

DEDHAM

Parish Magazine

November
2017



We will remember them...

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

Sunday 12 November 10.45am

Ardleigh and Dedham Churches

VIEWPOINT: ANTONY WILSON

War and peacemaking

As Chaplain to 4th Battalion Parachute Regiment, I was privileged to be at the 73rd annual commemoration of Operation Market Garden. In September 1944, 10,000 allied paratroopers jumped in to secure the bridge at Arnhem. The operation failed and all but 4,000 were killed or captured. At the annual service at Oosterbeek Cemetery where over 1,700 allied servicemen are buried, local children still come in their hundreds to lay flowers at the graves of the fallen. After 73 years their gratitude is as strong as ever for the men who gave their lives to bring peace to Holland.

Come and show your gratitude at our Remembrance Services at 10.45am on Sunday 12 November.
(see page 3).

complicated questions to consider and pray through. What happens when the call to be a peacemaker collides with the call to stand up for the oppressed, or for righteousness in society? What kind of peace do we consider worth fighting for? And do we believe in peace at any price? At the end of the exhibition there is an interview in which Vanessa Redgrave said about the nuclear threat: *'It's not an 'it'... it's us. It's we that are the problem.'*



Dutch children show their gratitude

At the Imperial War Museum there is currently an exhibition called *People Power: Fighting for Peace*. It is about peace fighters throughout the last century, from the conscientious objectors of World War I to the 2003 anti-war protests. By the entrance there is a huge banner emblazoned with the words 'Blessed are the Peacemakers', Jesus's call for peace and reconciliation – to individuals and to nations. It offers a glimpse of God's values in the middle of our broken mess. There are, however, many

What an uncomfortable idea: that we've made weapons into the enemy to take the spotlight off ourselves. We need only to look at the Bible story of Cain and Abel to realise that hatred and violence have been there from the beginning. We've just managed to develop technologies which escalate the damage we can do. We all long to see a world without nuclear weapons. The root of evil, however, is not the red button, but the brokenness of humanity which prompts us to push it.

Continued on page 2.

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

WEBSITE www.dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

MINISTERS

Antony Wilson	Priest in Charge	☎* 323 919
Merv McKinney	Assistant Minister	323 919
Carol Mitson	Assistant Minister	323 919

CHURCH OFFICERS

Suzanne Woods	Churchwarden	(01255) 870 640
Richard Hopkins	Churchwarden	322 361
Be Burleigh	Assistant Churchwarden	323 205
Gabbie Watson	Verger	322 425

MUSIC

Antony Watson	Director of Music	322 425
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FLOWER ARRANGERS

Helen Sims	Co-ordinator	321 286
Wendy Sarton	Weddings	323 027

PARISH OFFICE

Claire Arculus Parish Secretary		322 136
Assembly Rooms	✉stmaryda@gmail.com	
High Street		Tuesday 9-11am
Dedham CO7 6HJ		Thursday 11-1pm

If you have an urgent query please contact Rev Antony Wilson ☎323 919

* Throughout the magazine local telephone numbers omit ☎(01206) area code, unless otherwise stated.



LITTLEGARTH COTTAGES VACANCY

There is a vacancy at No. 4 Littlegarth Cottages. The four Littlegarth cottages were the gift of Miss Betty Mallett to the community. The trustees set up to administer the gift are the vicar and churchwardens. All income from the trust is used to maintain and improve the cottages.

Under the terms of the bequest the houses are for “those in need or those who are elderly and in need”. The accommodation is suitable for a couple or a small family. If you think you may qualify or if you would like further information please contact Tracy Woods, clerk to the trustees, c/o the Parish Office, High Street, Dedham, CO7 6DE; ☎323 921 ✉tracy.woods@btinternet.com.

Closing date for applications THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER

VIEWPOINT: ANTONY WILSON

Continued. Someone has said: *at the heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart.* So as we live through a time of uncertain politics may we ask God to bring wisdom, sensitivity, and insight to our leaders that’s far beyond human means. In the middle of the rhetoric, fire and fury, may we keep our eyes fixed on the Prince of Peace.

Reverend Antony Wilson

DEDHAM AND ARDLEIGH PARISHES

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 5 November - All Saint's Day

8am	Holy Communion	BCP	Dedham
11am	Morning Worship	CW	Ardleigh
5pm	Service of Thanksgiving		Dedham

Sunday 12 November

9.30am	Rise n' Shine Remembrance		Dedham
10.45am	Remembrance Service		Dedham
10.45am	Remembrance Service		Ardleigh

Sunday 19 November

8am	Holy Communion	BCP	Dedham
11am	Parish Eucharist with Baptism	CW	Ardleigh

Sunday 26 November

8am	Holy Communion	BCP	Ardleigh
11am	Matins	BCP	Dedham
5pm	Revive@5		Dedham

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesdays

10.30am	Morning Prayer	Dedham
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Fourth Tuesday

10 - 12noon	Friendship Group	Ardleigh
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Thursdays

5pm	Evening Prayer	Ardleigh
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Fridays (Term time)

6.30/7pm	Junior & Adult Choir Practice	Dedham
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Fridays (Term time)

9.15am	Bible Study	Littlebury House CO7 6ES
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OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 11 November

9am	Men's Breakfast	Vicarage
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If you would like a lift to church please contact
Ann Shaw ☎322 192 or
Ruth Higginson ☎322 598

TOWER FLAG DAY



Remembrance
Sunday 12 November

Can we help?

