

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

October 2020



HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

DEDHAM

9.30am

Rise and Shine



ARDLEIGH

11.00am

Harvest

Celebration

Sunday 4th October, do come along



DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

October 2020

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

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

Antony Wilson *Vicar*
☎ **323 919**
Merv McKinney *Assistant Minister*
☎ **323 919**

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☎ **322 136**
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Tuesday 9-11am
Thursday 11-1pm

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Antony Watson *Director of Music*
☎ **322 425**

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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Follow us on facebook
Dedham and Ardleigh parishes

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

Can we help? Sometimes things in life can just get too much to cope with on your own... **Psalm 34:18:** The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. If you would like some support or know of any one who would,

please contact: Ann Shaw ☎ **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**

First Steps: Want to get back involved with church but don't know where to start?

Contact Liz and John Reed ☎ **323 770**

Services and Events OCTOBER 2020

Sunday 4th October

9.30am	Harvest Rise N Shine	Dedham
11am	Harvest Celebration	Ardleigh
5pm	Compline	Dedham

Sunday 11th October

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh
9.30am	Holy Communion	Dedham

Sunday, 18th October

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh
9.30am	Matins	Dedham

Sunday, 25th October

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh
9.30am	Morning Praise & Baptism	Dedham
5pm	ReVive@5	Dedham

Sunday, 1st November

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh
9.30am	Rise n Shine	Dedham
4pm	Remembering your Loved ones	Dedham & Ardleigh

 **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC78SZfH5QRXMPy7DgfwYslg>
Morning and Evening Prayer online Monday to Friday at 9am and 5pm
Weekly Midweek Services

10.30am Morning Prayer, Dedham every Tuesday

Saturday morning Prayer - come and join us for prayer for our benefice and the wider community once a month starting on 10th October 9am at Ardleigh Church.

Men's Breakfast every other week on Saturday *bring your own buttie!*

Saturday, 3rd, 17th October, 9.00am at The Vicarage.

Ardleigh Friendship Group every second & fourth Tuesday 10am Please bring your own drink and food. We look forward to seeing you!

Mission Bake Sale - Outside Dedham Church, 10am, 31st October

From the Register:

Interment of Ashes:

26th August - Henry Russell HODSON,
Joan MARSHALL

27th August - Judith Mary MUSGROVE

Funerals:

26th August - Doris May MARVEN

Weddings: 25th August Hae Song Young
& Michael Holderness, 28th August

Jennifer Freeman & Thomas Povey,

4th Sept Leanne Maguire & John Green

Dedham and Ardleigh



during the Coronavirus pandemic

01206 322025

Please leave a message with your name, phone number and what you would like help with and someone will get back to you the same day. *For example you may like help to get shopping, or a prescription, or just to have a friendly chat with someone!*



Please join us for our **Harvest Celebrations this year** on Sunday 4th October at 9.30am at Dedham and at 11am at Ardleigh.

We especially want to thank our local farmers for their hard work in serving us throughout the time of the pandemic. *Why not write a card of thanks to a local farmer or thank them in person?*

We are also going to celebrate the **Harvest of Talents** that are present in our community– you can sign up to offer a skill or a service for someone else and money raised will go to our appeal to support Tearfund’s work in Syria.

All around the world, homes have been shattered by conflict. Millions of people lack basic essentials, such as safe shelter, clean water and enough to eat.

Hope for the future has become a luxury item. When the conflict reached her home in Syria, People like Tamam made the heart-breaking decision to leave everything behind and flee to Lebanon. All she managed to take with her were her children and a few photos. Now they live in a makeshift settlement in an impoverished part of a big city far away from the place they knew and loved. Conditions during

COVID 19 have been even harder for them

www.tearfund.org/churchresource

For most of us we no longer use our God-given skills to directly gather what we need from the ground to sustain us through life; but let's give thanks to God for the talents we have and how they provide for our needs.

Could you sell a talent: service someone's computer, mow a lawn, go shopping, paint a picture, eBay some stuff for someone, cook a meal, baby sit, walk a dog, give a lesson, a manicure, clean a car or take somebody somewhere nice??

There are cards available in church to offer a talent for a donation, or email the church office stmaryda@gmail.com

Not sure what your gifts and talents are? Then join the **SHAPE** course starting on Monday 12th October at 7.30pm for 6 weeks.

Shape takes us on a journey exploring our spiritual gifts, heart’s desire, abilities, personality and experience to understand the unique **SHAPE** God has given each of us, the gifts he has given us and how he might want us to use them.

Take care
Reverend Antony

A Prayer for Harvest Sunday

by Gideon Heugh

Lord of the Harvest,
We thank you for your creation,
For its beauty and fruitfulness,
We thank you for blessing us
With our daily bread.

Lord of Mercy,
We confess to you our failure
To be wise stewards of this world,
We confess to you our selfishness
In not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.

