me." Izzy, age 9.

"I enjoyed being up really high and the street dancers were incredible! My favourite song was the Hairspray medley. I hope I can go again!" Anabelle, age 7.

"It was an incredible experience with friends. My favourite song was Birdhouse in Your Soul." Primrose.

MARCH 2024

- Sunday 2nd - 11.00 am, Dedham Church - 9 Together Service
- Sunday 2nd - 5.00 pm, Dedham Church - Evensong.
- Monday 3rd - 12.30pm, Monday Lunch Club, Essex Rose Tea Room.
- Monday 3rd - 6.30pm, Dedham Parish Council Meeting, Duchy Barn.
- Wednesday 5th - 8.00 am, Dedham Church - Ash Wednesday Service.
- Wednesday 5th - 7.30pm, DHS meeting, "A year in Beekeeping" - Elliott Frisby.
- Sunday 9th - 11am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Thursday 13th - The Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm. Dedham Art Society
- Sunday 16th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Morning Praise.
- Sunday 16th - 5pm Dedham Church - ReVive@5
- Wednesday 19th - 7.30pm, The Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, PADDINGTON IN PERU
- Sunday 23rd at 9:30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Thursday 27th - The Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm. Dedham Art Society

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday

- Meet up Mondays - The Sun Inn, 11am to 12pm.
- Social Table Tennis - Dedham Sports Club, 10:30am to 12:30pm.
- Watercolour Painting Group, Duchy Barn, 10am to 12pm.
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 13:30 to 15:30.

Tuesday

- Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30 to 12pm.
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 09:00 to 11:00.
- Dedham Baby and Toddler Group Dedham Sports Club, 10am to 12pm (Term time only)
- Dedham Carpet Bowls Club - Dedham Sports Club, 7pm to 9pm.

Wednesday

- Bridge in Dedham - Assembly Rooms, 1.30-5.00pm.

Thursday

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

Friday

- Dedham Youth Club - The Duchy Barn, 7.30pm to 9.15pm.

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.



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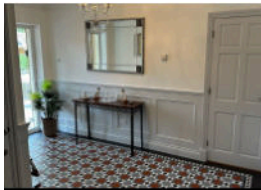
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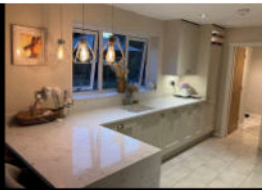
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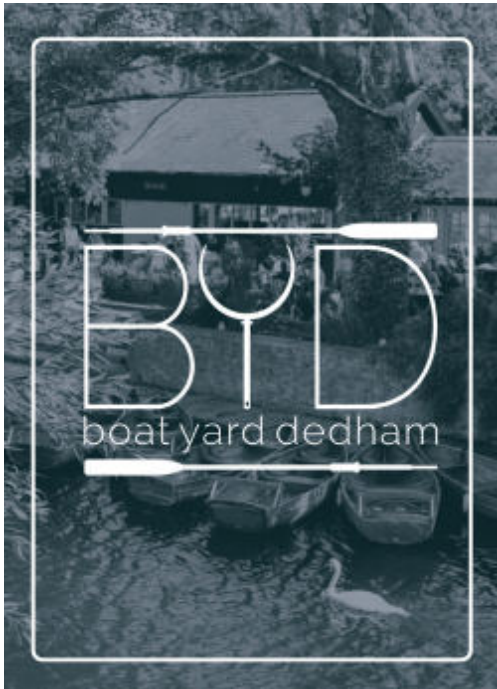
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Dedham Old Boys Football Club is on the hunt to bolster its backroom team. We're looking for likeminded individuals to get involved and join this historic club. A number of roles are available including:

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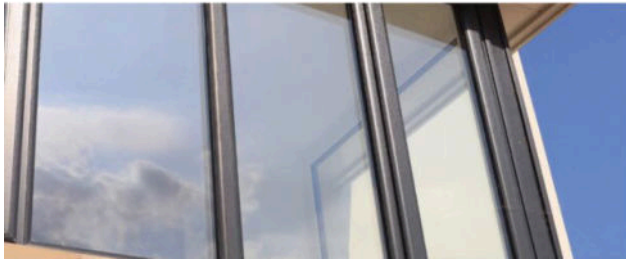
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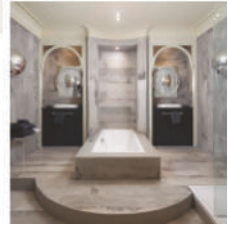
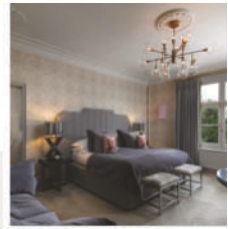
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