



Dedham

Parish Magazine

April 2018

A Munnings special exhibition - page 24



DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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APRIL 2018

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

Antony Wilson	Vicar	☎323 919
Merv McKinney	Assistant Minister	☎323 919
Sally Buchanan	Children and families worker	✉sal.buchanan@me.com

CHURCH OFFICERS

Suzanne Woods	Churchwarden	☎01255 870 640
Richard Hopkins	Churchwarden	☎322 361
Be Burleigh	Assistant Churchwarden	☎323 20
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

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 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

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

Editor

Max Wilkinson
✉dedhameditor@gmail.com
☎332 814

Advertising

Sarah Allen ☎940 123
✉dedhamadverts@gmail.com

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Friday 13 April

**Cover painting- Munnings:
King George V**

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

A cat-sitting weekend that transformed two lives

When a friend asked Denny and me to cat-sit for the weekend early in 2017 we had no idea how much our lives would completely change for the better. The house was opposite Dedham church and early one Sunday we heard the bells ringing and decided it might be nice to attend the service. We received a warm welcome and an invitation to lunch by Antony Wilson, the vicar.

We felt truly inspired over lunch and when he prayed with us we felt a shift and a deep sense of peace. We knew we were embarking on a journey that God had intended for us and were further inspired by another member of the church and her sense of love joy and kindness.

When I (Lisa) enquired about joining the women's Bible study group in Dedham I was a bit apprehensive and quite anxious as to what the women would be like and how they would take to me. I was welcomed with open arms. It felt like coming home. I particularly valued the women relating their own day to day life experiences to passages in the bible which made it so much easier to apply the teachings in to my own life.

Last summer Antony suggested to us about being baptised and so in July we were baptised in the river at Dedham and were overwhelmed by the love and support of our new church family.

We have experienced great difficulties in our lives at times. Denny experienced the loss of both his parents between his late teens and twenties and at times we have battled addiction and trauma in our lives. We appreciate that life may still be difficult at times but we wanted to touch on the sheer beauty and magnitude of God's blessings upon us and his part in our lives.

I lacked any kind of relationship with my

sister and desperately wanted to develop a relationship with my niece and new nephew. Through prayer a series of events occurred which gave me great insight and understanding in to my sisters' experiences and feelings. We have now begun to develop a relationship and I am a very proud Auntie who loves spending time with my niece and nephew.



Neither of us knew that such peace could be possible

Denny has been self employed which has caused financial hardship at times however he has now been offered his first full time employed job at aged 51 in an environment which he really enjoys.

My three best friends with whom I lost touch have come back into my life and through feeling more accepted I have been able to love myself and others in ways that I never dreamed. Both of us have experienced a far greater sense of understanding for each other which has also applied to all other relationships. The more we begin to understand Jesus and his boundless love the more we are willing to understand others. Neither of us knew such peace could be possible until we developed a relationship with Jesus.

This Easter we are looking forward to worshipping the God who we know is alive and at work in our lives. Why don't you join us too?

Lisa Miles and Denny Cousins

Services for April

Sunday 1 April – Easter Sunday

8am	Holy Communion BCP	Dedham
9.30am	Rise n' Shine	Dedham
11am	Eucharist for Easter Sunday CW	Ardleigh
5pm	Evensong BCP	Dedham

Sunday 8 April

8am	Holy Communion BCP	Ardleigh
9.30am	Holy Communion CW	Dedham

Sunday 15 April

8am	Holy Communion BCP	Dedham
9.30am	Matins BCP	Dedham
11am	Parish Eucharist	Ardleigh

Sunday 22 April

8am	Holy Communion BCP	Ardleigh
9.30am	Morning Praise followed by APCM	Dedham
5pm	Revive at 5	Dedham

Friday 29 April

11am	Joint Service followed by APCM	Ardleigh
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Sunday 6 May

8am	Holy Communion BCP	Dedham
9.30am	Rise n' Shine	Dedham
11am	Eucharist	Ardleigh
5pm	Evensong BCP	Dedham

BCP – Book of Common Prayer

CW – Common Worship

CHURCH TOWER FLAG DAYS



Sat 21 April
HM The Queen's birthday



Friday 30 March
Good Friday

Sunday 1 April
Easter

Friday 23 April
St George's day

FROM THE REGISTER

Burials

Margaret 'Peggy' Elizabeth
Bower (aged 85). Burial
5 March 2018.

Mark Oswald Julian
Nickerson (aged 82).
Burial 21 February 2018.

Internments

Dennis Eric George Sage
(aged 90) Interment of
ashes 10th March 2018.

Weekly midweek services

Tuesday Morning Prayer at **Dedham**
at 10.30am.

Thursday Evening Prayer at **Ardleigh** 5pm.

Men's breakfast

Saturday, 14 April 9am
at The Vicarage, **Dedham**

If you would like a lift to church contact Ann
Shaw ☎322 192 or Ruth Higginson ☎322 598

Lost postcards

Several albums of postcards and other,
loose, postcards are missing from the
Muniment Library. Space in the library is at
a premium so it may be that these items
are in safe keeping elsewhere in the village.

The parish magazine and the Dedham
visitor guide editors would be glad to have
access to the postcards. If anyone can help
locate them, please call Suzanne Woods,

☎01255 870640.