Lord of Justice,
We pray for those living in poverty
And cry out for an end to inequality,
We pray that you help us to help others.
That all might live a life of plenty.
Amen

Reflections on a Pilgrimage

"To walk means to change, to be changed" (Pater Anselm Gruen)

In June last year, I walked the *Ecumenical Pilgrimage Way* from Goerlitz near the Polish/German border to Vacha on the

former inner-German border, one of the European feeder routes of the *Camino de Santiago*. For a month I walked in glorious summer weather (ok, it was actually also a heatwave).

At Revive@5 at 5pm on 25th October I will be sharing some of my experiences of this journey of healing and of faith. I also invite you to join me on my pilgrimage during the service although you won't actually be walking physically. And in case you would like to try some 'real-life' pilgrimage walking on your own, I'll be sharing some tips on how you can get started locally.

Perhaps just a word of warning – once you start, you might well not be able to stop. Which might be a good thing, for *"to walk on a pilgrimage is to pray with your feet..."*

Very much looking forward to seeing you on 25th October, no walking boots required (yet), **Christina**

Remembering your loved ones

Special services to remember those who have died

Sunday 1st November, 4pm
St Mary's Dedham & St Mary's Ardleigh



Numbers are restricted so please contact the Parishes office if you would like to attend (please indicate which church) and /or have the name of your loved one read out
01206 322136, stmaryda@gmail.com

I am greatly indebted to Ted's granddaughters, Ann Pearce and Janet Bugg and Ann's husband Mark for much valuable information, the generous loan of their family albums and their kind permission to reproduce the photographs used here.

Part 3: Ted and Connie

My sisters and I grew up in Dedham and when we were away at school in the 1950s we asked Ted (always "Mr Eley" to us in those more formal days) to write to us with the local news; occasionally Connie ("Miss Eley") wrote too. Their letters recount what was going on in the village at the time and Ted would often add some interesting facts about Dedham's past. In this account I have drawn on these letters as well as their verbal reminiscences.

Ted Eley (1890-1987)

Ted was ten when his family moved to Dedham and except for a short trip to the Netherlands with the Scouts in 1909 and military service in the Balkans during WWI, he spent his whole life here. The village he knew from childhood was a lively community with a busy social life and a wide variety of shops. The businesses were all run by local families, including London House (now occupied by *Fleur Nails and Beauty and Pedicure Foot Clinic*), so called because it claimed to source all its wares direct from London. Ted remembered that as a boy he bought elastic there to use for making a catapult.

When Ted was young a trip to Colchester was a full day's expedition. He described walking or taking the carrier's cart to Ardleigh station in the morning, a train to Colchester's North Station, on foot from there up into the town and then the same again in reverse coming home. However there was no reason to go further afield for daily shopping because everything people needed was brought to the village. Yeast for the bakery, for instance, arrived by carrier or on the horse-drawn bus. There was poverty in the area and the Relieving Officer would come to Dedham with money for families in need; they also qualified for two loaves of bread which the Eleys would bake and hand out to them in the shop. The bakery also carried out special orders for various occasions, such as providing brown bread for the Oyster Feast held by the Dedham Gentlemen's Club which used to meet at the Hewitt Hall (now the Assembly Rooms).

After Robert Baden-Powell founded the Boy Scouts in 1908 Dedham set up its own troop which had about forty members by 1914. Ted joined at the outset and went with them on a camping expedition they made to Holland the following year. He was Scout Master by 1921 when they took part in Beating the Bounds, a formal perambulation of the sixteen-mile length of Dedham's parish boundary. A photograph taken on the opposite river bank shows their corrugated iron bathing shed where the Black Brook joins the Stour. The troop disbanded at

the start of WWII and was never reformed.

Before WWI Ted had already gained experience at an army training camp at Thetford in 1910-11. His war service was concerned with the logistics of military transport and a photograph dated 1917 shows serried ranks of lorries, tents and workshops in the arid landscape of Macedonia. He wrote to me in 1956 that he had *“spent over two years round in and about Salonika, the Thessalonica of St Paul. We used to travel on the road to Philippolis. The natives still plough with the ox and ass and there are very few trees or flowers. Nor is there a fresh green spring as we have here. I returned home in March and it seemed the very best spring that I ever remember.”*

Ted maintained the bakery’s various vehicles, an important task in those days when breakdowns were a common occurrence. His father had owned a large tricycle before 1900 and this preceded a family enthusiasm for motor cycles shared by both Connie and Jim. In the 1950s Ted’s Bantam motor bike took him for long rides round the district, as far afield as Felixstowe, Harwich, Hadleigh and Kersey, where he would take snapshots for the remarkable photographic record he made of the locality. In one of his letters he wrote about the thrill of visiting Acton Place where his mother’s ancestors had lived in 1722.

In 1923 Ted married Dorothy Smith (1874-1970) and their only son Jim (1925-2003) was born two years later.



Ted (left) on war service in Salonika, January 1918



Ted and Dorothy with Jim c.1930

They lived in the house in Princel Lane behind the Bakery where the whole family worked, later including Jim's wife Jill (née Ellis, 1933-2002) whom he married in 1957. Ted welcomed children's visits to the bakehouse, sometimes letting them raid his dried fruit tin and once, he told me, when he was busy "*all on his lone*" making 600 bridge rolls, teasing my little sister and her friend by pretending to chase them out with his rolling pin. I remember the delicious smell of new bread as he stood in the pit in front of the oven unloading his loaves with a wooden shovel.