Sometimes things in life can just get too much to cope with on our 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 anyone who would, please contact Ann Shaw ☎322 192 or Christine Mingay ☎230 723

If you have been bereaved or know of anyone who has, please contact Vee Druit ☎322 000 or Ruth Higginson ☎322 598



A full harvest for two good causes

The Harvest Supper curry night in the Assembly Rooms last month was a full house that raised just over £1000 (in net takings and donations) for two charities. They are the Colchester Food Bank and Mary's Meals. About 80 guests were served three excellent varieties of curry by teenagers from the Dedham and Ardleigh parishes.



A jovial table at the Harvest Supper

Table service was exemplary, and the table settings and elegant white crockery made for a stylish evening. A team of young chefs had spent all the day with their adult helpers preparing a first class meal that included subtly spiced rice and all the proper side dishes. The vicar officiated with an after dinner quiz.

Max Wilkinson

UNWANTED TOOLS: CHARITY COLLECTION

How your old tools can create new jobs

A collection of tools will be made in Dedham on **Saturday 4 November** so that they that can be sent to people who need them in Africa. The collection, organised by the charity, Tools With a Mission, will be made between 10am and 12noon in the Dedham School Car Park, Parson's Field, CO7 6BZ.

The charity assembles and sends out a range of tool kits for builders, carpentry, gardening, electricians, plumbers, mechanics and other trades. For information about what is needed go to www.twam.uk or see the leaflets in the church.

You may have seen an article in the July magazine about our visit to Zambia in May, when we visited

recipients of tool kits (*this magazine is available online www.dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk under Resources*). If you have more tools to donate than you can fit into your car we can arrange to collect them: call ☎**323 565**.

Merv and Sue McKinney



Recipients of donated tools

School wins the top grade

We are delighted by our recent 'Outstanding' grading in our SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). If you would like to read the report in full, a link is available on our website (below) however the main findings are as follows:

- *Leaders have exceptional drive and ambition as well as clarity of vision for its Christian foundation and the impact it has on school life.*
- *Excellent teaching and the wide range of opportunities and experiences offered ensure all pupils achieve well both academically and personally.*
- *The school is central to the life of the local community with provision for every pupil greatly enhanced by highly valued relationships. Its Christian ethos is demonstrated in its inclusivity and the care shown to those in particular need.*
- *High quality religious education (RE) and collective worship are deeply important to the school and inspire pupils in their personal response to Christianity, in their spiritual development and, within RE, to the teachings of other world faiths.*

The first part of the autumn term has flown by and already Christmas Nativity planning is underway!

Highlights of the first part of the term include: e-safety workshops for the whole school and parents; our Harvest Festival with every class sharing songs/plays/work with the rest of the school;



Harvest festival Year 2 creations

the year six charity conker competition; a class visit to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village; and a visit from the Life Education Bus.

Laura Valentine
Deputy Head Teacher

DEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

☎ 322 242

✉ office@dedham.essex.sch.uk

www.dedham.essex.sch.uk



DUCHY BARN JUMBLE SALE

Duchy Barn jumble sale to raise funds for repairs and maintenance for the Barn on **Saturday 11 November** from 10.30am onwards. Admission free. If you have any good quality jumble you wish to donate please phone Colin Biggins ☎ 322 565.

Take 150 eggs... then go to work on a Scotch

People increasingly start the day, conscious of health and diet, but once a year they are prepared to let rip and say: "Let's go and have a BIG breakfast!"



Big Breakfast ladies (left to right):
Ann Shaw, Jill Strangward, Beth Mitchell,
Ruth Higginson, Pam Tanner

estimated 80 people. to raise church funds. It has now grown to 150. Everyone who has eaten it knows it is superb, magnificent and includes porridge, served with double cream, brown sugar AND whiskey.

The staggering shopping list is: 150 eggs, 200 rashers of best back smoked bacon and 180 sausages all from Evans, the butcher, 160 large field mushrooms, 80 tomatoes cut in half, a couple of boxes of porridge, a pint of double cream, 13 loaves of brown and white bread, coffee, tea, 4 boxes of spreadable butter ("We put it in ramekins. We don't like plastic things on the table") a 6lb jar of homemade marmalade ("made by Mrs Elizabeth Slingo who was our egg fryer for 14 years but has now retired at the age of 89") 28 tins of baked beans, only one bag of sugar "it's been much reduced over the years", 12 pints of milk, 20 boxes of orange, cranberry and apple juice, one bottle of whisky - and copies of all newspapers including the Daily Sport "Mrs Hood used to provide them free but now we have to pay the Co-op."

This is Jill Strangward's explanation for the runaway success of Dedham's mighty breakfast extravaganza, a conclusion endorsed by the fact that an extra spring breakfast was tried one year and proved a failure.

But it is a modest verdict because the triumph of the Big Breakfast is due to 15 years of planning, refining, revising and perfecting this now established Dedham celebration. And much hard work.

Its fame is even international. One Dedham couple time the annual visit of American relatives to include the famous occasion: "They insist."

The seven organisers, led by Jill, established the event originally for an

Over the years breakfast habits have changed. The original assortment of cereals has been reduced to cornflakes. Less butter and sugar are required, "fried bread surprisingly stays the same, baked beans go up and down."