This Easter

We are inviting you to connect with the story of the last hours of Jesus' life in a creative way both inside and outside our churches.

Inside you will be taken on an interactive prayer journey called One Friday. Our churches will be decorated with a stunning art installation by artist Jenny Hawke. Fourteen stations on the journey, each representing a different theme, will all have fun activities to help connect the Easter story to your own everyday life and experience.

Outside we will recreate the same journey again, this time exploring the Dedham countryside as we reflect. You may also discover some unusual painted rocks across the village during Holy Week. Thanks to the artistic talents of our school children and community groups, we have organised an alternative egg hunt. If you find a church rock bring it to our Easter Sunday Rise and Shine service and we will gladly exchange it for a real egg.

The Rev Antony Wilson

ONE FRIDAY - AN INTERACTIVE PRAYER JOURNEY

From **Sunday 25 March** and throughout Holy Week in both churches.

Dedham and Ardleigh

MAUNDY THURSDAY

29 March

6pm

Holy Communion with a shared meal: you are invited to bring along bread, cheese or fruit to share

Ardleigh

GOOD FRIDAY

30 March

10am to 12noon

Come and get together to make an Easter garden and enjoy a hot cross bun. For all ages.

Ardleigh

10am to 12 noon

Enjoy a modern retelling of what happened to Jesus on his journey to the cross. Meet as we walk through the village and countryside of Dedham. Walking gear advised.

Dedham

2pm to 3pm

Service of readings, songs and meditations.

Dedham

EASTER SUNDAY

1 April

8.00am	Holy Communion	Dedham
9.30am	Rise and Shine	Dedham
11.00am	Eucharist	Ardleigh
5.00pm	Evensong	Dedham

Views invited on priorities for council projects

The February edition of the Parish Magazine had details of the budget set by the Parish Council for 2018/19, which required no increase in the parish precept. The figures also set out details of 'ring-fenced' amounts for major projects which were: additional parking facilities; lighting and repairing The Drift.

We are still looking for potential land to lease or purchase in or near the Centre of the Village that might potentially be used for additional parking. We are also trying to tackle the inconsiderate parking in Mill Lane on the Suffolk side of the bridge.

When it comes to lighting there are controversial views. Charles Clover, chairman of the Dedham Vale Society, wrote an interesting article in the same Parish Magazine. Since Dedham is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Conservation area clearly any agreed lighting scheme would need to be unobtrusive and environmentally sensitive. Some residents and particularly the elderly believe that additional lighting in some key areas would help people to feel safer in venturing out at night. For this reason the Parish Council has established a Working Party that had its first meeting last month to look at some limited improvement in areas of higher risk.

The third part of earmarked expenditure is for essential work on The Drift to improve both short and longer term safety in wet weather.

We would welcome views from residents, local organisations and our businesses on any of the above proposals and of course if one or other of these does not go ahead we would be seeking an alternative project to fund that would also benefit the whole community. In this regard I also invite you to



The Drift: one of the council's projects

let us know what you believe the priorities for the parish council's expenditure should be over the next five to ten years.

It is then proposed to consider and discuss your feedback at our annual Parish Assembly, which this year will take place on **Tuesday, 30 May** in the Assembly Rooms. Please let myself or our clerk have any views by **30 April** in order to plan for this session.

In addition to my Annual Report at this meeting we are also planning to have a speaker on Tourism following the successful opening of our new Tourist Information Point in the Craft Centre and the centenary anniversary of Munnings Museum with its associated activities (*see page 24*) I hope this will make an interesting evening for all and we hope to see some of you there. Dates and times are set out below.

Sheila Beeton

Annual Parish Meeting: Monday, 14 May 7.30 pm Assembly Rooms

Annual Parish Assembly: Tuesday, 30 May 7.30 pm Assembly Rooms

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

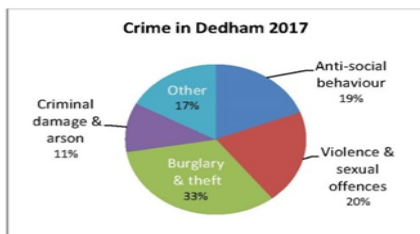
www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Clerk Emma Cansdale ☎ **01255 871483**

✉ clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Dedham's crime figures

Violence, sexual offences and anti-social behaviour together accounted for about 40 percent of the crimes recorded in Dedham last year. However, police figures show that out of 94 reported crimes only one resulted



in a prosecution - and that was for burglary.

The statistics show that burglary, criminal damage, arson and theft together made up 57 per cent of the crimes in the village. In addition to the one person charged with an offence, three were warned for possessing drugs and one sexual offender was given a caution. Two cases were resolved locally and a further six remained under investigation. In nearly half the cases no suspect could be identified. In most other cases the outcome was not known or not recorded.

The total number of crimes in the village during 2017 was 2 per cent fewer than in the previous year. The main difference was that violence and sexual offences fell by a third to 19 incidents. Burglary (21 cases) was the largest single category with anti-social behaviour (18 cases) close behind. There were 10 cases of criminal damage and arson, with seven for theft and, perhaps surprisingly, only one recorded case of shoplifting. Two bicycles were stolen and five crimes related to vehicles.