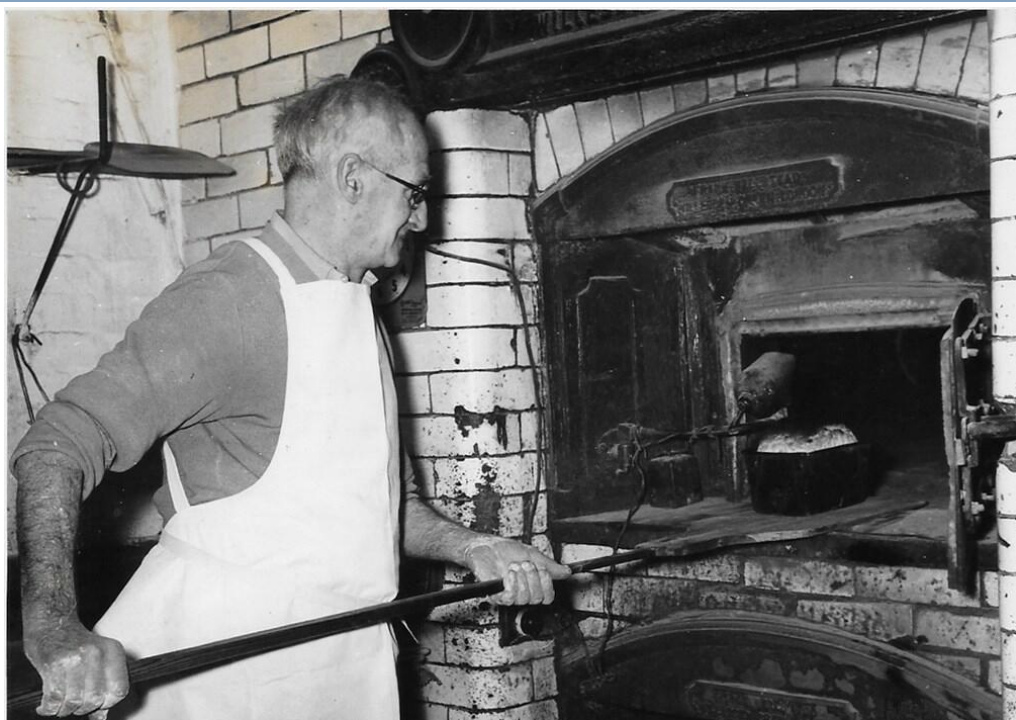
In the procession down the aisle after church services Ted always carried the cross and when he drew level with the pew at the back of the nave where our family habitually sat he would solemnly give my sisters and me an enormous wink!

As soon as he moved to Dedham Ted's father had begun singing in the church

choir and Ted started when he was eight. A photograph taken on Whit Sunday 1934, when Jim joined too, shows three generations of Eleys in the choir together. In 1984 Ted earned a place in the *Guinness Book of Records* as England's longest-serving chorister and, as a brass plate above his seat in the choir stalls records, when he died three years later just before his ninety-eighth birthday he had been singing in our church for eighty-nine years.

Connie Eley (1896-1983)

Apart from her early years when she lived with her aunts during the week so as to go to school in Braintree, Connie Eley spent her whole life in Dedham working in the family bakery and running it in partnership with her brother Ted after their father's retirement in the 1920s. The personal diaries she kept during and after WW2 make very interesting reading, especially when she was writing about the bakery and social events in the village. In 1940 she recorded local air raids, the first Dedham casualty, wartime food shortages and on August 5th "*Last Day allowed to make Iced Cakes other than Chocolate*". Connie's particular expertise was in making the cakes sold in the shop and later she became renowned far afield for her skill in decorative icing. She belonged to numerous organisations in the village including the Girl Guides, the Mothers' Union, The Women's Institute, the Good Neighbours and the Choral Society. Connie was a skilled needlewoman and made some



*Ted in the bakehouse shortly before he retired
in 1962*

embroideries used in the church. She took classes in pottery, art, dressmaking and upholstery and regularly borrowed books from the library. Belying her mild manner, when she was just over fifty she learned to ride a motor bike and enjoyed scrambling, as well as going on touring holidays in East Anglia with Ted. She was eventually elected a life member of the Essex and Suffolk Border Motorcycle Club.

It was amazing that she was able to fit in so much in spite of her busy days at the bakery, which became even more demanding in the late 1950s when the need to reduce costs meant doing

delivery rounds on top of all her other work. She had to learn intricacies like which door to go to, exactly where customers wanted their bread left and who would get upset if she didn't just walk in. After her father's death in 1941 Connie went to live at Boot's Hole, her newly-built bungalow at the top of Shoebridge Hill. Ted's wife Dorothy died in 1970 and he moved in companionably with Connie, staying on there alone, after she had predeceased him, for the last four years of his life.