This classy feast even has a Maitre D',

DEDHAM'S BIG BREAKFAST

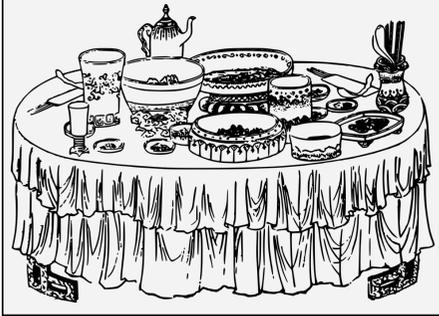
David Druitt. "He directs the people to their seats after they have paid the receptionist (Mrs Jean Flewin). He keeps a general eye on all that is happening and alerts us to any needs not picked up by the waitresses."

Assembly Rooms

Saturday 18 November

BIG BREAKFAST

from 8.30am...



By now the Big Breakfast has become, in effect, an outreach of the church – an occasion which provides an excellent opportunity for people to sit and talk to someone they didn't know and then to become friends "We do it refectory style to encourage this."

But how do a small group of amateurs serve this mighty breakfast with amazing speed and efficiency?

First of all teas and coffee orders are taken - the only self-service item is ordering and collecting toast.

Each ticked up menu is handed to Katie, Jill's daughter, in the kitchen

who deals with them strictly in the order they came in. Everything except the eggs is prepared - warm and ready to be swiftly assembled on hot plates while the final eggs are fried. Waiters deliver the plates. Most people are local and known, but Jill stands in the middle of the room in case anyone needs identifying.

By now the volunteers are so practised and skilled that it takes no more than an hour for the initial 72 places to be laid, chairs to be put out, "banquet rolls" spread, napkins knives and forks laid precisely in straight lines "It has to be perfect."

The Christmas raffle is an important additional fund-raiser, with a Christmas cake, iced by a professional who has volunteered her services, as the *pièce de résistance*, supplemented by other Christmas fare: crackers, biscuits, Christmas decorations – everything to do with Christmas.

Has anything ever gone wrong? "We have occasionally run short of bacon or eggs. I get one of our young people to race down to the butcher or Co-op and say 'it's for the Big Breakfast' and jump to the front of the queue."

And when it's all over and the last breakfasters have gone? "Plates are scraped into black bags, a huge amount of washing up has to be done and everything tidied and put away.

"We all normally get home at 2.30pm, EXHAUSTED."

Anthea Hall

PARISH OFFICE

The council hopes to open a new office and tourist information point at the Art and Craft Centre in Brook Street in February. Munnings Museum has offered support and an application will be made for a grant from the LEADER programme, an EU fund administered by Suffolk council.

FOOTPATHS

The council will apply for a grant from Essex County Council's new Local Services Fund to help pay for maintenance of footpaths and other vegetation in the village. A three-year grant, with matching funds from Dedham council, would allow footpaths to be cut as they were previously under the Parish Paths Partnership arrangement. See *volunteer article on opposite page*.

MOBILE LIBRARY REVIEW

Essex County Council is to review the mobile library service which visits Dedham every other Tuesday, stopping at Royal Square, Dedham Meade and Parson's Field. The mobile library vehicles are around 18 years old and nearing the end of their lives. There is also a separate 'home library service' which delivers books and other materials direct to people who cannot get to a library. Use of the mobile library is steadily decreasing. In Dedham, only the Royal Square stop is regularly used. To express your views, use the link on the Dedham Parish Council website, or collect a form from any library or mobile vehicle.

MOBILE LIBRARY in DEDHAM

Tuesdays 14 & 28 November



10.10am The Royal Square
10.45am Parson's Field
11.05am Dedham Meade

CHRIS CLARK



Chris Clark has resigned from the parish council as he has been in poor health recently and has moved out of the village. He has been active as a member of the council

and in village life for many years. His wealth of knowledge and experience will be much missed. All parish councillors thank him for his dedication and wish him well.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Colchester council's consultations on the proposed new parking restrictions in Crown Street, Southfields, Manningtree Road and Forge Street has now been completed and the new arrangements are expected to come into force shortly.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONTACTS

We have been asking Dedham businesses for their views over the past couple of years. Although we have contact details of village centre businesses and some at the Birchwood junction, we would like to contact other local businesses, including those run from home. To join our mailing list, please contact the Clerk.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES

We are changing our e-mail provider and the new e-mail addresses for councillors takes the form `firstname.surname@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk`.

NEXT MEETING Monday 6 November 7.30 in the Duchy Barn.

Nicola Baker

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

www.dedhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Clerk *Emma Carsdale* ☎ **01255 871483**
✉ clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

One man wants to mow...

Like his namesake in Greek legend, Jason Skelton is a man with a mission, but unlike the ancient Argonaut, Dedham's Jason is still seeking a trusty crew to join him.

He has set himself to help clear Dedham's overgrown footpaths. The fabled hero found his way blocked by dragon's teeth sprouting from the ground. In Dedham it is just thistles, nettles and briars. Still, keeping open the 15 miles of paths in the parish is no small task.

Jason announced recently on the Dedham Vale Voice Facebook page that the Dedham Volunteer Footpath Group had started work. This was a trifle premature as the group had only one member using hand tools.