The largest number of crimes (21) by a big margin were reported on or near Parson's Field, about half of them for public order or anti-social offences, with Dedham Road,

Long Road East and the Co-op the next most likely places for crime.

Burglaries were most likely to be committed in Long Road East (5) or at or near the Co-op (4). Criminal damage and arson were most prevalent in or near Parson's Field (4), with two cases in the sports/recreation area.

Full details can be found on:

www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Max Wilkinson

Charity golf day

The Friends of Dedham Church are organising a golf day on Wednesday 2 May at Hintlesham Golf Club. To take part please contact Beth Mitchell

✉ bethbadgers@gmail.com

Bubble Run for charity

Bubble Rush is a 5km run which will take place at High Woods Country Park in Colchester on **Saturday 9 June** in support of St Helena Hospice. Five bubble cannons will blast out colourful bubbles along the route. The event is for all ages and abilities. Wheelchairs and prams are welcome. There will be activities and refreshments. Sign up at sthelenahospice.org.uk/bubble18 or call: ☎ **931 468**.

Assembly Rooms horse races

Saturday 21 April, 7.30pm

Includes fish and chip supper

Control your own horse. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Tickets, £12.50: Jill Strangward

☎ **322 006** or ☎ **322 000**

For The Friends of Dedham Church



Prescription for Colchester hospital's recovery

Colchester general hospital is hoping to bring to an end a period of poor performance and staff shortages as it prepares for a full merger with Ipswich hospital this summer.

The Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust and the Ipswich Hospital Trust have arranged to meet in March (after this magazine's print deadline) to agree the details. However, the two NHS hospitals have shared a chief executive for nearly two years after the Ipswich CEO was put in charge of Colchester.

In September 2015 the NHS's chief inspector of hospitals said Colchester was "inadequate", his lowest possible rating. The hospital was then put under "special administration". But in December last year it was taken out of special measures. Work on the merger started nearly two years ago when Colchester General was told that it must seek a "partnership" with Ipswich.

This was effectively a management takeover. The Ipswich chief executive, Nick Hulme, and the chairman of the Ipswich Trust took charge of both hospitals in May 2016. The deputy MD and the director of nursing at Colchester are also from Ipswich.

The merger plan due to go before the two trusts in March follows the publication last summer of a detailed draft plan (business case) for complete clinical integration between the two hospitals. Final government approval is expected this summer.

Mr Hulme said: "The aim of the merger is to see patients at the right time, attract and retain the right staff and provide the latest treatments locally." Last summer 14 per cent of jobs were unfilled at Colchester General, twice as many as at Ipswich. Nearly 13 per cent of consultant posts were empty at Colchester, five times as many as at Ipswich.

Both hospitals are heavily overspending. The draft merger plan says that their combined



Nick Hulme, Chief Executive,
Colchester and Ipswich hospitals

budget deficit in the current year is expected to be £40m rising to more than £44m in four years' time. Administrative and other savings from the merger are expected to be £22m, excluding the costs of the change. The combined hospital will have 10,000 staff and 1,000 beds, serving a population of 770,000. Demand for hospital services in the region is expected to grow by 4 per cent per year.

Mr Hulme said: "[We] will have the scale to save, strengthen and even grow some services. This won't happen if we carry on as two medium-sized separate organisations."

After the merger, full accident and emergency, and maternity services will continue at the two sites. Mr Hulme says that most outpatient appointments will be the same as at present. However, he wants to look at ways to reduce the need to attend hospital by better use of technology and the telephone, as well as reviewing the use of smaller community hospitals. It is also hoped that the larger size of the combined hospitals will enable them to improve and expand specialist services. *See comment opposite page.*

Max Wilkinson

The union of two Trusts: for better or for worse

What will the planned merger of Ipswich and Colchester hospital trusts mean in practice? The question is often asked by patients and I have to tell them that at present we do not know. There has been little, if any, consultation so far, with either the public or with the wider medical community. Although we had caught wind of the merger talks, general practice was not told any sooner than the public and this may indicate the hospitals' approach to consultation.

Experience tells me that patients will see little change immediately after the merger in the summer, but later changes will happen, some of which will be of benefit and some

will not. This is, of course, my own opinion rather than insider knowledge.

The merger is about economies of scale and therefore there will be a move to avoid duplicate services. Some of this – in the administration of the hospital trusts – should not affect patient care and may well result in both savings and a more effective, faster responding and leaner organisation: welcome unless you work for one of the Trusts. I suspect the new Trust will also rationalise patient services so that some clinics will be provided only in one or other location. For those of us living in between Colchester and Ipswich this will not be too much of a trial, but remember that those patients from the east and west of our region, such as Walton and Mersea, will face much longer journeys. The potential good news is that where such

mergers have taken place in other trusts, the combining has always resulted in a raising of standards.

The biggest anxiety of patients is the possible removal of the Accident & Emergency Department or maternity facilities. It is unlikely that these will be removed from Colchester as the journey times to Ipswich would be considered too great.

In the past, patients who have been unhappy with their treatment at Colchester have been able to be referred to Ipswich, either for a second opinion or for continuation of treatment. In these circumstances in the future, it may mean

referral to Chelmsford.