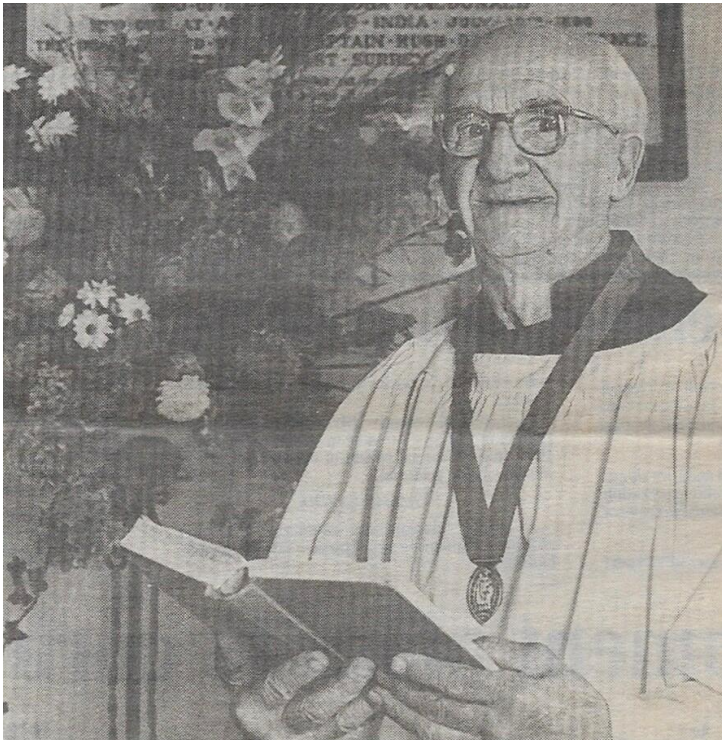
© **Lucy Archer**



*Ted (back right) with the Dedham Scouts, beating the bounds of the parish in 1922.
Note the bathing place on the far side of the river.*



Connie aged 51 or 52 with her first motor bike in the late 1940s



*Ted Eley celebrating 89 years in the church choir, 1987
Connie in the shop with a customer c.1962*





Jim Eley aged 2 in 1927, already a motor bike enthusiast!



Ted (far left) and Jim (far right), c.1950

Please note the following corrections with our apologies, to last months article on the Wine Industry & further information on our local vineyards.



THORRINGTON MILL

VINEYARD INSTALLERS, CONTRACTORS & MANAGEMENT

"Your Local Vignerons"

'Stour Valley Vineyards' Stratford St Mary (Viewed from the A12) Planted & Managed by the Owner Mr Paul Halsall.

Thorrington Mill are contracted by Mr Halsall to complete most of the machinery operations.

'Hunters Chase Vineyard' (Viewed from Coggeshall Road) Planted Spring 2020 Is Owned by Mr & Mrs Proud.

Thorrington Mill Planted and now manage the vineyard for Mr and Mrs Proud.

These are very exciting times for English wine 'still or sparkling' especially in our region as with global warming we now have the optimum growing conditions in this country especially the South East.

Thorrington Mill are Vineyard Owners, Installers, Contractors and Managers, covering a large area of North Essex & Suffolk.

We are based in Thorrington where we have our own 12 acre vineyard 'Thorrington Mill Vineyard' (the largest vineyard in this area).

Should anyone be interested in exploring the possibility of planting their own Vineyard large or small please feel free to contact us.

Email: mark@thorringtonmill.co.uk

Instagram: [thorringtonmillvineyard](#)

Facebook: [Thorrington Mill](#)

Mark Baines
Director
Hill Farm Landscapes Ltd

LANDMARK YEAR FOR DEDHAM PLAYERS

A year is usually marked by landmark events taking place in the village, fetes, horticultural shows, openings and of course, a production at the Assembly Rooms by Dedham Players. Sadly, this year there have been few landmark events and no production by Dedham Players. It is particularly sad for the Players as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Big plans were in the works as well!

But it is not all doom and gloom as Dedham Players have been nominated for 8 awards by the North Essex Theatre Guild (NETG) for its last production of 'Pressure' by David Haig, which was performed at the Assembly Rooms to capacity audiences from 23-26 October last year. The NETG is an organisation that is dedicated to helping amateur theatre groups in the Essex area. It does this by providing a resource for theatre groups and the adjudication of productions. A theatre goer who attends a production by Dedham Players might find themselves sitting next to one of the two adjudicators in the Assembly Rooms, busily scribbling away on all points of a production from the greeting received at the front of house, programme, set design, lighting, costume, sound, the actors and the direction of the production.

Having completed this task the adjudicators will then compile a report which is shared with the theatre group and will then be passed to an awards

committee for consideration for nomination at year end. Usually, the awards ceremony resembles an Oscar style ceremony. But make no mistake, this is very serious stuff, there is always intense competition. It is always rewarding to be nominated and even more so if one is a winner on the night.

The adjudicator's report is a useful tool for the theatre group however. The report is critical of the production; it will detail those parts of the production that are both good and not so good. But the report is still only the opinion of two adjudicators who happen to be experienced in theatre. Some might suggest that the success of a production is the buzz of the audience.

