

# **Dedham**

## **PARISH MAGAZINE**

*May 2021*



# DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1876

## DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

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

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☎ **323 919**

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Dedham CO7 6HJ Thursday 11-1pm

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## DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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

## Dedham and Ardleigh



# HELPLINE

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!

## 2. **Contacts & CONTENT**

3. *Services & events*

4-5 *Viewpoint*

5. *Women's' day*

6. *Rise N Shine/ Walk & talk*

*Focus on Dedham Business*

7. *Old Bakery Cafe*

8-11 *Munnings*

12-13 *The Sun Inn*

14. *St Helena Hospice*

15. *rsvp*

16. *The Essex Rose*

17. *Dedham Therapy Farm*

*Features:*

18-21 *Dedham's West End Part I*

22-23 *Baking recipes*

## **Organisations & Features**

24. *Dedham Primary School*

25. *Dedham Parish Council*

26-27 *Gardening notes*

28. *Grave Tending*

29. *Local events*

30-31 *National open gardens*

32. *Kingsleigh Residential*

33-56 **ADVERTISING**

## **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**



Follow us on facebook Dedham and Arleigh parishes

## Services & Events MAY 2021

### Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May

9.30am	Rise N' Shine	Dedham*
11am	Morning Prayer	Ardleigh
5pm	Evensong	Dedham*

### Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> May

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh*
11am	Holy Communion	Dedham*

### Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> May

7am	Ascension Day Service	Dedham*
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### Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am	Matins	Dedham*
11am	Eucharist	Ardleigh
3pm	Sunday@3	Ardleigh

### Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May

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

### Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> May

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh*
11am	Benefice MP Service	Dedham*
6pm	Ardleigh Christians Together	Ardleigh

### Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June

9.30am	Rise N' Shine	Dedham*
11am	Morning Prayer	Ardleigh
5pm	Evensong	Dedham

\*Service will be live streamed via our website



**YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC78SZfH5QRXMpy7DgfwYslg>

Morning and Evening Prayer online Monday to Friday at 9am and 5pm

Every Tuesday, 10.30am Morning Prayer at Dedham Church

**Wednesday Prayer** - come and join us for prayer for our benefice and the wider community every Wednesday at 12 noon via zoom.

**Men's Breakfast** - bring your own buttie! Saturday, 15th May, 9am.

**Walk & Talk** – Thursday, 13th May, 10am. Meet outside the Dedham Church.

**Ardleigh Friendship Group** – every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 10am to 12 noon outside Arleigh Church – please bring your own refreshments.

**Women's Day** - Saturday, 26th June - Dedham Church - save the date and email the parish office for more information and to register your interest.

## Do you like filling in forms?

We all had to sit down recently and complete the census.

Censuses have been conducted since ancient times, and this one will be used to provide a snapshot of life in the UK and help form policy in the years to come.

2021's census was conducted primarily online – some progress.... do you remember the reams of paper in 2011?! And it's a vast improvement from the census known by Christians globally – the one where Mary and Joseph had to travel back to Joseph's birthplace to be counted.

This year's census, however, has reminded me of the book of Numbers. In Numbers 1, God tells Moses to take something like a census, a recording of the names and numbers of the people. And then we have that as the fourth book of the Bible – a bit strange and not the first place to start reading the bible!

But counting things, counting individuals, listing their names – as we see in the book of Numbers – is a really good way to begin to focus on the *people* behind the stats we often throw around.

This year has been framed by numbers and statistics, the R number, hospital

admissions, numbers vaccinations, and mostly poignantly of all the numbers of people who have died within 28 days of a positive COVID test, 127,000 as I write this Viewpoint. That's a huge and disturbing number, and it's hard to get your head around it... and it only really starts to hit home when we hear the story of *one* such person. Those will be people known to us, or people whose stories have captured our attention.

It's hard to pray when faced with big numbers. And yet when we know someone's name, understand their story, it gets that bit easier. As we read big numbers, it will be easier to remember that behind each number is a person – because we are each one such person.

So when we hear big numbers moving forward – whether from the pandemic or the census or statistics about injustice and inequality – what would it mean not to be detached, not to let these things just go over our heads, but to remember that every single person behind the big numbers is just that – a person. An individual. Known by God, loved by Him. Someone we can pray for, someone to whom we can minister.

*Why not take the opportunity to do that now.*

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said....."I made a difference for that one."

**Reverend Antony**



# Women's Day

## Save the date

**Saturday 26th June 2021**  
**Arrival 9.30am for 10am start**  
**Finish at 4pm**

**The Care-Free Heart:**  
**God's care of us in a worried world**

**NewWine**  
*Local churches changing nations*

**St. Mary's Church**  
**DEDHAM**

Limited places so please register your interest as soon as possible by emailing name/contact no. to [stmaryda@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryda@gmail.com)

*Details will then be sent to you about how to purchase your ticket*



all-together worship  
1st Sunday each month  
Dedham Church  
9.30 to 10.15am

**Re starting in person on Sunday 2nd May**

*hymns-songs-bible stories-refreshments*  
*Dedham-and-Ardleigh-parishes.org.uk*



**WALK & TALK**

**Thursday 13th May**

10am

Meet outside the Dedham Church



# Old Bakery Café



We have been so grateful for the support of the village allowing us to have the coffee van in the Royal Square,.