At present the two Clinical Commissioning Groups (the regional NHS bodies responsible for planning and commissioning) in and Suffolk and in North East Essex have different priorities. After the merger of the hospitals, these will need to be standardised so that patients living in Essex have the same access to health care as those in Ipswich. Watch this space for the next move – I predict a merger between the two commissioning authorities.

Stephanie Durrant,
Practice Manager, Ardleigh Surgery

For details of the merger: see page 14

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



Specialised treatment: choice might be reduced

From pirates and dragons to ancient Egypt

The theme for this year's Book Week was pirates. As well as a fancy dress day, we enjoyed a visit from children's author Will Mabbitt (pictured). During the day, he shared some of his books with us, including *Mabel Jones* and *I Can Only Draw Worms*. He also talked about being an author and how to create interesting characters.

Our children in Class R, Class I and Class 2 have also recently been entertained by a visiting puppet theatre. Class 2 and Class I watched *George and the Dragon* and Class R watched *The Three Little Pigs*. They all had the opportunity to play with puppets from around the world and children also used props to develop their storytelling of familiar and new stories. Class R especially enjoyed performing *The Enormous Turnip* for their families who joined them at the end of the afternoon.



In Class 3, an ancient Egyptian day helped to consolidate children's learning in history. Activities during the day included: making canopic jars out of clay, Hieroglyphic painting, paper sculptures of pyramids and mummy cases, salt dough amulets, playing Hounds and Jackals and completing Howard Carter's diary.

We enjoy close relationships with other local schools and we are always delighted to receive invitations from Manningtree High School to their events for primary schools. This term, our Class 6 children were invited to watch a performance of *Arabian Nights*. They were captivated by both the acting and singing. I know that some children are already excited about their own summer production, but no, I'm not announcing the title just yet.

Laura Valentine
Deputy Head Teacher

MEDICAL MATTERS: CONSTABLE COUNTRY PRACTICE

Repeat Prescriptions

Repeat prescriptions are normally authorised for up to six months, after which they need to be re-authorised by a doctor. This might require a consultation. It may take up to three working days to process a repeat request. The nominated pharmacy will then need time to dispense the medication. So please ensure you submit repeat requests in plenty of time if you are nearing your review date. You can order repeats online, drop a white repeat slip into the practice or ask your pharmacy to complete the white slip for you, but you cannot order a repeat over the phone.

Antibiotics advice

Antibiotics are used to treat or prevent

some types of bacterial infection. But they do **not** work for viral infections such as colds and flu, and most coughs and sore throats. So take your doctor's advice. Many mild bacterial infections get better without using antibiotics.

Taking antibiotics when you don't need them encourages dangerous bacteria inside you to become resistant. That means that antibiotics may not work when you next need them most. This puts you and your family at serious risk.

Pete Keeble, Practice Manager
Constable Country Medical Practice

www.constablecountrymedicalpractice.co.uk

☎ 298 272 Closed from 1pm on Wednesdays 25 April

Green thoughts for a green shade

At last the sun shines intermittently and the garden is coming to life so, as promised last month, here are a few more suggestions from my shady border.

Unlike the usual green variety, the smaller shrub *Skimmia* 'Magic Marlot' with pink flowers (pale green and cream leaves) is a firm favourite even though it is slow growing, and if you want a perfumed evergreen you need *Daphne* in your border (*alias Daphne odorata*). If you can get 'Margery Postil' she's the



Heuchera 'Lime Rickey'

best, but *D.o. marginata* (green leaves edged cream) is a good substitute - its pretty fragrant ping-pong-ball-shaped flowers began mid-February and will go on for a while yet. *Astelia chathamica* (one of few silver-leaved plants to thrive in shade) is another star performer: once a seedling it is now 50 cm overall and shines out with its explosion of sword-shaped leaves.

Combining shrubs with contrasting low-growing perennials can be really effective: *Brunnera* 'Jack Frost' is a must against something darker, with its white leaves veined pale green it bulks up well and divides easily in spring. Plant a patch of the low-growing evergreen *Ophiopogon nigrescens* with its thin pointy leaves (yes, *I know it's black*) next to 'Jack Frost' and both are enhanced. White/pastel flowering *Aquilegias* flourish in shade as does *Astrantia* 'Buckland' with its pretty long-lasting pinky/white flowers - but keep it well watered. Remember light coloured flowers always show up better in shade.

Although deciduous, late-flowering hardy fuchsias are ideal for semi-shade and the

yellow-leaved *Fuchsia* 'Genii' will really stand out; always prune hard back in Jan/Feb to encourage new strong growth.

For evergreen ground cover *Geranium macrorrhizum* is invaluable and the larger, rarer *Geranium Maderense*, is a must. With large lacy leaves it resembles a giant fern: it is a good quick-growing filler to about 50 cm overall until it outlives its allotted space. Its flowers are not exciting but if left to self-seed you will be glad of seedlings for filling gaps next year. Don't forget to plant

some ferns which are really at home in the shade (think woodlands) - many are evergreen with interesting and varied leaf shapes. There are about 20 different varieties of *Heuchera* around the garden but the popular bright yellow-leaved 'Lime Rickey' is one of the best for shade; *H.* 'Marmalade' is OK in semi-shade, whereas the dark-leaved cousins prefer sunnier spots. Most *Heucheras* keep their leaves over winter. Taking cuttings is easy.