Be that as it may, Dedham Players have been nominated in 8 of 12 categories. These include: Set design/construction and set dressing; Technical achievement; Best young actor (Joseph Russell as Flight Lieutenant Carter); Best supporting Actor (Gary Huggins as Colonel Irving Krick; Best Actor (Michael Cook as Dr. James Stagg); Best Actress (Danielle Tile as Kay Summersby); Best full length play (directed by Kelvin Hastings -Smith) and the Norman Harris Trophy - Adjudicators Award recognising "The sourcing and presentation of the maps and acquisition of period props".

This is enormous recognition of Dedham Players and everyone involved in bringing 'Pressure' to the Dedham stage. Dedham Players was the first

amateur theatre group to be granted the performing rights to this play, which recalled the events leading to the D-Day Landings. Dedham Players production of 'Pressure' was a world premiere by an amateur theatre group!

The calibre of the technical, stage management, design, costume, and acting personnel at Dedham Players cannot be overstated. Over the years Dedham Players have produced many shows which have gone on to win awards and plaudits throughout the county. 'Pressure' was special and so different to the show which preceded it, Jane Austin's 'Emma' (itself a winner for Best Full Length Play) which was directed by Claire Nicholson.

The Award ceremony had been fixed

for 11th September. Sadly a physical ceremony cannot be held. The NETG are hoping to create a virtual Award ceremony for the same date - but sadly too late for this article. We hope to bring you news of Dedham Players achievements in the next issue.

So, in terms of a landmark event for Dedham this year, perhaps we will all recall this as the year that Dedham Players gained 75% of the nominations for theatrical awards by NETG. This is recognition and provides some light relief to the uncertainties of the pandemic.

Kelvin Hastings-Smith
Dedham Players



Centre stage - one of the maps depicting the changing weather pattern on the eve of D-Day reproduced from the original.



Curtain call: (L to R)
John Tavner, Don Poar,
Colin Biggins,
Gary Huggins,
Danielle Tile,
Mike Cook,
John Roberts,
Joseph Russell,
Joe Sales,
Martin Rayner,
Adam Dunston

The cast take a break during dress rehearsal (L to R)
Adam Dunston, John Tavner,
Joseph Russell, Colin Biggins,
John Roberts, Martin Rayner,
Gary Huggins, Joe Sales

In the Jeep - Mike Cook
and Danielle Tile



News from The Dedham Players

It is the time of year when we look forward to presenting our latest show in Dedham to our loyal audience. I am sure you will be aware of the huge challenges facing the arts in general and theatres in particular during this dreadful pandemic. It is truly a very worrying time.

The Players committee has concluded that it would not be sensible to attempt to stage a show in the Assembly Rooms this autumn. The social distancing rules will make it very difficult to accommodate sufficient audience to cover our costs, and I'm sure you will

agree the resulting atmosphere in the hall is unlikely to be particularly pleasant.

We must also consider the risks posed to the cast and crew in rehearsing and preparing for a production. Thankfully, unlike the professional theatre, we do not have significant overhead costs, so we can afford to put things on hold for the time being until we can consider it safe and practical to resume activities.

Rest assured that as soon as we are able we will be back and look forward to welcoming our audience once again. We will provide an update in the Parish Magazine in due course

David Thompson
Chairman, Dedham Players

Constable Country Medical Practice

Flu Vaccination Programme: We will operate our flu vaccination programme very differently this year. All flu vaccinations will be by appointment only. We will commence vaccinations at the end of September and aim to complete them by the end of November.

We will be contacting all eligible patients through this period, initially prioritising vulnerable patients and patients with medical conditions that put them at risk.

Please be patient and do not contact the practice regarding flu vaccinations, as the reception team will not be able to book them. The practice will contact all eligible patients in due course.

When attending the practice for a flu vaccination, please arrive at your appointment time but not more than 5 minutes early. Please follow strict guidelines regarding entering and exiting the building, hand sanitising, and wearing of face masks/coverings. In addition, please wear appropriate clothing so you can quickly expose your arm for vaccinating. This will enable us to deliver vaccinations efficiently and safely.

Coronavirus Update: As we head into autumn it is vital that we continue with the measures which have been in place for the last few months to protect both staff and patients from Covid-19.

Our primary objective at the practice is to minimise the need for patients to come to the practice at all, but if they need to then to minimise the risk. Here is a summary of the measures we have put in place:

- If possible, submit any medical or admin query via our online eConsult service. We aim to respond to all eConsults within 2 working days.
- If you cannot use eConsult or if your need is urgent, our receptionists will place you on a triage list and one of our doctors or nurse practitioners will call you back.
- If you need to come to the practice, the clinician will ask you to wait in your car with your mobile. Please inform the practice when you have arrived. The clinician will then call you when they are ready to see you.
- You must tell us if you are experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms such as fever, a new cough, or loss of taste and smell.

Please wear a mask or wrap a scarf around you face when you come to the practice, and sanitise your hands.

Please be assured that you can contact us if you feel you need to speak to a clinician about any health concerns you may have. If you have concerns regarding the health of vulnerable patients, please inform us.

Thank you for you continued support and co-operation.