We even had a mention in the Sunday Times in best villages to live and that it was a feature of the village having the Barista in the square in these crazy times.

We haven't made a final decision but we may not come back as a Café as before, not knowing about social distancing and how everything is going to work in the future. We may just concentrate on a more upmarket take away offering salads, speciality bread, sandwiches and more.. We have been approached to sell local ice creams and maybe a few deli items.



Watch this space for exciting news and updates over the next few months.

**Lynn Barnard**

# Focus on Dedham Business

throughout 2020 & future plans for 2021



**“... much of the work and all of the play were suddenly at an end.” (Sir Alfred Munnings)**

*Jenny Hand, Director of the Munnings Art Museum describes the last twelve months in the life of the museum*

There is nothing quite like the feeling of emptiness that invades you when the museum you run is void of visitors. The quietness is deafening. In more usual times the steady burble of voices, which starts in the hushed tones of enquiry and rises to sudden exclamations of discovery, is one of the joys of working in a special place like the Munnings Art Museum.

At the beginning of March 2020 the museum was all set for another exciting season riding high on the achievements

of the previous year; 2019 was the most successful in its six decade history when the museum exhibited 45 First World War paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings on loan from the Canadian War Museum.

As the pandemic took hold we had to cancel volunteer orientations, coach party bookings and planned events. Our new exhibition, *Yours With Love*, *AJ* sat silent as opening day came and went in the first lockdown. There was some good news, however, when our latest book, which inspired the exhibition, made it to the printer just in time. The book is the culmination of years of painstaking work to transcribe fifty-four letters written by Alfred Munnings to his new wife Violet in the early 1920s when he was away from home painting the portraits of wealthy patrons.

The constraints of lockdown brought a new wave of creativity from the cultural sector. Museums searched for ways to engage with people at home through social media. Under the hashtag #showmethemunnings we set ourselves the challenge of completing a nationwide



THE  
**Munnings**  
ART MUSEUM  
DEDHAM • ESSEX

*Yours  
with love  
AJ*

**Letters from  
Sir Alfred Munnings  
to his wife, Violet  
1920-1922**

Brenda Parrish

Foreword by His Grace,  
the Duke of Rutland

virtual tour of paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings in public museums by the end of lockdown. Each day we posted a different painting on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels. The reaction was joyous and demonstrated how uplifting experiencing art can be, even when online. One follower commented, “*I’m loving my daily Munnings. They make my day <3*”.

The art of Sir Alfred Munnings kept us uplifted and connected, too. We devised a series of bite-sized email updates about the new exhibition which enabled us to stay in touch with our volunteers, staff and trustees reinforcing our togetherness.

The opening of the museum at the beginning of September couldn’t have been further away from that of the previous year: visitors snaked through the building in a thin, orderly line, their visits measured out by the new timed-ticket system. We welcomed them from behind our barriers of plastic, rope and cloth. But, some surprising opportunities came with all this strangeness. The slower, more deliberate pace gave visitors space and time to contemplate the artworks. Stewards embraced the challenge of stepping into new positions and stretching the boundaries of their previous roles.

The late summer also brought sunshine and colour. The cancelled workshop tutors and live-horse models from earlier in the year were re-booked and we soon had small, socially-distanced groups of budding and professional artists stirring the museum grounds into life again. Their paintings of an elegant side-saddle rider and two majestic Suffolk Punches were more than just artistic endeavours. They embodied new-found freedoms.

November dealt us all a fresh blow with the arrival of a second lockdown but the small team that was able to continue turned its focus towards Christmas mail orders. Our web shop was given a make-over and its new array of books, prints and gifts, including art-inspired facemasks, was promoted to our growing online following. The shop received an unprecedented volume of orders in December.



Key to this revamped retail-offer was another new publication, entitled *Where Shallows Talk*. Edited by Dr Tim Gardiner, it is an anthology of poetry, written by sixteen local poets, in response to the paintings of Alfred Munnings during our exhibition *Munnings and the River* when Tim was the museum's poet-in-residence.

As I write this we are energetically making plans for re-opening. Emails are pinging into the inbox from our keen to return volunteer stewards. Dates for summer art workshops are being discussed and tutors and models are checking their diaries. The exhibition *Yours With Love, Aj* patiently awaits its visitors and we look forward to the

moment when the silent rooms of Castle House are filled once more with the sounds of carefree chatter.