"No mention of Hostas?" I hear you mutter - I've given up on them - frogs in the nearby pond don't seem to include slugs in their diet and the lack of thrushes (alas) allows the snails to flourish. What a disappointment. But you may do better than me.

As I look out of the window I can see the miniature daffodils, crocuses and hellebores so it's on with the wellies and time to go mulch spreading. Doesn't it all just lift the spirits?

Elizabeth Ellis

Dedham Horticultural Society

Meeting and show see page 23

www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com

Creature comfort - the soothing power of animals

Every pet owner knows the contribution the animal makes to their lives.

Dedham Therapy Farm takes this principle much further – offering the chance to care for animals as a way of restoring well-being for those with a range of disabilities and mental health problems.

The 14-acre farm, neatly tucked away behind the Dedham Car Park, combines farming and occupational therapy in a remarkably powerful way.

Gill De'ath the founder of the therapy farm and her husband Dave met working with dogs, then progressed to farm work and finally realised, through becoming church members, that they wanted to do work helping people. Gill trained as a special needs teacher and Dave is an occupational therapist. By chance they spotted the farm's site which was at that stage a run-down former rare breeds centre, and acquired its tenancy.

They have helped people referred to them from mental institutions and the probation service. They have dealt with a range of problems including autism, anxiety, learning



disabilities, lack of confidence and behavioural problems.

Emma, an occupational therapy student working at the farm, praised its special facilities: "It's unique. The opportunities are endless and the wide use of the environment is so different from the confines of a hospital. We work to promote self-management and reduce the need for admission to hospital.

"I asked a client what he felt about being here and he said: 'I love being with all the animals – I feel I've achieved something at the end of the day. I know that if I don't come, the animals won't get fed and looked after properly.'"

Dave De'ath explains this further: "At the surface level it's looking after and nurturing something and from this gaining self-worth and confidence. But more subtly it gives a sense of belonging to the community and the feeling that you have a role."



Dave and Gill De'ath with one of their "helpers"

Dave, an honorary lecturer at The University of Essex, explained the recent theory which could throw light on the special success of therapy farming: "It's called biophilia

continued on next page

continued from page 18

That means the love of living things. The theory argues that the human brain has a section geared to looking after and caring for living things – animals, the environment, nature and of course each other.” It could follow that the lack of such activity could cause an imbalance in people’s lives.

Dave’s Christian faith, he said, was an important factor in his commitment to the farm’s aims and work. “As practising Christians we accept people, love them and help them manage their difficulties. Animals are great at breaking through psychological



barriers - for example autism. They don’t know if you’re autistic or not, do they? People tell us they feel nobody is judging them here and the farm is a place where they can feel entirely comfortable and safe.”

He points out that the government is trying to keep people out of hospitals and acute units and the farm aims to do exactly that - by giving people the opportunity to learn how to manage their lives.

The animals have plenty of space in the park-like farm and there is a strong sense of calm between the animals and their carers.

There are British Blue cattle, donkeys, guinea pigs, geese, sheep, African pygmy goats, chickens and the De’aths’ own seven dogs. Looking after the animals involves a number of activities: letting the chickens out in the morning, preparing food for and feeding the

animals, grooming ponies and dogs, mucking out, collecting eggs, planting and picking vegetables, dog walking and animal training. The farm also offers the opportunity to do woodwork, gardening and building skills – all of which help clients to gain a sense of being part of the farm’s growth and development.

Just how effective all this can be is described by the clinical lead occupational therapist of the CAS Behavioural Health Group, which has referred patients with offending histories, detained under a section of the mental health act, to Dedham Therapy Farm. She writes that the sessions the farm offers have been “hugely successful in helping patient progress and we could not imagine the service running without them now.”

So far, general practitioners have not made use of the farm, but it has already made great progress in its first three years.

But the therapy farm costs over £6,000 a month to run and is in great need of substantial financial support: “So far,” says Dave, “it has survived by a series of miracles. We very much hope local people will catch the vision of the farm and its work and support us.”

Anthea Hall

The farm will be open to the public on 14 April. ☎322 070

Mill Lane, Dedham, CO7 6DH



The doubters who questioned life after death

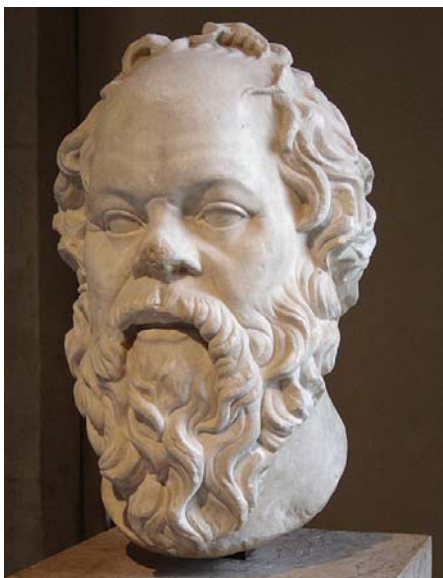
My grandmother, a churchgoer for most of her 100 years, came to think that her soul was not immortal and argued her case vigorously with the parish priest. At her funeral, he said: "Margaret Gamon did not believe in heaven. I want to tell you that she is now having a wonderful surprise." I admired the way the vicar stood his ground with such wit and tolerance.

