

Dedham PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2021

Dedham's white water rapids

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1876

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

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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!

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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 FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday, 7th February

8am	Holy Communion	Live Stream
9.30am	Rise N Shine	Live Stream
5pm	Compline	Live Stream

Sunday, 14th February

8am	Holy Communion	Live Stream
9.30am	Holy Communion	Live Stream

Sunday, 17th February—Ash Wednesday

6pm	Holy Communion	Live Stream
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Sunday, 21st February

8am	Holy Communion	Live Stream
9.30am	Matins	Live Stream
3pm	Sunday@3	via Zoom
6pm	Ardleigh	
	Christians Together	via Zoom

Sunday, 28th February

8am	Holy Communion	Live Stream
9.30am	Morning Praise	Live Stream
5pm	Revive@5	via Zoom

**Service will be live streamed via our website*



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC78SZfH5QRXMpy7DgfwYsig>

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

Weekly Midweek Services

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 13th February, 9am via zoom

Viewpoint: Slowing down



I often walk up Mill Lane and around the village and have found myself saying out loud 'Slow down, slow down' as a vehicle has roared past me at well over 30mph. Perhaps you've done the same? I fear there is an accident waiting to happen. The legal speed limit is 30 but personally I think in a village with country roads and lots of local people and tourists around along with runners, cyclists, horses and farm vehicles 20mph is quite fast enough. Could we all slow down?

In March last year we had the lockdown which forced us all to slow down and we are now in the midst of another one. The restrictions had their down side, for some felt lonely and isolated, and parents struggled with home schooling. But there were benefits from the forced slow down. For in slowing down many realised just how busy and hectic their lives were and its impact on family life; others realised that when you slow down there is time to talk. Strange to say even with social distancing we were actually more sociable!

And because we had slowed down there were many expressions of kindness and love. We learnt too that slowing down proved good for the environment and there was a greater appreciation of the countryside around, we could even hear the birds sing.

Many made a promise to themselves that when the lockdown was over to keep some of the lifestyle changes they had made. I wonder if you were one of them? And have you?

In the cycle of the church year there is a season for slowing down and reflection and it is called Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday 17th February.

Lent is the time when we remember Jesus' forty days in the wilderness where he went without food and faced temptation and so is a time when Christians do a spiritual stock take and reflect on their life and faith. In Lent, reflecting how Jesus fasted some people as a discipline give something up, like chocolate, biscuits or alcohol and the

money saved they give to a good cause. But Lent is more than just giving something up it is a call to slow down and think about your life and its purpose and about faith and where God fits in.

This awful pandemic has made many people re-evaluate what is important in life. If that's you why not take the opportunity this Lent to slow down and give some thought to the spiritual side of your life. Maybe watch in the comfort of your own home one of our Church services on Youtube which you can access from the church website. In the Bible there is a book of poetry called the Psalms and these express a whole

range of human emotions which is why many people identify with them. In one (Psalm 46) the psalmist says this: 'Be still and know that I am God' Slowing down can be good for your body, mind and soul. I commend slowing down to you.

Finally to say if you are driving through Dedham or Ardleigh and get stuck behind a grey car doing 20mph and are thinking of flashing your lights and shouting "Get a wriggle on granddad". I'm sorry it could be me. I'm just slowing down!

Merv
Assistant Minister



Essex County Council

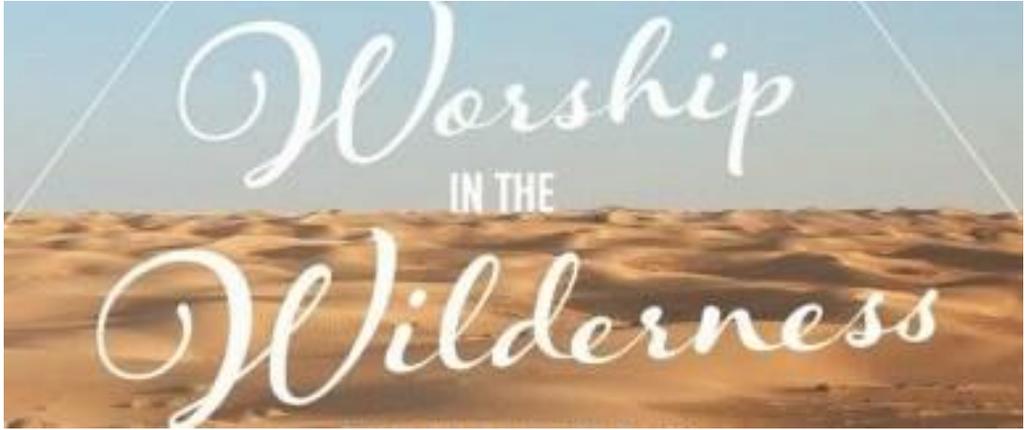
Test and Trace Payments

These are payments that are available to people who need to self isolate.