**Jenny Hand**  
**Director**  
**the Munnings Art Museum**

[www.munningsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.munningsmuseum.org.uk)  
Facebook: @munningsartmuseum  
Twitter: @alfredmunnings  
Instagram: @munnings\_art\_museum

Our books:  
*Behind the Lines, Yours With Love, Aj, Munnings and the River* and *Where Shallows Talk* are all available to buy online or over the phone.





For most of the country and for most people, the last year surely has been like a roller coaster. Full of ups and downs, unknowns around the corner, thrilling at times, terrifying at others. For the hospitality industry it has been no different. From locking down in March 2020 to unlocking in July, and then everything that followed, we have had to react and adapt to survive like never before. Some haven't survived despite best efforts.

And what a reopening on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020. July and August were our busiest ever. It was clear you all missed eating out, socialising and getting back to normal. Foreign travel chaos resulted in full accommodation for us all the way through to the end of October. From the feedback we received prior to reopening, our aim was to deliver as normal an experience as possible while ensuring distancing was maintained and people felt safe. It was hard. A lot of people don't read signs. A lot ignore new rules. A lot didn't agree with them. And tell us! Levels of trade were unprecedented, especially the Monday-Wednesday for the EHO scheme.

We didn't always get it right but we listened, adapted and improved. By and

large, the vast majority of our guests were fantastic and it was reassuring to receive such positive vibes from people. It's what we're here for.

The following months were unclear. It was impossible to plan beyond a week. I fear a lot of businesses like mine won't be there in the future. I fear a lot of our supply chain partners won't be there. From food and drink suppliers, to some professional services like recruitment and graphic design. I fear for many young people who rely on hospitality as their first job, second job or main job. A job that provides a lifetime of skills and experiences. No doubt we are dealing with an ethical dilemma where trade-offs will be made. No doubt decision making is very difficult.

For us for now, we crack on. Confident, if allowed, we can deliver what we're here for in a way that ensures you feel safe and most importantly, well looked after.

The last year has been tough but we have got through it. We've been busy decorating, repairing the front box gutter (hence the scaffolding) and doing some landscaping in the garden. We are only reopening our Garden Bar Friday-Sunday 12pm-6pm from 16 April-16 May - mainly due to the distance the garden is from the kitchen (food goes cold) and partly the unpredictable weather.

**From 17 May, we will be fully open and are looking forward to getting back to normal.**

We have our annual **Al Festo Music & Beer Festival** happening from **9-11 July** (subject to government lifting restrictions on 21 June). Our team are raring to go and we really look forward to welcoming all our customers back.

I'd like to say a big thank you to every one who has sent lovely messages of support throughout the year, it has meant a lot to us all.



*Piers Baker, The Sun Inn  
High Street, Dedham*

**AL FESTO 2021**  
**9 - 11 July 2021**  
**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE JAZZ UNDER THE STARS - TICKETED**  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY FROM MIDDAY - FREE ENTRY**

<b>PLAYING LIVE ON SATURDAY</b>	<b>PLAYING LIVE ON SUNDAY</b>
Foley	Brooke Telling
Kelly Bayfield	Norton Money
Tina Boonstra	Morganway
Fargo Railroad Co	Jake Morrell
Rob Heron & The Tea Pad Orchestra	Huw & The Greater Good
Ragged String Band	

**20 BEERS & CIDER / GIN & PROSECCO BAR**  
**GARDEN GAMES / BBQ & FESTIVAL FOOD**

**THE SUN INN**  
 DEDHAM  
**Car parking at Mill Lane Car Park Only**  
**Fully tented in case of rain!** #ALFESTO

# St Helena Hospice

Myself and the volunteers are all very excited to be opening the shop again on the 12th April and start making lots of money for St Helena Hospice as they have lost so much income during the last year. The whole team is passionate about St Helena and what it means to so many people.

We have all kept in touch with each other during each lockdown either by phone, or sending messages, jokes and updates. We are a team of 24 volunteers and Viv the Assistant manager as well as myself and I feel it was important to keep in touch with everyone as we are all important and valued.

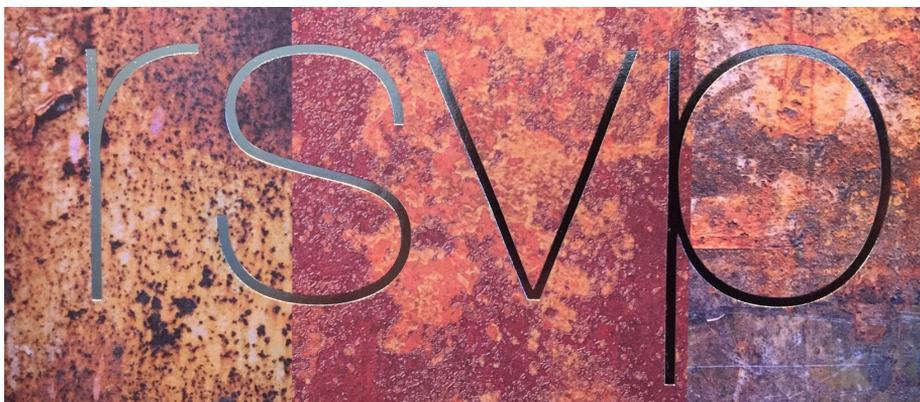
With regards to plans of events coming up, we may not be able to do anything large until at least 2022 because of Covid and crowds. But as soon as we can, there will be late night events and fundraisers in the shop, at least twice a year (they take a lot of organisation). They will involve the usual drinks, nibbles, games and fun as well as great designer clothing and accessories to be brought.