Pete Keeble
Practice Manager



The first term of the school year is now well and truly underway and all 212 of our children are back in the school building. Of course, there have been a number of new routines and procedures to put in place but the children have taken it all in their stride and done magnificently. Our enthusiastic staff team have done a superb job in helping children to settle back into school life and they too are coping extremely well with changes to their roles. For the teaching team, not only have they needed to adjust their teaching practices to meet government guidelines but they're also being called upon to supervise more break times, to lead school assemblies online and to seamlessly combine classroom and remote learning as children and families follow self-isolation guidelines.

It has been and it continues to be a whole school community effort to have all children and staff safely back in school together. Everyone has their part to play and in working together, we

will much more successfully navigate our way through what will undoubtedly be a challenging year. The classrooms though are once more sparkling with awe and wonder and filled with children who are eager to learn so long may that continue.

We are delighted to be able to share with the local community our new school logo which we launched at the start of September. During the spring and summer terms, staff, governors, parents and children were invited to share their thoughts on a number of different designs and as a result, this favourite design was chosen.

At the centre, is a tree symbolising nurture, diversity, progress and strength. The tree also encapsulates the beautiful setting of our school, in the heart of Dedham Vale. The trunk and branches create a cross, highlighting the value we place on spirituality and our close links with St Mary's Church, Dedham, and finally, the circle of text creates the idea of support and protection.

Remember that you can keep up to date with what is happening in school by

following us on Twitter
@PrimaryDedham
or by visiting our website
www.dedham.essex.sch.uk

Miss Laura Valentine
Deputy Headteacher
Dedham C of E Primary School

Dedham Parish Council

Roy Laverick

Councillors were saddened to hear the news of the death of Roy Laverick, Chair of Dedham Parish Council for many years and well known to many. Condolences are extended to his friends and family.

Playground

The playground was 'deep cleaned' prior to re-opening. There is new signage in place to keep children and carers safe whilst they use this facility.

Shakespeare Gallery

The Parish Council would like to thank Terry and Margaret Jeffrey for all that they have contributed to Dedham in the 28 years that they have traded on the High Street. We wish them happiness and continued success as they concentrate on their business at the Mile Hill Gallery, at their home at Mile Hill Barn, Kesale, Saxmundham, IP17 2RG. They are open Tuesday to Saturday.

The River

As reported in last month's magazine, the Parish Council is very well aware of the problems for residents caused by the large numbers of visitors to our village over the summer months. Of course, the majority of visitors simply wish to visit our beautiful area and are respectful of their surroundings. However, a minority leave their rubbish behind and use the fields beside the river as a camping and picnic spot.

Safety is of particular concern to the Parish Council, in particular access for emergency vehicles along the B1029 which frequently gets clogged up with traffic.

A cross border (Essex/ Suffolk) meeting was arranged at the end of August. Representatives from all the relevant authorities debated the problem in a constructive manner. One of the agreed actions was to request additional yellow lines on the opposite side of the road to restrict parking and to allow better flow of traffic on busy days. Of course, we all know that the problem will reduce as the daylight hours shorten, but we hope to have some strategies in place which will help next year. Please remember that DPC only has any formal role on the Essex side of the river and so seeks to form good working relationships with authorities on the Suffolk side for the mutual benefit of all.

Meetings

DPC is continuing with Zoom meetings for the present. The next scheduled meeting is on Monday 5 October at 7pm. The details will be on the DPC website. If you would like a link to the Zoom meeting please contact the Parish Clerk, Emma Cansdale by e-mail clerk@dehamparishcouncil.co.uk or tel 01255 871483

Nicola Baker

Bareroots and bulbs



Well autumn is here and although it feels like some of the leaves have been falling since August, October feels like the garden is truly getting ready for its winter rest.

This time of year as plants start to enter dormancy is typically the start of the bareroot season and is a great time to plant shrubs and trees. I'm unreasonably excited about some stepover fruit trees I've ordered and should be arriving this month. Although stepovers are most commonly associated with apples or pears, I'm giving greengages a go and will edge one of my borders with four of them; the idea being that they also support some of the other plants that seem to flop all over the lawn and get in the way of the mower. We'll see how that turns out.

When planting a new tree, dig a hole twice the size of the spread of the roots and use a fork to break up the soil at the bottom of the hole to help the roots run free. Chuck in some manure or compost to give it the best start you can, then plant the tree so the top of the soil is at the same level as it was in its pot. Firm in well and stake it securely – this is especially important at this time of year when

heavy wind might cause the tree to rock itself free of the soil.

Bareroot plants are also great if you are planning a new hedge, especially as they are often cheaper than a potted plant. And if your garden is basically mostly roses and peonies (you know who you are), you can get a wide variety of both now too.

October is a good time to move shrubs or trees that are in the wrong place as there will be less shock to their root systems. But think carefully before you decide to move one though: young ones will transplant fairly well but those that have been in the ground for longer will suffer more stress and may be less likely to survive. Essentially, you are trying to take as much of the rootball as possible when you move the tree and as a rule of thumb start digging at the point the branches spread to. Make sure you've prepared the ground you are moving it to in advance and water in well once planted.