The funds have been given to borough, city and district councils to provide one off £500 support payments to people unable to work and who do not qualify for the Government's Test and Trace support payments.

People in Essex can apply for either the Government
or discretionary grant here -

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>



Journey with Jesus through the Desert for Lent (starts on Ash Wednesday 17th February)

For many of us the past year has felt like a wilderness. Simplicity, sacrifice and sorrow may have become daily realities, yet the Bible is full of characters who have transformational encounters with God in the desert.

Worship in the Wilderness is a life-giving Lent journey, exploring biblical, creative and deep themes :

A Secret Journey, A Spirit-led Journey, A Simple Journey,
A Sorrowful Journey, A Sacrificial Journey, A truth-Speaking Journey,
A Surprising Journey

Join us as we journey together through the wilderness this Lent, and discover afresh the love and power of God.

Services online at 8am and 9.30am each Sunday

*Midweek groups study the bible together online bringing support and friendship.
For details contact stmarydavicar@gmail.com*

explore

life

faith

meaning

Alpha

The Alpha Course

Our lunchtime session started on 14th January via zoom, but there is opportunity to start an evening session once a small group are interested, do get in touch

*If you are interested in joining Alpha please contact the Parishes Office
01206 322136 or stmaryda@gmail.com*

As we journey through another lockdown we are all holding out for hope. And there is hope! The vaccination programme is underway and once again people across the country are working so hard to keep us safe and care for those who are ill.

The Christian faith offers a hope in God that comforts us beyond fear itself. Are you or people you know asking questions about faith? Questions like: Does God exist? If God exists, why doesn't he stop the coronavirus? Why doesn't God answer my prayers? None of us can claim to have all the answers, but we would love to invite those who are grappling with questions like this to an Online Alpha Course.

Alpha can help to give you perspective, to think about the bigger questions in life.

Alpha is an interactive course that explores the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. Alpha runs across eleven sessions.

Each session includes a short film and a discussion where you can share your thoughts with an online small group. There's no pressure, no follow up and no charge.

Please contact us at
stmaryda@gmail.com
if you are interested

FOCUS ON: The Old Bakery



Like everyone else The Old Bakery has been dramatically affected by Covid, but luckily we have been able to improvise with buying the Barista van so people are still able to get their daily caffeine fix!
Since Christmas we have taken the decision to close as it does rather

encourage people to congregate around the memorial in The Royal Square. We believe that up until this last lockdown it has kept everyone sane, just to know you could meet up for a socially distance chat. Hopefully in a couple more weeks we will be back.

Along side the van, I have been cooking a selection of ready meals fortnightly for people to order and collect, which has proved very popular.

Again until covid numbers decrease we have decided to put a hold on this service for now.

We feel its onwards and upwards now the vaccine has arrived so hopefully we may all be able to enjoy spring and summer.

Lynn Barnard



LITTLEGARTH COTTAGES TRUST VACANCY

Littlegarth Cottages Trust have a vacancy

The Littlegarth Cottages Trust was the gift of Miss Betty Mallett to the community.

The Trustees of the Trust set up to administer the gift are the Vicar and Churchwardens.

All income from the Trust is used to maintain and improve the properties.

The terms of the Trust Deed limits occupation

“to house those in need or those who are elderly and in need or to use the Trust assets for the furtherance of religious and other charitable works”

There are two vacancies, a one bedroom property and a two bedroom property.

If you think you may qualify or if you would like further information please contact:

Mrs Tracy Woods, Clerk to the Trustees, c/o The Parishes Office,
Assembly Rooms, High Street, Dedham CO7 6HJ 01206 323921
littlegarthcottagetrust@gmail.com

Closing date for applications 28th February 2021

Tell us something about your local community...



If you would like to write an article please contact the Editor, dedhameditor@gmail.com

The Assembly Rooms

Our eighteenth-century Assembly Room dates from the period when Dedham was a thriving market town with a popular school and busy social life at the centre of a district where there were a good many comfortably-off families living in large houses. Local historian Gerald O. Rickword, who assisted Canon Rendall and annotated a copy his book *Dedham Described and Deciphered* (1937) with meticulously attributed information, states that it was erected by John Fox in 1730. I have been unable to verify this but the building is likely to have been put up at about this time to cater for a growing demand for local entertainment, when a dynamic new headmaster Thomas Grimwood was enlarging the Grammar School and increasing the number of pupils. Some primary timber in the main hall has been tree-ring dated to 1744 and the Assembly Room was certainly in existence by 1748 when Horace Walpole, who was staying with his friend Richard Rigby at Mistley Hall, made a satirical reference in a letter to “a quarrel at Dedham assembly that is capable of involving all Europe in a new war.”