Still, his quest to slay the weeds continues and Jason has now surmounted a task which had daunted four former companions. After two days' instruction in Chelmsford, financed by Essex County Council, he is judged worthy - and insured - to wield a brand new strimmer and brush cutter. It is a light, top of the range machine provided by the county and Jason says it was fun to learn all about it.

The saga began earlier this year when Dedham parish council found that the cost of paying someone to maintaining the paths (in a partnership with the county council) was significantly more than the £4,500 that it had budgeted. As a result, it withdrew from the partnership.

The county council, which is responsible for this work, spends much less than the partnership had planned, so many paths have become overgrown.

After a series of complaints, Dedham council appealed for volunteer cutters to be

trained by the county council. Five stepped forward, but the scheme almost fizzled out because, as Jason says: "Most of them thought there was too much Red Tape." And the county was offering to train only two people.

Jason, who has tramped most of the parish pathways with his dog, Scrap, decided to persevere. "Some of the paths have become impassable. You can either moan about it, or do something," he said.

Now he is fully equipped. He gets expenses from the county, including for petrol and maintenance, and the course was free. But Jason reckons it might take him 2 hours or so to clear half a mile, and of course the weeds don't stop growing. That is why he is seeking other volunteers to join him. Anyone interested should contact *Emma Carsdale* by email [✉clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk)



Jason Skelton:
ready for battle

Council tax precept - a clarification

Our article on the council's budget in the August/September issue said that the parish council's tax precept for this year had been increased by 60 per cent. A reader has suggested that this must have

been a misprint for 6 per cent. To avoid confusion we should make it clear that our figure was correct. This year's charge to Dedham's council tax payers is sixty per cent more than in 2016/17.

Max Wilkinson

Coming soon: the virus of Oz

The deaths of around 50 million people in the worldwide Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-19 are now fading into history. But despite advances in medicine, the flu continued to be dangerous. Two million people died in the 1959 outbreak, one million in 1968.

Flu, with its symptoms of a runny nose, temperature, generalised muscle aches and headache, often with a cough, is a miserable illness. Whilst for the fit the complaint can be relatively minor, for young children, the elderly and people with chronic conditions it remains a significant problem.

The virus was isolated by doctors in the 1930s and trials of vaccines began in the early 1940s. There have been annual mass vaccination campaigns in the UK for several decades. The virus evolves rapidly into different strains. So each year the World Health Organisation considers which three strains should be in the vaccine for that year. Since it takes six months to prepare the vaccines, fore-casting can be a tricky, so the effectiveness of the vaccine varies from year to year.

The flu season starts in Australia and this year there has been a big rise in the number of cases there.

Fortunately, the current vaccine covers the Australian strain, so the vaccination campaign in the UK has been given a special push.

At Ardleigh, as in most surgeries, we are using the trivalent vaccine, although some clinics are now using a new vaccine, which protects against a fourth strain. You may have heard recently about trials of a new vaccine which could give protection for longer than a year, but it will be some time before this will be available to all.

As I write we have vaccinated just over 1300 people and have some 700 vaccines left. If you are 65 or over, you automatically qualify for a vaccination. If you are under 65 with a chronic disease, you may qualify and the practice will be able to advise you. Those that do not qualify can get the jab for £10 from Dedham Pharmacy ☎322 109 (see below). The jab helps to prevent the spread of the disease amongst your community.

For more information search for **flu** on **www.nhs.uk**.

Stephanie Durrant, Practice Manager

ARDLEIGH SURGERY
Ardleigh ☎230 224 Dedham ☎322 290
www.ardleighsurgery.nhs.uk

Flu jabs at Dedham Pharmacy

For the first time flu vaccines are available at the Dedham Pharmacy free for NHS eligible patients and £10 for private patients. Walk in or by appointment: **Monday to Saturday** from 10am to 4pm. ☎322 109.

Mandeep Sandhu, Pharmacy Manager

Going potty - about Greek urns

The Great Garden Tidy Up continues and this leads me to relate the tale of Bizzie Lizzie and the Greek urns. Many years ago when buying some very large Greek/Turkish storage jars in Spitalfields Market, London, we noticed some damaged ones. "They're going cheap and there's more broken stuff down in Kent if you are interested" said the potman. We journeyed south and found the field of pots, at which point, of course, the heavens opened. After a good rummage our small car was filled with a motley assortment of 16 pots and amphora, some bottomless, minus handles or with large holes. "Can't you get one on your lap" said the potman. "Would £40 be OK?" In today's parlance that was a "no brainer!"



At first our new garden resembled an architectural dig, but planting soon started and the good ones (some 2 to 3 ft tall) were strategically placed to become focal points, whilst others became fillers. Bottomless amphora pushed into the ground became whole again; likewise groups of damaged pots

(holes duly disguised) looked quite arty. Now they have really come into their own to add interest to 'problem areas' under trees or elsewhere in the borders. Whilst some seem to disappear in the undergrowth in the summer they reveal themselves again in the winter.

So after your unsightly stuff has gone to the compost bin (see October's issue), why not fill the gaps with something interesting? You may not have Greek urns (surely you have the odd armless statue somewhere?) but you can always add a flowerpot of spring bulbs to the border – the Royal Horticultural Society says it is not too late to plant tulips in November. Spare plants? I grow lots of the colourful evergreen Pheasant Grass (*Stipa arundinacea*): small ones (in their pots) have been sunk into the borders where they will look colourful throughout the winter. By spring they will have grown, ready for plant sales at the Dedham Horticultural Society Spring show or annual plant sale in May.