Until then, we shall continue by focusing on giving a fantastic shopping experience to our customers, helping them choose items and recommending things to them if they need our help and advice, to keep them coming back and spending money. We shall also continue to source good quality items for everyone to buy.

We are most excited and happy to be seeing again all the local people from the village and surrounding areas, that we know and love come back to the shop, because we have missed them all.

*Melanie Moss-Burton*  
*Shop Manager*  
*St Helena Hospice*  
*High Street, Dedham*





**rsvp**, a new local family business established at the end of 2019 has had a fragmented start to life in Dedham.

We were very thankful for the Christmas trade at the end of last year and we thank all of our lovely customers that shopped local and supported the business.



Bricks and mortar shops are very much where the heart of our shop lays and we hope there will be a renewed hunger for shopping local on our high streets as we hopefully leave this awful period behind us.

We strive to keep the shop feeling fresh and new products are always arriving, we introduced the ice cream bike last year and this will return once the warmer weather arrives!

We may also be opening up the delightful courtyard garden with a few ideas bubbling, watch this space!

We look forward to seeing you all and wish everyone the very best.

**Stephen Bullen**  
**rsvp**  
**High Street, Dedham**



### **THE ESSEX ROSE** **After lockdown**



“It has been a challenging year for everyone; while the Essex Rose was closed some of the staff worked as volunteers and it was an opportunity for our maintenance team to do some small repairs in the tea room.

“The staged reopening is a good opportunity for customers to stock up on their favourite Tiptree jams, have a coffee and cake in the sun or to pick up a cream tea to enjoy in their own gardens. We are looking forward to May when customers can choose to site inside or out. We would like to thank everyone in the village for their support.”

**Nicky Goldsack**  
**Head of Tea Rooms Operations**  
**Tiptree Tea Rooms The Essex Rose**





# DEDHAM

## Therapy Farm

Dedham Therapy Farm CIC aims to empower people to develop, recover or maintain their wellbeing through nature, animals and meaningful activities. We provide Occupational Therapy and Animal Assisted Therapy to anyone who would benefit.

This year we are proud to say, with the support of our Farm Assistants, their families and the local community we have made it through a very tough year! We are now running Therapy sessions Monday - Saturday. You can access a referral form through our website

[www.dedhamtherapyfarm.org](http://www.dedhamtherapyfarm.org)

A new forest School running through Thrive Nature Adventures. If you would like to access this you can through their website.

<https://bookwhen.com/thrivenatureadventures#focus=ev-slvk-20210416093000>

Thank you to those that have wished us well, made donations and supported us throughout the year.

*Megan Dack  
Business Manager  
Dedham Therapy Farm  
Mill Lane Car Park, Mill Lane*