I was impressed in a different way by the high church incantations, smoke and bells at the funeral of another close relative who had been, to say the least, a loose believer. Although the rituals were quite different from those of my school days, I found that ceremony moving and awe-inspiring. Death is a yawning chasm, and the Christian liturgy offers believers a reassuring way to cross it.

But what is left for those who, like the philosopher David Hume, simply do not believe in miracles, including the ultimate miracle of resurrection? He said they were "most contrary to custom and experience" and could be reached only by faith. Perhaps Bishop Berkeley, Hume's older contemporary, might offer an answer. He thought that nothing had an independent reality. All our experiences were implanted directly into our minds by God. But the world was not therefore "unreal"; it was the reality of continuous divine creation. Although Berkeley may not speak to the

modern mind, his system offered explanations of two great mysteries for which rationalists have no satisfactory answers: why anything exists and why some things live and die. In Berkeley's world, death holds no terrors, since we are all, so to speak, subsidiaries of the mind of God.

Still that comfort also requires faith, and even some devout Christians are prey to doubts. John Donne that great Dean of St Pauls wrote towards the end of his life: "I have a sin of fear that when I have spun/ My last thread I shall perish on the shore....." I reflected on him and on my grandmother when I was seriously ill some years ago. I drew comfort then as now from Plato, a pagan who had such a profound influence on Christian thought from



Socrates: Eternity is nothing more than a single night

St Augustine onwards. Although Plato believed in God and perhaps in the immortality of the soul, he also records the famous words of his mentor, Socrates, after he was condemned to death in 399 BC. There were, he said, two possibilities, neither to be feared. After his execution he would either mingle with the souls of people he admired, such as Homer or he would fall into a deep and dreamless sleep. How pleasant that would be, he said, for in that sleep of death "eternity is nothing more than a single night".

Max Wilkinson

..... and a response from the Christian faith

Is there life after death? The obvious answer is: I don't know. I've never met anyone who has come back from the dead. But the Bible teaches us that Jesus did. However, that is not the same as my *knowing*; it is believing others' accounts or having faith. I often wonder what has happened to the people I love who have died: my parents, my partner. I can't honestly say that I know – but I trust God. I have often *felt* that they are 'alive'. Bereaved folk sometimes sense their loved one appearing in a changed form for example as a bird or butterfly, or in a dream – not as in a memory, but as a real person. Who can say whether or not these experiences are 'real' – they are real enough to the bereaved. Likewise, we can *believe* that Jesus' appearances to the disciples after his death are 'real'.

Furthermore, I even *think* that they are real; scientifically speaking, I can imagine how it is possible for a physical body ('flesh and blood') to transform into a state that is still visible or at least somehow recognisable, yet not be flesh and blood as we know it. If this idea freaks you out, then I take it that you don't like science fiction films and haven't ever said: 'Beam me up, Scottie'. More seriously, what about 'out of body' experiences, déjà vu, or correctly intuiting that something is about to happen? The natural world is not limited to apperception using five classical senses. Much of science developed because we spotted phenomena that we could not explain with existing theory. This led us to posit an unproven, often extraordinary concept, and then we set out to prove it. The finding of the Higgs boson is a recent example of this; "Seek and ye shall find."

Some people find it strange that a rational, scientific lawyer like myself should believe in an afterlife. But I think that the evidence supporting the idea outweighs that which implies that everything 'goes black and disappears'. At least, I think this insofar as 'afterlife' means an ongoing state in which the personality is recognisable or the psyche



Evidence for the afterlife: Christ's empty tomb

continues to function; I don't see life after death in terms of our 'currently-embodied life', simply *relocated*. As to Socrates' wish, referred to by Max Wilkinson (*opposite*), for the *eternal* sleep of death to be "nothing more than a single night", I agree with the psychiatrist and analytical psychologist Carl Jung. Based on his clinical observations, Jung posited that the human psyche is not entirely confined to either *space* or *time*; hence at least a psychological existence beyond these confinements is likely.

Jung concluded that: "We are so convinced that death is simply the end of a process that it does not ordinarily occur to us to conceive of death as a goal and a fulfilment". Or, if you prefer St Paul, "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself".

Julie Barrett

Not so fast....

The Dedham Community Speed Watch group is appealing for more members to help to dissuade people from driving too fast in the village.

The group, which has been operating for ten years, has four regular members and five more who occasionally take part. They go out in pairs, one with a speed detector. New members are given half a day's training by Essex police.

Ray Medler, a member of the group, says: "Over the years, we believe that our activities have helped to reduce speeding in Dedham." He asks pedestrians, cyclists, dog walker or horse riders who are concerned by speeding to consider joining up. Although data collected by the group is not used for prosecutions, it is sent to the police who will issue an informal cautionary letter to the driver or registered owner.

Mr Medler said the worst places for speeding were Long Road and the Ardleigh Road. "Last year in Long Road West, a lady in a Range Rover doing 60 miles per hour did not even slow down when she saw us."

For more information contact Ray Medler ☎323399 or ✉raymedler@gmail.com.