So with a bit of imagination you may come up with some ideas about your own 'no grow' areas or bare spaces before you put your feet up for the winter and start reading gardening catalogues.

Elizabeth Ellis

Upcoming **Dedham Horticultural Society** meetings details on page 18.



DEDHAM FLOWER TEAM (left to right): Julia Ca
Ruth Higginson, Christine Moore, Helen Sims, Edna



Photos by Liubov Dordery



Loads of laughs and fine acting from the Players

It is no use saying “Hurry! Get tickets for Dedham Players’ One Man, Two Guvnors”, because even if you read this review before the last night, it was sold out before it opened. Those who bagged seats will not have been disappointed.



Gary Huggins and Tracy Lancaster

It was a riot of none too subtle English naughtiness, slapstick and music hall gags, all grafted on to a 270-year-old commedia dell’arte extravaganza. It opened at the National Theatre in 2011, moved to the West End, transferred to Broadway and then in November it came to Dedham - with bags of crackle and pop. It is hard to imagine a more different kind of laugh compared with the dark cerebral comedy, *God of Carnage*, the Players’ April offering; but the simple jokes are not the easiest to do - and plenty of fun when they work.

The show depends, as it did in London, on the part of Francis, the two-timing, ravenous, mendacious servant with muddled memory and wily wits. Gary Huggins one of the players’ most versatile comic talents, rose splendidly to the task. Some of the below-the-waist jokes and getting his head stuck in a dustbin did not quite do it for me, but these are quibbles.

He navigated the possible pratfalls, with deft assurance, pulling out of the hat a splendid Irish alter ego complete with a sonorous “Danny Boy”. The famous scene in which he serves both masters simultaneously with the remains of the suppers he hasn’t scoffed (just as in the Italian original) was well done and ably assisted by Alan Stock as an octogenarian waiter straight from Central Casting.

All the rest of the cast were well up to the mark. Claire Nicholson, director of the Players’ April production, was great fun as the lovesick blonde masquerading as her underworld brother. I enjoyed the soppy silliness of Ivy Dillon’s Pauline, the low life “heroine”. And I felt pleasantly reassured by the unrelenting crookedness of Kelvin Hastings-Smiths’s portrayal of Dolly’s Dad-with-a-record. Both the posh young lovers were utterly ridiculous, as they should be. And, cor blimey, you couldn’t half see why Francis wouldn’t say no to a week in Marbella with delectable Dolly to turn down his sheets. (Tracy Lancaster was just the ticket as the maid.)

As usual, the production was fairly spare, with gaily coloured beach houses doing various duties, including as an interior (with Queen’s portrait), as the Cricketers’ Arms - or a suicide pier. The illusions switched easily, showing that simple scenery is often the best. Ian Amos’s direction kept up the pace and made the most of audience participation.

To tell the honest truth, as Francis would say, I didn’t think the first performances down in the smoke were quite my cuppa, despite the big noise notices. Now I think perhaps I might have been wrong.

Max Wilkinson

Nave of arts comes up trumps

The Dedham Arts Group's 50th anniversary exhibition in St Mary's church was a superb celebration of their obvious love of art. The work put into it and preparations that took nearly a year have been well repaid. At the church entrance was a panel with the minutes from the group's first meeting in 1967 with two paintings from that date by Avril Biggins a founder member. One of them was still priced "40 guineas" on its back.



Dedham High Street by Christine Frost

The exhibition was a very varied collection of oils, acrylics, watercolours, collage and fabric painting. Some of the works were bold and showy, while others were dreamy and atmospheric. Some paintings were extremely precise and technical; others were abstract and free. There were 107 framed paintings by members and four three dimensional works and also six pictures by previous tutors.

The dreamy, unusual paintings of Jill Van Looy caught my eye. A highly atmospheric painting of the river Stour by Liz Seward also won praise. The dazzling colours of an oil by Christine Frost of Dedham High Street was also an attention grabber. The large, showy flower paintings by Angella Horner were cheerful and exuberant.

Alongside the exhibition was display of pictures by children at Dedham primary school. Some were beautifully drawn, showing that the future of art is high in the village.

Visitors were given the impossible responsibility to vote for their favourite

painting. That was a great idea; but perhaps it was better to buy something as half the price was donated to the wonderful charity, East Anglia Children's Hospice.

At the well-attended opening party Angella Horner, the group's chair, said that as part of a drive for new members, the group will be re-named The Dedham Arts Society from next year and anyone with a "true love of art" would be welcomed." It is an excellent way for likeminded people to meet and the regular workshops and exhibitions are very good training ground. The fee is £25 for a year and £5 for a session of tuition with a professional artist.



Visitors were delighted to see the church used in such a way, as it brought in a wider community and provided lots of space to view pictures from a distance.

Let's hope they can triumph with the same trick in a half a century's time!

Philippa Black

Kim sets out her stalls for the 18th year

Kim Spencer, who has been running the Dedham Christmas Market since 2000, says she does it for the fun. But



organising more than 40 stalls, a marquee, seven school groups, a raffle, merry go round and barbeque is not every-

one's idea of relaxation. The market has grown in size and popularity over the years and now raises more than £4,000 for Dedham Primary School.