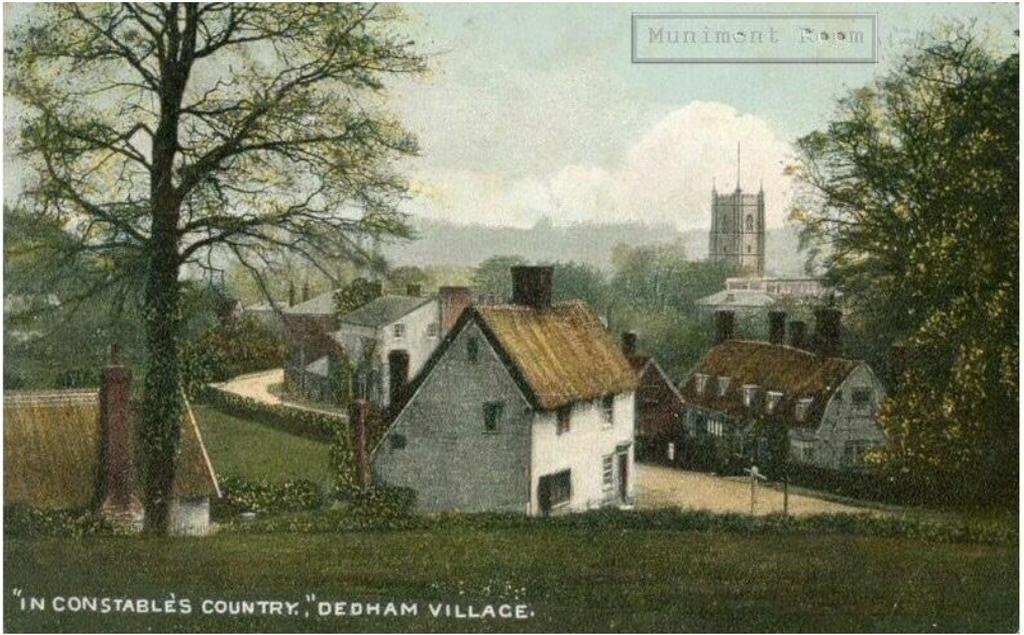
## Dedham's West End PART I

A popular subject for early postcards of Dedham was the view of the western end of the High Street with picturesque thatched cottages and a signpost set on a grassy triangle at the junction with the Stratford Road. Nowadays the hill leading out of the village towards Colchester is inaccurately named Shoebridge's but the name should be spelled Shoobridge after the family whose saddler's shop was in the cottage at the corner with a window looking down the High Street. John Shoobridge was followed by George who is recorded in the 1851 census as a harness maker living on the north side of Dedham Street. After he died the shop was taken over by another saddler Jabez Freeman (1854-1926), then passed to William Freeman who ran it as a general store and is recorded in the 1939 Register (of the population on the eve of war) as a clothing store salesman. Peggy Bullet told me that he had bicycles with carriers to take round his merchandise and used to go as far as Ipswich. He lived next door to the shop with his deaf and dumb brother Eddie who did shoe repairs and his unmarried sister who was in charge when he was out. I remember the shop when my sisters and I were children and my mother bought our Wellington boots there.

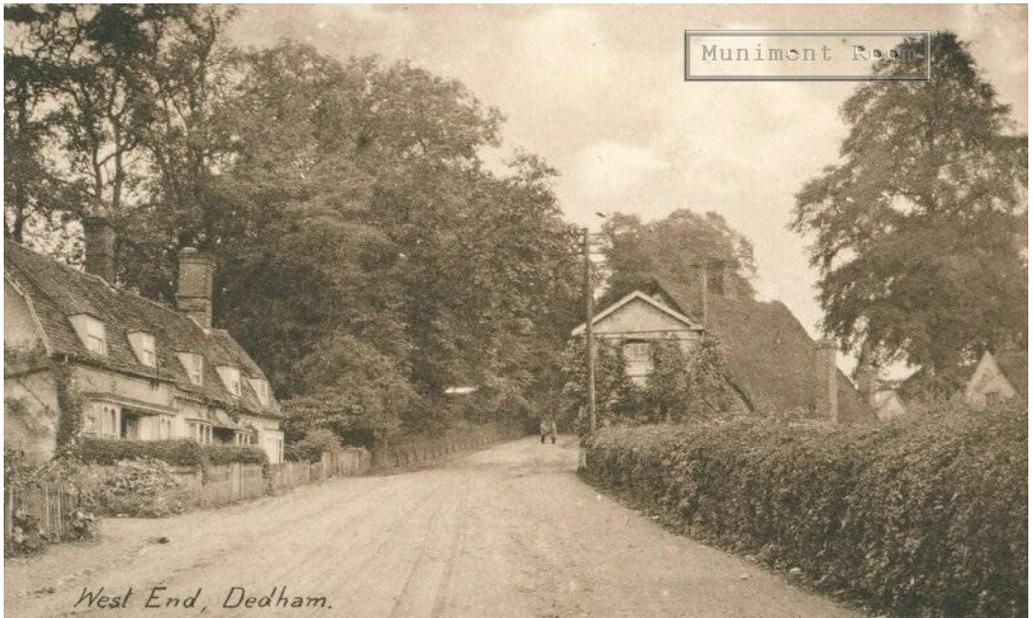
The cottage next door had housed another shop belonging to Jack Cade, a boot and shoe maker. His workshop was to one side and Ted Eley

remembered him mending shoes in it. That must have been in the early years of the 20th century because by the 1920s Doug Howe had a bicycle and motor repair business there with a red corrugated iron shed next to the shop. He then moved to larger premises in Mill Lane; by the time I knew the cottage it had ceased to be a shop and Mrs Lock lived there. Ted told me that the thatched cottage beyond it just round the corner (now Little Thatch) was the home of Mr Hitchcock who rang the Market Bell before 8 o'clock on Tuesday mornings. It was stopped during WW2 but I still remember hearing it every week into the 1960s. Just along the Stratford Road was Rose Cottage, where the policeman PC Hatt lived and later the Edwards family who moved there from a cottage in Mill Lane. In 1911 it belonged to the Cottees (see Part 2). In the 1950s this little house, which showed alarming signs of sliding down the hill, was bought by Richard Dupont (1920-77), a painter of horses inspired by Sir Alfred Munnings. Dedham architect Raymond Erith restored it for him, buttressing the whole building with a studio addition right across the back.