Ours is one of the oldest Assembly Rooms in the country and the earliest known to have been built to the full design on its own site rather adapted to fit a restricted space in a town centre. Unusually for its period it was built with a timber frame and stuccoed walls instead of solid masonry. The interior with its a shallow arched ceiling, original chimneypiece and balcony with flat vase-

shape balusters have all survived. In John Constable’s view of *The Vale of Dedham* painted in 1828 (now in the National Gallery of Scotland) one can see the pedimented front of the building without wings but there must have been service rooms of some sort further back out of sight; single-bayed extensions on either side were lengthened in the mid nineteenth century.

The Dedham Assembly had a wide catchment area, since the nearest rivals were at Bury St Edmunds and Bocking. Jane Austen’s contemporary description of a ball in a country Assembly Room in her novel *Pride and Prejudice*, published in 1813 helps us to visualise these occasions. A detailed account of our Dedham assemblies from 1818 onwards was written by Mr P. L’Estrange Ewen, who lived at the Rookery (now Dalethorpe) and lists the many “families of distinction” from country houses such as Giffords Hall, Hintlesham Hall and Wivenhoe Park who attended them. The balls were funded by local residents who subscribed for tickets costing about five shillings each for themselves and their guests.

The company included nobility and gentry, members of the Diplomatic Corps and Army and Navy officers. The balls, attended by between 140 and 180 people, always took place on Fridays and a night with a full moon would be chosen for the benefit of the coachmen. Until 1840 there were three balls every winter, one in early December, another around New Year and a third towards the end of January. Five or six musicians

provided the accompaniment for the dancing which began at half past nine. There were card tables in an adjoining room where three or four rubbers of whist would be in progress during the evening. At midnight there was a break for supper and men-servants brought six long tables into the hall, as well as extra chairs so that all the ladies could sit down. Refreshments consisted of ham and tongue sandwiches, bread and butter and cakes. There was tea at one end of each table and coffee at the other. No wine or other alcohol was allowed. By the mid nineteenth century the Assembly Rooms had become less popular. Only 40 people attended an Easter ball in 1852, the only one held that year but some dances such as Hunt Balls or the annual County Ball

continued to be held until about 1870. In 1830 the building belonged to a Mr John Fox, who was a substantial property-owner in the parish and possibly a descendant of the original builder. It then passed to a Mr Freeman and subsequently to a Mr Welbore Ellis of London. After his death it was bought by a group of local residents who used part of it as a Gentlemen's Club. Ted Eley told me that their meetings were not always very gentlemanly! Sometimes the members were a bit "fresh" with the girls who served their meal, he said, or got rowdy on the way home; on one occasion the awning of Ray's shop was pulled down.



A play on the stage in the Hewitt Memorial Hall, 1908, perhaps the first after the re-opening in September that year

By the early twentieth century the Assembly Rooms had fallen into a dilapidated state with part of the building being used as a furniture store by the antique dealer Mr Griffiths, who had a shop in the High Street. In 1908 it was bought by Mr William Wilkins Hewitt (1840-1917) of Lower Park, a considerable benefactor to the village. As well as making structural repairs he increased the accommodation by extending the wings on either side and giving them projecting gabled fronts, so as to provide space for new toilets. The present Reading Room was added then and in the main hall an internal staircase leading up to the gallery. Bookshelves were installed in the recesses where there are now two doorways on the wall opposite the fireplace.

William Hewitt presented the renewed hall as a gift to the parish in memory of his brother James (d.1905), whose portrait by Charles H. Parker now hangs in the gallery above the entrance beside the donor's own portrait by the same artist. Other gifts included three full-sized copies of paintings by John Constable, done by Sydney A. Driver of Ardleigh who had trained in London at St Martins School of Art and the Slade. Only two of these have survived, *The Cornfield* above the chimneypiece in the main hall and *The Valley Farm* which it is intended should be hung on the opposite wall. Canon Rendall records that further gifts to the community included "*portrait prints and engravings of notable personages connected with past of Dedham*" and "*an illuminated reproduction of the Charter*" of the Grammar School.

All surviving material relating to Dedham is now preserved in the Muniment Room. A *well-chosen selection of topical and educational books for the use of villagers*", protected with grey cotton covers, was kept on the shelves with lockable doors in the Hall; these books were still available for parishioners at sessions of the Essex County Library held there every week in the 1970s but I do not remember anyone ever consulting them. They were eventually sold to raise money towards the 1999 restoration of the building.