This year's market will be in the High Street from **3pm to 6pm** on **Saturday 2 December**, partly coinciding with the Christmas tree festival in the church (see *facing page*). The event's fame has spread far beyond the village. Kim says some visitors even book into the Fountain House for that night. She says numbers are hard to estimate, but many hundreds throng the village during the afternoon.

Kim started the event (formerly called the Dickensian Market) to raise money for improvements to the Assembly Rooms. Then it was taken over by Dedham church school and Kim has been running it ever since - in between caring for her seven children, (all of whom attended the school), baking her own bread, making jams and...

Then as now, groups of parents help to organise stalls for each year group and contribute gifts to fill the Christmas hampers for the raffle. That raises an impressive £1,000 with tickets on sale at the pharmacy nearer the time. The school children choose a theme for each hamper and their parents fill them up, with around 20 items per hamper, costing around £3 to £5 each. Fees charged to stall holders contribute a substantial sum and the next big money makers have been the barbeque and mulled cider stall. Offerings from this year's stalls will include candles, jewellery, fresh flower arrangements, Christmas gifts, scarves, shortbread, textiles, games, hot drinks, pies, fudge and Christmas cakes. To keep up the momentum, Kim relies partly on notices in local newspapers, but also on personal contacts and research – going round craft fairs in nearby villages and persuading stall holders to come to Dedham. Bad weather has only hit the market twice, once when the marquee blew down and once when heavy rain kept many people indoors.

Where does Kim, who is 60 this year, get the energy for all this? In addition to preparations in the weeks before the event she says the market itself is quite physically tiring. She would welcome help, but she is already looking ahead to next year. Planning starts in January...

Max Wilkinson



Wanted: the best dressed tree in the village

The Christmas Tree Festival is a competition for the best decorated tree to be delivered to Dedham Church on **Friday 1 December** between 3pm and 4.30pm. The entry fee is £3 per tree. The proceeds go to support the Dedham church.



On **Saturday 2 December** visitors to the festival will vote for the best tree. During the event the Dedham Songbirds usually perform and there are various stalls run by the church.

After the competition, trees must be collected from the church on Sunday 3 December by 4pm. The trees must be less than 5ft high and may be decorated in any theme or subject (without toxic substances or being offensive). Only battery operated led lights may be used.

Entry forms (on the Parish church website) must be in by **Friday 24 November**. www.dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk (Whats On/News/Notice Board)

MISSION CAKE SALE

Crumbles with custard and hot drinks will be served during Dedham **Christmas Market** on **Saturday 2 December** to raise funds for the missionary family we support in South Africa and for Beacon House (a homeless charity) in Colchester. We are looking for volunteers to bake or to help on the stall. If you would like to help contact *Ruth Higginson* on ☎**322 598**.

The loneliness of Christmas in a foreign land

Can you help?



Some people, particularly students from overseas are on their own at Christmas time.

If you are able to welcome an international student into your home at any time but, particularly during the Christmas and New Year periods, contact the charity **Host UK**. Hospitality can be offered for one day or for a few days and nights.

www.hostuk.org ✉info@hostuk.org
☎**02077 396 292**

Or tell us your story...

In the December–January issue we will be featuring some of the out of the ordinary Christmases that Dedham people have experienced.



If you have spent Christmas away from your family, perhaps abroad or among strangers; or if you have invited someone outside your circle to your celebrations; or if you have experienced any unusual Christmas, please contact the magazine editors (see page 21 for contact details).

DUCHY BARN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Coffee Mornings

Tuesdays Thursdays and Fridays
10.30am - 12noon

Just turn up!

The Watercolour Group

Mondays 10.30am - 12.30pm

*Anyone is welcome to join the group.
Contribution £2 in aid of Duchy Barns.*

Bridge in Dedham

Wednesdays 2pm - 5pm

Thursdays 7pm - 10pm

Duplicate Bridge. No partner needed.

Contact *Judith Anderson Fowle*

☎**322 938**

The Good Neighbours Club

First Friday of the month 2pm - 4pm

New members welcome!

Contact *Betty Callaghan* ☎**322 116**

Youth Club

Fridays 7.30pm - 9.15pm

Open to young people from the village.

Contact *Mark Dempsey* ☎**07503 009 790**

Military Veterans

The last Friday in the month 10.45am

The Duchy Barn is also available

for private hire: £15 per session

for local groups; £40 for parties.

Contact *Anne Rowledge* ☎**322 394**

SPORTS PAVILION

Toddler Group

Tuesdays 10.30 - 12noon (Term time)

£2.50 per session incl. snack and drink.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS



Little Squigglers

Thursdays 10.30am - 12noon

www.littlesquigglers.co.uk/ne-essex

Horticultural Society Meeting

Wednesday 1 November 7pm

Antiques Fair

Sunday 5 November All day

Dedham Arts Group

Thursday 9 November 2pm - 4.30pm

More details on page 19

Dedham Films

Wednesday 15 November 7pm

More details on page 21

Big Breakfast

Saturday 18 November from 8.30am

More details on page 6

Dedham Players Audition

Monday 20 November 7pm

Dolls House Fair

Saturday 25 November 10am - 4.30pm

Dedham Vale Lecture

Monday 27 November 7pm

*For information and to make a booking
for the Assembly Rooms please
contact Tracy Woods ☎**323 921***

✉info@dedham-assemblyrooms.info

LUNCHEON CLUB

The Dedham Monday Lunch Club meets at the Essex Rose on **6 November** at 12:30pm. The Monday **4 December** meeting will be a *Christmas lunch*. Discount: 15 per cent on normal prices. To book, call Essex Rose ☎**323 101**.