Stour Valley U3A

On **Wednesday 11 April** Professor Wendy Harwood will speak on GM crops

On **Wednesday 9 May** Roger Kennell will talk on "William Pretty – A Suffolk Family & Corset Manufacturer". Meetings at The Constable Hall, East Bergholt CO7 6TP at 2 pm. Contact Graeme Forsyth ☎399049.

Stour Valley Men's Probus Club

On **4 April** Bob Milne will talk on "The assignation of the Italian Barber".

On **18 April** Oliver Paul, from the Suffolk Food Hall, will talk about food and farming.

On **2 May** Joyce Kimber will speak on "Britain's Finest Hour".

All meetings on **Wednesdays** at the St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree CO11 1EB.

Contact Dave Carman ☎01255 880202.



Dedham Guides duck race

The 10th annual race will start on **Monday 7 May** at 12 noon from Mill Bridge. The event, organised by the 1st Dedham and the 1st Lawford Girl Guides is to raise money for the organisation. Supporters are invited to "buy" ducks for £1, which will be released into the river and race downstream for about 30 minutes. £50 is awarded for the first duck across the finishing line and a wooden spoon for the last. Guides will be selling ducks in the village. In previous years the event, supported by a cake stall, has attracted several hundred people including Bank Holiday visitors to Dedham.

Tracey Lovelock

Dedham Footpath Group

Sunday 8 April at 10.30am

Meet picnic site car park at Brantham on B1070 approx 200 meters from roundabout junction with A137 for a 4 1/2 mile circular river and railway walk

Leader Jan Jukes ☎07783276367

Sunday 6 May 10.30 am

Meet Tendring School car park for a 4 mile circular ramble.

Leader Liz Clinker ☎07761292684

Assembly Rooms



Antiques Fair

Sunday 1 April - all day

Parish Council Meeting

Monday 9 April 7pm

See page 12

Horticultural Society

meeting

Wednesday 5 April 7pm

Horticultural Show

Saturday 7 April

See page 17

Little Squigglers

Thursdays 10.30-12 noon

Brownies and Guides

Thursdays B 5.30-7pm G 7-9pm

Dedham Art Society

Thursday 12 and 26 April 2-4pm

Dedham Films

Wednesday 18 April 7pm

See page 25

Horse Race Evening

Friends of Dedham Church

Saturday 21 April 7 pm

See page 13

Dedham Youth Club - Bingo

Saturday 28 April 7pm

See opposite

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Youth Club

Fridays 7.30 – 9.15pm

Mobile Library in Dedham

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10.10am The Royal Square

Bingo Night

In aid of Dedham Youth Club

Saturday 28 April at 7pm

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The art of Alfred Munnings – Royal Academy highlights

Sir Alfred Munnings exhibited nearly 300 paintings at the Royal Academy during six decades - starting in 1899, when he was only 20. To celebrate this remarkable achievement and the Academy's 250th anniversary, Castle House Museum in Dedham is highlighting more than 30 pictures in its permanent exhibition that were shown at the RA's summer exhibitions. At least three of those on show were exhibited at the RA in 1960, the year after Munnings's death.

As you walk round the gallery, you will find the RA exhibits are identified and accompanied by additional information. For example, the very large canvas of *A Suffolk Horse Fair at Lavenham* was exhibited early in Munnings's career, in 1901. Although this work was very popular, Munnings developed it from a much smaller watercolour and found the project challenging.

The painting of *The Grey Pony Augereau in a sandpit with groom George Curzon* has an intriguing history. Again, this is a very large canvas depicting a pony which he painted in 1905, but with the groom added much later, in time for the 1957 summer exhibition. It seems in the painting that the pony and groom have no awareness of each other. However, the groom adds balance and interest.

Munnings's versatility as an artist comes across in *Mrs J V Rank*, showing her relaxing by the pool at Druids Lodge. He had been

commissioned to paint the horses of Jimmy Rank and decided to capture the scene by the pool with the dogs as well. This painting would not look out of place in a David Hockney exhibition.

One of his best known paintings, *My Wife, My Horse and Myself*, painted in 1928 and

exhibited in 1935 shows how his style was influenced after the first world war by commissions that required very smooth detailing of the owner's horse. Compare this to the painting of the pony, *Augereau* with its

broad brushstrokes and impressionist style.

The painting featured on the front cover, *King George V riding his favourite pony Jock in Sandringham Great Park*, was painted and exhibited in 1937, the year after George V died. The King's likeness was taken from a photograph, a practice Munnings otherwise seldom used, if ever. This painting is on loan from Ipswich Borough Council.

There are also comprehensive displays of Sir Alfred's time as president of the Academy (1944-1949), and of his citations in the New Year's honours lists of 1944 and 1947. It was interesting to see the original letters and photographs showing the great influence that Munnings had as president.

The exhibition will be free to Dedham residents at the weekend 21 -22 April

Marian Jones



The Dedham Boathouse Restaurant is to take over the Munnings Museum's garden café in 2018. The café will be open from 24 March.

Wednesday 18 April 2018

The Death of Stalin

(PG13) Directed by Armando Iannucci



The one-liners fly fast in this uproarious, wickedly irreverent satire. Moscow 1953: when dictator Joseph Stalin drops dead, his parasitic cronies square off in a frantic power struggle. But as they brawl, and backstab their way to the top, just who is running the government? With rapid-fire farce, this audacious comedy is biting funny and performed by a sparkling cast.