Looking east from Freeman's Corner towards the centre of the village there were no other houses on the northern side of the High Street until 1935 when the present row of bungalows was built on an open field. In the early 1950s the Telephone Exchange moved from the back room of Mrs Hitchcock's shop in the village centre into the small single-storey building it still occupies.



*Freeman's Corner in the early 20th century.*



*The West End looking towards Shoobridge's Hill in the 1930s. Cage Piece House is on the left and William Freeman's shop can be seen behind the telegraph pole.*

Mabel Cottee who lived next door at Inverawe used its garden as an allotment until the extension was built in 1972.

A continuous line of old cottages and houses on the south side of the street included both homes and businesses. Old photographs show the cottages nearest the hill with large front windows dating from when they were shops. By 1950 they had become so derelict that the local authority condemned them for human habitation and they narrowly escaped demolition. They were saved by Kanty Cooper (1904-1993), daughter of John Paul Cooper, an Arts and Crafts designer and maker of metalwork and jewellery. She became a pupil of Henry Moore but abandoned a promising career as a sculptor to devote her life to working with refugees in many countries including Spain, Greece and Jordan. On her retirement she was looking for somewhere to live not far from her sister at Tolleshunt D'Arcy and bought these cottages to restore them. One end became Ramplins, her own small house and the remainder Penny Pot Cottage (named after the footpath along the back) which she let to a succession of tenants. The whole row had formerly been known as Cage Piece House and she built her garage on what had been the site of the village Cage, a vanished lock-up for vagrants, malefactors or drunks. She paid the Parish Council a shilling a year in rent for the use of the land and Ted and Connie Eley said that in the 1980s the Secretary Betty King used to go and collect it. Ted still remembered the Cage when it was used by Joe Osborne, the coach builder who

lived in the house next door (now Wheelwrights), to stack timber for seasoning. He had his workshop in the barn in front of Swanston Cottage, which was later restored by the eccentric builder Harry Humm and used by antique dealer Harry Griffiths as storage for his shop in the centre of the village. Their initials HH and HG can be seen built into the brickwork on either side of the wide door at the front.

© Lucy Archer



*Glass roundel showing Ramplins in use as a shop, c.1900*



*Kanty Cooper who lived at Ramplins in the 1960s -1980s.*



*J. Cade Boot and Shoe Maker in the early 20th century. The cottage to its right was Freeman's shop. Note the grass triangle in the road.*



*Doug Howe's shop and the red corrugated iron shed where he carried out bicycle and motor repairs in the 1920s.*

# Baking Recipes...

## BANANA CRUMBLE FINGERS



### Ingredients

- 175 g (6 oz) Butter or margarine
- 190 g (6 1/2 oz) Demerara Sugar
- 225g (8 oz) self-raising flour
- 100g (4 oz) porridge oats
- 2 medium sized firm bananas peeled and mashed
- 25g (1 oz) sultanas

### Method

Oven temperature Gas Mark 6 /200 C/180 C in fan oven. Cream together the butter and 175 g (6 oz) of the sugar. Add the flour and porridge oats, stir until the mixture forms rough breadcrumbs. Sprinkle half the mixture over the base of a lightly greased shallow 30 x 20 cm (12 x 8 inch) tin, lightly press down. Spread the mashed bananas over the base and top with the sultanas. Cover with the remaining crumble mixture and roughly level the surface. Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until golden. Allow to cool, then sprinkle over the remaining and cut into fingers. Makes 20 fingers.

*Instead of bananas you could use, cooked apple, dates, cooked apricots, cooked blackberries, tinned fruit.*



## **SMOKED HADDOCK FISHCAKES**

### **Ingredients**

- 340 g smoked haddock, cooked in milk
- 675 g potatoes, mashed with a little butter
- 1 small onion or 2 spring onions
- 85 g Cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 egg, mixed with 1 tbsp milk
- 1 teacupful of breadcrumbs, mixed with 2 tbsp finely chopped parsley

### **Method**

Heat the oven to 190°C. Flake the fish and mix it with the mash, onion and grated cheese, Season with salt and pepper. Form into 8 cakes, dipping each in the beaten egg and then the parsley breadcrumbs so they are well coated. Put on a piece of non-stick baking parchment on a baking tray and bake for

## **Mission Bake Sales**



**10am to 12 noon**

15th May (with Dedham Horticultural Society)

26th June, 31st July, 30th August (bank holiday Monday)

25th September, 30th October

*If you would like to help with either making cakes or on the stall  
please contact Ruth Higginson on **322598***



**Dedham Primary School is looking to recruit two new Foundation Governors to the Governing Body**

The Church of England is uniquely blessed by its continuing engagement with the education of our nation. The Chair of the Church's Education Division/National Society, Bishop John Pritchard, wrote in September 2013, "With nearly 5,000 Church of England schools, there is, naturally, an incredible mix of children who receive their education at our infant, junior, primary, middle, secondary schools and academies. Whatever their background, Church of England schools are there to provide a first class education, based on a commitment to draw out the full potential of each child."