TENNIS CLUB AGM

The members' annual general meeting will be on **Friday 3 November** at 8pm in the Sports Pavilion. There are several vacancies on the club's committee. If you are interested: ✉committee@dedhamtennis.org.uk.

FOOTBALLERS' QUIZ NIGHT

The second Dedham Old Boys Football Club annual quiz will be held at the sports club on **Saturday 11 November** at 7:30pm. Teams of up to 6 people are invited. The entry fee is £5 per person.

The winning team will receive a case of wine. The bar will be open and a light supper will be included in the entry fee. There will also be a raffle. ✉dobfc@outlook.com ☎**0775383875**

STOUR VALLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

On **Wednesday 1 November** Ted Wheatley will present "*Overland to India*". On **15 November** Dennis and Ann Kell will talk on: "*Wildlife in the Falklands*". All meetings are at the St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree, CO11 1EB. Contact *Dave Carman* ☎**01255 880 202**.

STOUR VALLEY U3A

On **Wednesday 8 November** Eve Regelous talks about *Harrods*, at Constable Hall, East Bergholt, CO7 6TP at 2pm. *The Christmas lunch* will be on **Wednesday 6 December**. www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk

DEDHAM ARTS GROUP

Thursday 9 November 2pm to 4.30pm, The Assembly Rooms, Angella Horner: "*Joyful Painting with Posca*" Wonderful results using Painting Pens. True colour and lots of other great qualities. Entry for this session, £5 for the use of the pens.

Thursday 7 December 2pm to 4.30pm, The Assembly Rooms, John Talman on Watercolours – "*The Loser the Better*".

www.dedhamartsgroup.com

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Wednesday 1 November Matthew Long will talk about *Bulbs Galore for Spring Colour*. at 7.30 pm in the Assembly Rooms. Refreshments, raffle and a gardening magazine swap. Visitors welcome Membership £6 per annum Further details from *Colin Biggins* ☎**322 565**.



www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com

DEDHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

Sunday 5 November 10.30am meet at the Co-op Car park Manningtree for a two hour walk. Leader *Sue Everett* ☎**07712 240 449**.

Enquiries *Martin Broom* ☎**322 578**.

WHAT'S ON: THEATRE, MUSIC, OPERA/MUSICAL

THEATRE

Monday 30 Oct to 4 Nov

Deathtrap, Ira Levin's thriller, Mercury Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

Monday 6 to 11 Nov

Wait Until Dark, the thriller, New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, 7.45pm.

Tuesday 28 Nov

Oscar Wilde: A Woman Of No Importance, Vaudeville Theatre London - LL, 7.15pm at Odeon Colchester.

MUSIC

Sunday 29 Oct

The Solem String Quartet Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, Wrabness Concerts, 4pm at Wrabness Church.

Saturday 4 Nov

Colchester Symphony Orchestra Strings 7.30pm at St Botolph's.

Sunday 12 Nov

Trio con Brio, Copenhagen (violin, cello, piano), Stour Valley Arts and Music, 4pm at East Bergholt Church.

Saturday 18 Nov

Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle, Hadleigh Choral Society Hadleigh, 7.30pm at Hadleigh Church.

Saturday 25 Nov

Beethoven: Missa Solemnis, Colchester Choral Society, 7.30pm at St Botolph's.

Sunday 26 Nov

Music from America for choir and piano: Colchester Chamber Choir, 6pm at Moot Hall Colchester.

Young Musicians - Double Reed

Concert, Pimlott Foundation, 4pm at Old House, Great Horkesley.

Christmas Music from around the World, Pimlott Foundation, 7pm at Lion Walk Church, Colchester.

Puccini: Messa di Gloria and Christmas carols, Clacton Choral Society, 7.30pm at St James's Church.

In Dedham Church

Saturday 9 Dec

Gabriel's Message:

mediaeval festive music,
Suffolk Villages Festival, 6pm

OPERA/MUSICAL

Tuesday 14 to 18 Nov

Glyndebourne Touring Opera at Theatre Royal Norwich.

Thursday 16 Nov

Follies by Stephen Sondheim, National Theatre - LL, 7pm at Odeon and Firstsite Colchester and Lakeside on 30 Nov

Saturday 18 Nov

The Exterminating Angel by Thomas Adès, Metropolitan Opera New York - LL, 7.30pm at Firstsite, Colchester.

Wednesday 22 Nov

Sondheim's Sunday in the Park with George Headgate Theatre, Colchester, 7.45pm, to 25 Nov.

ARCHITECTURE

Sunday 3 Dec

John Lyall on Architecture, Stour Valley Arts and Music, 4pm at Constable Hall, East Bergholt.

This is a small selection of the events from the **free monthly email** Guide
Subscribe online **WWW.EAMAA.ORG** Max Wilkinson

WHAT'S ON: FILMS



Wednesday
15 November 2017
Whisky Galore

(NR) Directed by Gillies MacKinnon 2017



SS Politician, an 8000-ton cargo ship was sailing for Kingston, Jamaica and New Orleans with a cargo including 28,000 cases of malt whisky. On 5 February 1941, during gale force winds, she ran aground off the Island of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides. Tickets £4



Wednesday
20 December 2017

Beauty and the Beast

(PG13) Directed by Bill Condon 2017



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Films admission 7pm Films begin 7.30pm

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Refreshments available before the screenings and in the intervals.