Wednesday 16 May 2018

Paddington Bear 2

(PG) Directed by Paul King



Paddington is happily settled with the Brown family, spreading joy and marmalade wherever he goes. While searching for the perfect present for his beloved Aunt Lucy's 100th birthday, Paddington spots a pop-up book in Mr. Gruber's antique shop, and embarks upon a series of odd jobs to buy it. But when the book is stolen, it's up to Paddington to unmask the thief.



Assembly Rooms Dedham Films Admission 7pm Begin 7.30pm
 Tickets £4 from **Shakespeare House Gallery** or www.dedhamfilms.co.uk
 Refreshments available - Contact: dedhamfilms@gmail.com or ☎643 009

WHATS ON: THEATRE, MUSIC

THEATRE

Wednesday 14 Mar to 26 May

Guest House, Eastern Angles Theatre Co.,
 7.30pm; for locations see website.

Thursday 22 to 31 Mar

Georg Büchner: Woyzeck, New Wolsey
 Theatre, Ipswich, 7.45pm.

Wednesday 28 Mar to 7 April

Our Country's Good - various times, New
 Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich.

Saturday 7 Apr

From Zimbabwe with Love by Michael
 Angu, Headgate Theatre, Colchester, 7.45pm.

Wednesday 11 Apr

Ink on the Road: short plays by East Anglia
 writers, Headgate Theatre, 7.45pm.

Shakespeare: Macbeth, Royal

Shakespeare Company - LL, 7pm at Firstsite
 and at Lakeside Theatre; and on 15 April.

Wednesday 18 to 19 Apr

The Drive, Mercury Theatre, 8pm.

Friday 20 Apr to 5 May

Pieces Of String, Mercury Theatre,
 Colchester, 7.30pm.

Tuesday 24 to 28 Apr

**Tennessee Williams: A Streetcar
 Named Desire**, various times, New
 Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich.

Thursday 26 to 28 Apr

Plastic, Mercury Theatre, Colchester, 8pm.

Friday 4 to 5 May

Sofa, The MakeShift Ensemble, Mercury
 Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

MUSIC

Friday 13 Apr

Berliner Philharmoniker Orchestra - LL,
 6.30pm at Firstsite.

Saturday 14 Apr

**A cappella music from a Bielefeld
 choir**, Pimlott Foundation, 5pm at Old
 House, Great Horkesley.

MUSIC continued

Sunday 15 Apr

Quattro Amici, Evening of Song, Headgate Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

The Archaeus String Quartet - in memory of Liz Connah, With Julia Badshaw, Cello; Beethoven, Rachmaninov, Schubert, 4pm at Wrabness Church.

Saturday 21 Apr

Butterworth, Brahms, Grieg, Roy Teed, Sibelius, Colchester Symphony Orchestra, 7.30pm at St Botolph's.

Hallelujah: Classical choral pieces, Nayland Choir, 7.30pm at Nayland Church.

Sunday 22 Apr

Kingfisher Ensemble, 2.45pm at Lion Walk Church, Colchester.

Saturday 28 Apr

Bach Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Clacton Choral Society with the Kingfisher Sinfonietta, 7.30pm at St James's Church.

New Music for two Harpsichords, Pimlott, 3pm at Old House, Great Horkesley.
Mozart, Ireland with George Ireland, piano, St Botolph's Music Society, 7.30pm, Colchester.

Saturday 5 May

Bernstein, Handel, Vivaldi, Lexden Choral Society, 7.30pm at St Botolph's.

OPERA/MUSICALS

Saturday 31 Mar

Handel: Theodora - Britten-Pears Baroque Orchestra & Young Artist Programme, Snape Maltings, 7.30pm.

Sunday 1 Apr

Mozart: Così fan Tutte, Metropolitan Opera New York - LL, 7.55pm at Firstsite.



Liudmyla Monastyrskaya and Simon Keenlyside in Verdi's Macbeth, 4 April

Wednesday 4 Apr

Verdi: Macbeth, Royal Opera House - LL, 7.15pm at Odeon and at Firstsite.

Thursday 12 to 14 Apr

English Touring Opera at Snape Maltings:
Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro,
Shackleton's Cat, a family opera,
Puccini: Il tabarro & Gianni Schicchi.

Thursday 14 Apr

Verdi: Luisa Miller, Metropolitan Opera New York - LL, 5.30pm at Firstsite.

Tuesday 17 to 21 Apr

Beautiful - The Carole King Musical, on tour, Regent Theatre Ipswich, 7.30pm.

Saturday 28 Apr

Massenet: Cendrillon, Metropolitan Opera New York - LL, 5.55pm at Firstsite.

Monday 30 Apr

Blood Brothers, Regent Theatre Ipswich Ipswich, 7.30pm, to 3 May.

BALLET/ DANCE

Tuesday 3 Apr

Izindava, Mercury Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

Friday 27 Apr

Manon, Royal Ballet - LL, 7.15pm at Odeon and Firstsite, Colchester.

Max Wilkinson

LL = live link by satellite

Many more events with details and links on my website

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and in my free monthly email guide

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