You can also lift tender plants like dahlias, gladioli and cannas once the foliage has been hit by the first frost. Remove any dead foliage, cut the stems back to 5cm above the tuber and let the tubers dry upside down so the hollow stems drain of any water. Store them somewhere frost-free 'til next year. I've had good luck by leaving them in the ground with a protective layer of dry mulch; they usually just get a later start in the new season and flower later too.

If I'm lifting tender plants, I can fill the holes with spring bulbs – this year, some more *Allium stipitatum* 'Violet Beauty', *Camassia leichtlinii* 'Caerulea'

and daffodils *Narcissi* 'Cornish King' and 'Dutch Master'. I'll save the tulips until November to avoid fire blight – I know, it's a thing. Getting bulbs in now while the ground is still warm means the roots can get established and help prevent rot.

If your soil is heavy or prone to holding water over winter, adding some grit under the bulbs can help. Plant bulbs 2-3 times their own depth, although the deeper you plant the stronger the stems which is helpful for taller flowers. Choose the right varieties and you can brighten up the garden from late winter to May.

Elliott Frisby
Dedham Horticultural Society

With continued uncertainty about Covid-19, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel our speaker evenings for the rest of this year. As always you can find the latest news on the website for the Dedham Horticultural Society, www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com



Psalm 91 verse 4-5

'He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings
you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield
and rampart

You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day.'
So meaningful in nature today.
My bantams have certainly spread
their wings to provide refuge.



Marjorie Culham

Dedham Ladies Fellowship

My beautiful July/August 2020 magazine has arrived and even though there are/ have been restrictions which might have lessened its content, it is still full of interesting articles and lovely photographs. The front cover, is lovely as is every issue, and it was so good to read the article about Connie and Ted Eley. We moved to Dedham in 1978 and when I joined the W.I., Connie was one of the large number of members we had then and I was very fond of her. I think Ted was still singing in the Church Choir at the time (but that may have been Jim).

I now live in Brightlingsea but still have contacts in Dedham where my husband, daughter and I lived for sixteen very happy years, and from where I still run the Dedham Ladies' Fellowship.

We have only a few members now in the DLF. but in normal times, would meet monthly for fellowship, friendship and fun. Hopefully, it will not be too long before we can be together again to enjoy each other's company. We have only a few members and would be pleased to welcome new members once we are able to meet again.

We were very proud of our dear friend and member, Marjorie West when she received the Legion d'honneur from the French Government. Now we are proud of her again for raising so much money for the NHS by the walks around her garden. Well done, Marjorie from your DLF friends. We have one or two members who have not been well and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

I would like to thank Rev. Antony for sending the Church Chimes and the links for the Services. I watched the Easter Sunday Dawn Service live and the village looked so serene but Antony looked

rather cold. It would have been my husband's Birthday so it seemed fitting to see the church that day and remember him as he is buried in the not-quite-so-new extension to the churchyard, overlooking the Cricket ground; again very fitting as he held several roles in the Cricket Club, including being President.

Vivien Chapman



CHILDREN'S SOCIETY Boxes

The boxes this year have raised £477.50. Thank you to all those who have contributed. This has been a very trying year for all the charities and the Children's Society are very grateful for your continued support. The Coronavirus crisis has put vulnerable children in even more danger. Lockdown means they are hidden from view and trapped at home, at risk of abuse and neglect and without the vital support they need. They are all alone, trying to cope with their worries, fears and worsening mental health. Your donation will help the Children's Society's front-line staff deliver vital care packages, provide urgent support and advice, and arrange an emergency response for children in imminent danger. More information about their work can be found on

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Please contact **Ruth Higginson** on **01206 322598** if you would like a box for collecting your spare coins.



Learn, laugh, live

Stour Valley

News: Knocked back by Covid we are now rebuilding as quickly as is safely possible. The majority of our activity groups, including walking, ten pin bowling, fitness, canoeing and kayaking, are back up and running.

Other groups, from philosophy, to book club and languages, continue to operate using Zoom.

Meanwhile, our coffee mornings have started again at the Lambe School in East Bergholt on Fridays each month and our gardening group has a number of visits planned, including a week away to Harrogate.

Membership: We are always open to new members. Our fee for 2020/21 is just £8. To find out more, visit our website to see how we work and get the latest updates about our local activities: stourvalleyu3a.org.uk.

You can also get in touch by email: Graham Manuel (chair)

gandamanuel@gmail.com

or Sue Basted (secretary)

susanbasted10@gmail.com

About us: Stour Valley U3A is one of more than 1,000 U3A groups in the UK. We have just over 400 members based in the Essex/Suffolk border encompassing areas including Manningtree, Dedham, East Bergholt and Shotley.

We work with neighbouring branches in Hadleigh, Harwich and Colchester which provides a wider range of social and learning opportunities.

The Third Age Trust looks after all U3As nationally bringing together people in their “third age” to develop

their interests and continue learning in a friendly and informal environment. Third age is a time after you have finished working full-time and have time to pursue interests or just try something new.