The Governing Body is a vital part of the leadership of any school and Ofsted is increasing its focus on inspecting the quality of governance in schools. Their role in developing the school as a Church school is also scrutinised during the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) process. One of the key questions asked by SIAMS inspectors is "How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school"?

This means that governors should have a detailed and strategic knowledge of their school and it follows that governors,

Headteacher and staff should work as a united team, dedicated to realising a shared Christian vision for the school.

**Foundation Governors** play a specific role in ensuring the school's Christian character and their responsibilities will include

- \* Preserving the links between Church, School and Diocese
- \* Taking an active role in the SIAMS process
- \* Ensuring that collective worship and religious education at the school are appropriately monitored
- \* Ensuring that collective worship and religious education at the school follow the appropriate guidelines and/or syllabus
- \* Bringing to the attention of the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) any matters requiring their attention regarding the school
- \* Ensuring that the Christian ethos of the school is encouraged throughout its community and is reflected in its policies and protocols, the curriculum and activities.
- \* Ensuring that their own attitudes and behaviour in relation to the school reflect its Christian ethos.

If you might be interested in a 'no commitment' conversation about joining the governing body please get in touch with me.

Thanks, **Antony**  
stmarydavicar@gmail.com

## Dedham Parish Council

**Elections:** We are pleased that there has been sufficient local support for a contested parish council election on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all those who have put themselves forward for election, and good luck to the next iteration of Dedham Parish Council.

**The Drift:** The works to re-surface the Drift and install bollard lights will be undertaken in May. We hope that they will be welcomed by pedestrians in the darker winter months.

The lights will have passive infrared sensors so that they only come on when pedestrians approach and will be on a timer so that they are not activated during the night.

**Highways:** Parking restrictions have been implemented at Lamb Corner by the North Essex Parking Partnership and parking is no longer allowed on the verges either side of the Birchwood Road exit at Lamb Corner.

We continue to monitor the progress of the installation of additional yellow lines along the B1029 and are still expecting them to be installed before the forthcoming summer season.

A recent flooding problem down Shoebridge Hill has now been investigated by ECC Highways and we await news on the proposed remedial action.

**Play area:** A new 'noughts and crosses' game has been installed to replace the defunct 'Simon Says' panel. Parents are

encouraged to continue to use the playground responsibly with their children in line with Covid guidelines posted on the gate. And please remember, no dogs are allowed in the fenced off area.

**Meetings:** The format of future meetings is as yet unclear, but face to face meetings are likely to be introduced soon. The date of the May meeting has yet to be announced, but must be held within fourteen days of the elections on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Details will be posted on the DPC website.

**Clerk:** DPC is pleased to announce that we have appointed a new Parish Clerk. Her name is Jayne Cole and she is an experienced Clerk with an impressive CV relevant to Parish Council work.

**Thanks:** Many current members of the Parish Council are stepping down after nine years of service. All of us would like to thank residents for their support and to thank our Colchester Borough Councillor Nigel Chapman for his help, our Essex County Councillor Anne Brown for her years of service to Dedham and our volunteer 'Webmaster' John Goldsbrough who has been responsible for our comprehensive and up to date website which is the envy of many parish councils.

*Nicola Baker*

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

**Parish Clerk, Jayne Cole**

## A tapestry of colour

If April saw green shoots and buds bursting forth from soil, stem and branches, then May brings flowers blooming from almost every part of the garden. There are spots in the garden at this time of year where my eye is caught by a tapestry of foliage colour: where the rusted roof of my shed contrasts with the silver grey of a water butt, catches the new red leaves of a small acer, and complements the many shades of green in what I like to call my woodland border.

But that red and green corner of foliage is now enhanced elsewhere with colour too. Azaleas and rhododendrons are unfurling finger-like pink and red buds. Oriental poppies (*Papaver orientale*) 'Harlem' and 'Brilliant', and herbaceous and tree peonies are showing off their big blowsy, delicate flowers. Spiky *Camassia leichtlinii* and frothy cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) provide blue and white contrast in the cottage border, and alliums complement the fresh green fronds of hardy male ferns (*Dryopteris filix-mas*). If you're lucky, your garden might have magnificent large clumps of blue *Iris sibirica* beside a pink *Rosa* 'Mary Rose'. All with the pale blue of self-seeded forget-me-nots (*Myosotis sylvatica*) sprinkled – seemingly never-endingly – at their feet.

As great as it all looks right now and as good as looking at it makes me feel, the work hasn't stopped. With the drier weather, there should be plenty of

opportunity to put your hoe to the soil once a week and cut the heads of weeds where they can shrivel up and die in the sunshine. Hoeing will tackle the annual weeds, but you'll still have to get down to soil level to fork perennial weeds out by hand.