✉ dedhamfilms@gmail.com ☎ **643 009**

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN DEDHAM?

Tell us about clubs, societies or anything else you would like to share.

Let us know if you would like to advertise in the Parish Magazine.

Deadline for contributions for **December-January** issue: **Friday 17 November**

Cover image credit: Liubov Dordery Copyright

This magazine is available in full colour online:
WWW.DEDHAM-AND-ARDLEIGH-PARISHES.ORG.UK



JOHN CHAPMAN'S CHARITY

The trustees of the John Chapman charity will meet early next month to consider the **distribution of grants to people and organisations in Dedham**. The charity was set up in 1657 to buy coal for the poor of the parish - under the Will of John Chapman, the eldest son of the Rev. Edmund Chapman, Dedham's first Lecturer.

The objects of the charity have been updated over time, to reflect changes in society. They were last changed in 2004. It can now assist people in financial hardship or distress as well as voluntary and charitable organisations set up to benefit the residents of the parish. The charity's annual income is relatively small - £1,600 a year - and its grants reflect this.

In recent years the number of individuals within the Parish requiring support has been very limited. As a result grants have been made to the Youth Club, the Good Neighbours Club, the Senior Citizens Christmas lunch, the Duchy Barn and the Primary School. The charity's trustees are Alan Grego, Jill Strangward, Alison Buttery and myself.

Please get in touch if you know of anyone, or any organisation, who you think the charity could help. ☎**322 200**.

David Druitt, Clerk & Trustee



VILLAGE QUIZ 2018

Dedham's annual village quiz will be held on **Saturday 27 January** in the Assembly Rooms, starting at 7pm for 7.30pm. It is for organisations or groups based in the village, with six people per team and a maximum of 20 teams. Tickets £10 per person include a light supper. There will be a bar and raffle.

The proceeds will be divided equally between the **Colchester Hospitals Cancer Charity Campaign** and the **East Anglian Children's Hospice**.

This is always a popular event, with all tables fully booked. Last year's quiz raised about £1,200. The winning group is usually asked to organise the following year's event, though this is not always the case.

As the quiz is run to raise money for charity, contestants are asked to buy all their drinks from the bar. To enter a team please contact *Lynn Taylor* ☎**322 122** or *Joanne Rowles* ☎**323 698**.

CHARITY NOTICES



CHARITY SEEKS TREASURER

The **Mary Barfield Charity** in Dedham is looking for a local person to take on the voluntary role of treasurer. The charity's trustees are responsible for the administration of the four Barfields almshouses on Crown Street.

The role is very light, with almost all financial transactions carried out by direct debit or standing order. The treasurer is responsible for recording the incoming and outgoing finances associated with owning a property and for producing a brief summary at the end of the year.

Anyone interested contact the chairman
Steve White ☎**322 269** ✉steve.white23@btinternet.com



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T&C: two to ten people per tour. For the tower tour only: unfortunately we cannot accept any children under the age of 8. Children aged 8-16 must be accompanied by an adult.



THE ESSEX LOTTERY

The **Essex Lottery** is a weekly lottery run by Essex County Council to help the county's charities and good causes to raise funds. Sixty percent of ticket sales goes to good causes that benefit Essex residents – more than double the proportion for the National Lottery. 50p from every £1 goes to the good cause chosen by the lottery player and 10p goes into a central fund for smaller causes.

The first weekly prize draw will be on **Saturday 25 November**.
Local charities or good causes can register free of charge.

WWW.ESSEXLOTTERY.CO.UK



HONOUR A FRIEND AND RAISE MONEY



St Helena Hospice is joining hospices across the south east to invite supporters to be part of *The Big Get Together*. It is a way to celebrate the life of a special person, on a special date with friends and family - and at the same time support the charity. Guests can be asked to make donations either as an entrance fee, through activities, games or for cakes. The hospice will provide themed bunting, signs and collection boxes.

☎ **01206 931 468** ✉ hscatola@sthelenahospice.org.uk

Donations will all go to St Helena



TREES OF MEMORIES

Christmas is a special time of year, but it can be difficult to deal with if someone you love is no longer there to share it with you. In the run-up to Christmas, St Helena Hospice is inviting people to remember a loved one and make a donation to support the hospice.

Messages can be written on specially-prepared stars which are to be placed on a Christmas tree at one of the hospice's **Tree of Memories services**.

These will take place at the hospice's Tendring Centre in Clacton on **3 December**, at St Botolph's Church, Colchester on **12 December** and at St Helena Hospice, Highwoods on **17 December**.

The gesture of decorating a tree in memory of a loved one has brought comfort to many local people over the years and the funds raised play a vital part in supporting the hospice's services.

Anyone unable to attend one of the services can write their message on a star and return it to St Helena Hospice, whose staff will place it on one of the trees. If you would like to attend one of the services or receive a star to write a memory on, contact the fundraising team on ☎ **01206 931468**

WWW.STHELENAHOSPICE.ORG.UK/MEMORIES17



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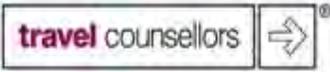
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