Stour Valley Men’s Probus Club

Recent Meetings: At the time of going to press, on 31 August, an Extra Ordinary meeting has been called by the Committee to discuss the future of the Club. This meeting is being held being on at 10.30am, on Wednesday 19th September, Ogilvie Hall, Lawford.

Future Meetings: Due to the lack of a suitable venue that is open for us to meet regularly, whilst following the Government 's guidelines, our planned speaker programme is on hold.

Meeting Venue: We usually meet at the convenient St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree CO11 1EB

New members are welcomed

Our Club endeavours to be simple in structure, be free of the constraints and obligations of service clubs, and involve members to a minimal cost. **New Members** are always very welcome at all meetings of the Stour Valley Men’s Probus Club, just join us at 10am on a meeting date. The club is directed primarily to providing fellowship between members who are compatible with each other, and provide the opportunity for development of acquaintances. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Manningtree at 10 for 10.30am. Please contact President Dave Carman on 01255 880202 or Secretary Graeme Forsyth 01206 399049 for the latest meeting details.

OBITUARY Max Wilkinson



Max Wilkinson had the capacity to explain complex subjects, from fibre optics to monetary policy, in ways readers could understand.

We are sorry to report the death of Max Wilkinson who played a huge part in the redevelopment of the Parish Magazine, for which we are very grateful. Our thoughts and prayers are with Anthea and the family.

Max Wilkinson, one of the architects of the FT Weekend, was a journalist of prodigious talent. His intellectual rigour and astonishingly wide range of interests, together with a healthy dollop of weekend sizzle, have characterised the publication ever since.

Wilkinson, who has died at the age of 78, was educated at Rugby School and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where his capacity to shift effortlessly between subjects became apparent as he studied

first mechanical engineering and then English. He started journalism as a trainee on the Newcastle Journal, where he met his wife, the journalist Anthea Hall. The couple have a son and a daughter.

He then moved on to The Teacher magazine. As its youthful editor he was photographed kissing the then education secretary, Margaret Thatcher. (Years later, when he had become economics editor of the Financial Times, she spotted him at an economics summit: “You’ve done well, Mr Wilkinson.” “May I return the compliment, prime minister,” he replied.)

Next stop was the Daily Mail and then the FT, where he held a wide variety of jobs, covering electronics, natural resources, economics, running the FT Weekend and finally taking the role of chief leader writer. He had the capacity to explain complex subjects — from fibre optics to monetary policy — in ways readers could understand. And he had the vital ability to spot weaknesses in artfully presented arguments.

As editor of the FT Weekend, he assembled a talented if somewhat ill-disciplined crew, and was always open to new ideas or ways of doing things. In 1994 the advertising department put forward a lucrative but editorially unacceptable idea proposed by an automotive company: a series of celebrity interviews that might just happen to mention the brand of the vehicle in passing. After a series of difficult meetings, Wilkinson saw he

would need a Plan B. He came up with “Lunch with the FT”, an idea that cut the advertiser out completely but was original enough to see off the forces trying to invade his space. Twenty-six years later it has become as enduring a feature of the paper as the Lex note or Martin Wolf column.

A couple of years before, he had launched the hugely successful “Lunch for a Fiver” offer, which helped fill restaurants that were struggling in a recession, raised large sums of money for charity and, unlike the UK Chancellor’s recent “eat out to help out” scheme, didn’t cost the taxpayer a penny.

Wilkinson was no fashion icon, although the FT Weekend was tinged then, as now, with glamour — the How to Spend It magazine also started on his watch. His favoured skiwear, readers were told, included a woolly hat, an army surplus shirt, and trousers tucked into his ski boots. After his retirement, readers were warned he could no longer endorse ties bought from Tesco: “They have gone seriously downhill. I now buy my neckwear at Asda.”

His wide range of knowledge and experiences, together with his robust skills at argument, ideally suited him to the role of chief leader writer. He was always willing to listen and change his mind if persuaded the case was strong enough. But he had strong views, which he expressed forcefully, as during the privatisation of the UK’s water industry. And he could be very stubborn when he

was sure he was right.

One extreme example came in the early 1990s, when he was mugged at knifepoint outside the FT offices late at night. “No you don’t, you bugger,” he cried, setting off in pursuit. He ended up in hospital with a punctured lung. Wilkinson retired at 59, determined to devote serious time to sailing, his lifetime passion. He spent years criss-crossing the coastlines of Northern Europe and the Mediterranean. He was enthusiastic about last year’s Troy exhibition at the British Museum. As he wrote, “I have sailed to Mycenae, and indeed to the ruins of Troy, and read a lot about that brilliant rascal Schliemann,” the archaeologist who, he judged, would “doubtless have been a twin soul” with UK prime minister Boris Johnson.

Having survived cancer a decade ago, he lived life to the full right to the end. He was devoted to music, opera and theatre, and brought them to an army of followers through the recent lockdown by circulating lists of performances that could be streamed from around the world. He was an excellent cook, who loved to entertain his friends.

He spent two days last week working hard on his boat, which he had finally decided to sell, before being rushed into hospital — in Anthea’s words “flirting with the nurses in his final hours of consciousness”.

This obituary appeared in the Financial Times & is reprinted with permission