I have a large evergreen hedge that separates my mini-orchard from the rest of the garden and this is a good time to give it a bit of a trim, but remember to check that there are no birds nesting as it's an offence to damage or destroy them. Fortunately, though I'm not sure what kind of hedge it is, it's not dense and is easy to look through it end to end and see what's inside. I just want to take the hedgetrimmer to one side of it, cutting it back a couple of inches and taking a

bit off the top. A good feed after cutting will help it put on new growth. I'll do the other side next year, narrowing the whole hedge over two seasons. If you have a box (*Buxus sempervirens*) hedge, give it a trim too at the end of May to neaten it for summer.

If you don't have a hedge to cut, late May is traditionally the time to give plants a 'Chelsea Chop'. It can make herbaceous perennials bushier and stagger flowering times but needs to be done when the plant is of a reasonable size. Try it on nepeta, phlox, asters, sedums and more by pruning about a third of the plant: either take the top third off everything or every third stem of one plant or a third of a larger group.

I love Aubrieta 'Red Cascade' which has been flowering since March, bringing eye-catching colour to the borders ahead of the daffodils and tulips, but as it goes over, a quick trim will encourage fresh growth and flowers.

The allotment is coming on with plenty of time spent tidying it up after Christmas, but I'll need to protect strawberry plants with straw to help keep weeds down and lift the berries off the soil and with netting to keep the birds off. In my mini-orchard, I need to hang pheromone traps in my plum and apple trees to monitor and hopefully reduce the activity of moths that can result in larvae (yes, maggots) in fruit when it comes to harvest time.

I hope you have the chance to enjoy your gardens as much as I enjoy mine at this time of year – despite the work that's needed to get it this way.

**Elliott Frisby**  
**Dedham Horticultural Society**



*We hope you might be able to join us  
in the grounds of Dedham Church  
on Saturday 15 May  
for the return of our  
**annual Plant Sale**  
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More details will be on our website  
[www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com](http://www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com)*

## GRAVE TENDING

I worked in the Corporate world for 36 years having left school at 16 and was very successful, shortly after turning 50 I was made redundant and found it very difficult to get back into the Corporate world so decided to look at a career change. I have always loved flowers and looked for a way to work with flowers. I also knew that very difficult to engage someone to look after my Mum's grave in Hampshire so decided to start a business Tending Graves and creating beautiful flowers to put on the graves. My business is Grave Tending & Flowers by Jo and based in Hadleigh Suffolk, I tend graves all over Suffolk and the Borders.

In August last year I was on Radio 4's Woman's Hour and had incredible feedback from viewers which I'm still receiving. As well as customers lots of people contacted me to say I had inspired them, they were in similar situations to me and starting new businesses. I realised that this was very positive, this service needs to be promoted all over the UK and also outside of the UK as most customers wont live locally. I have customers in Canada and NZ.

I am setting up an Association of Grave Tenders, so far there are 16 of us reaching across the UK so helping and supporting each other in our Business ventures, being a small business can be lonely, having a team of like minded passionate business owners is a joy to be part of.

I hope you are able to look at my website and see that the service I offer is unique, empathetic to the family giving them a fully managed service when they aren't able to tend themselves.

I would love the opportunity to talk about this service and my journey and how this could help lots of people who carry the worry and guilt of not having the time to visit their family or friend's graves knowing there are services out there to help them and something else they feel they are failing to fulfil.

I am also a Bereavement Support Volunteer for Cruse which certainly helps me to understand my customers, some of their stories are heart breaking and many have become friends.

Very much hope to hear from you.

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or just turn up and pay at the gate.

### **The Place for Plants, East Bergholt, Suffolk**

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**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May** 2pm - 5pm

Home-made teas.

Adult: £7.00 / Child: Free

### **The Priory, Stoke by Nayland**

Interesting 9 acre garden with fine views over Constable countryside; lawns sloping down to small lakes and water garden; fine trees, rhododendrons and azaleas; walled garden; mixed borders and ornamental greenhouse. Wide variety of plants.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May** 2pm - 5pm

Home-made teas.

Adult: £5.00 / Child: Free

### **Bradfield Gardens, Bradfield, Manningtree**

Two beautiful, but very contrasting gardens in the village of Bradfield, bordering on the Stour Estuary in north east Essex. Chippins an artist's and plantaholics' paradise, packed with interest. Spring heralds hostas, aquilegia and irises. Includes meandering stream, wildlife pond and Horace the Huge! Summer hosts a colour explosion with daylilies and rambling roses. The front garden has an abundance of tubs and hanging baskets. Also includes an exotic border with cannas, dahlias and cacti. Studio in conservatory with paintings and etching press. 2 Hope Cottages, a new garden opening for the first time for the NGS is a tranquil, country style garden overlooking the serene, open countryside. The beautifully planted garden reflects the owner's love of trees. In early summer the rich variety of roses and peonies give the garden a soft, romantic feel. Followed later with splashes of vibrant colour from dahlias, salvias, agapanthus and sweet peas.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May** 11am - 4:30pm

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### **Green Island, Ardleigh**

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