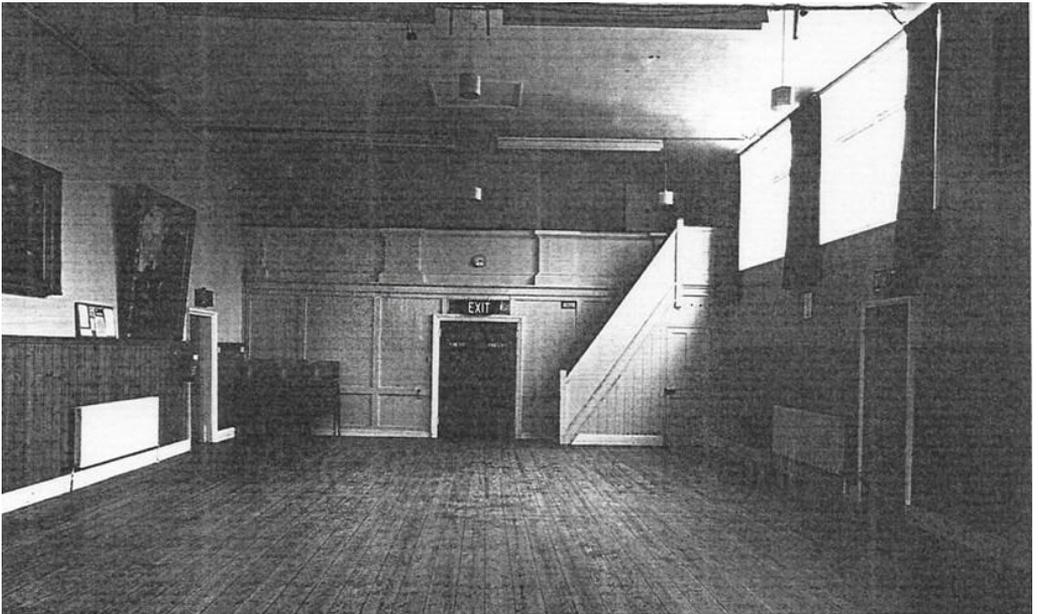
In his Deed of Gift William Hewitt set out the purposes for which the hall was to be used: for holding divine services of the Church of England, as a meeting or lecture room for bible and confirmation classes and religious instruction and for the instruction, recreation and entertainment of the people of Dedham. In gratitude for the donor's munificence the parish decided that the building should henceforth be known as the Hewitt Memorial Hall, a decision now perpetuated in the name of the main room. The restored Hall was inaugurated on 26 September 1908 and throughout the twentieth century it was used, as it still is, by numerous village clubs and societies such as the Brownies, Girl Guides, Good Neighbours, Horticultural Society, Mothers' Union and the Youth Club. Colchester Borough Council used it for elections and the Parish Council for meetings, the Dedham Players staged their plays and for a time it was home to Smartys Playgroup. In recent years it has been hired for Antiques, Book and Craft Fairs.



The "HEWITT MEMORIAL HALL, 1908" c.1960



The renamed "ASSEMBLY ROOMS" in 2007; the windows on the right lit the classrooms created for Littlegarth School in the 1960s and '70s.



The Hewitt Hall before restoration in 1999. Note the boarded dado round the walls, the staircase leading to the gallery and the panelling which conceals its Georgian balustrade.



A wedding reception in the Hewitt Memorial Hall in 1949



Restoration of the Assembly Rooms under way in 1999



Portraits of James and William Hewitt in the gallery



The Assembly Rooms prepared for a wedding reception in 2019

FEATURE: DEDHAM ASSEMBLY ROOMS

In the 1960s and '70s Littlegarth School used classrooms created for it on the western side of the building. The present Mallett Room is named after the school's co-founder Miss Betty Mallett (1903-97), who played an important part in the community life of Dedham for half a century.

In time the fund which William Hewitt had provided for maintenance proved woefully inadequate and nearly a century later the deteriorating hall, by now a listed building, was again in serious trouble. It did not comply with modern fire regulations, disabled access or hygiene standards and was on the point of being condemned for public use. A thorough structural overhaul was essential and in 1997, thanks to the determination and organising ability of the Vicar, the Rev. Gerard Moate and his Management Committee, fundraising was begun to secure nearly £600,000 needed for a Millennium Restoration.

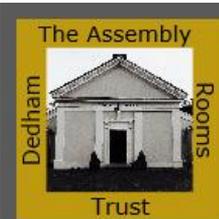
A magnificent 75% grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, due to the building's exceptional historic importance, was supplemented by contributions from Colchester Borough Council and Dedham Parish Church as well as donations from individuals and local businesses and the proceeds of fundraising events. The major restoration was carried out in the course of 1999

and the building reverted to its original name. After a formal Re-opening of the Assembly Rooms on 4th December, a Millennium Community Party was held on New Year's Eve.

The architects John Burton with Simon Marks of Purcell, Miller and Tritton had skillfully replanned the interior of the building to make flexible use of its facilities. The two side rooms now provide further meeting rooms of different sizes and each has access to the modern kitchen, cloakroom and toilets without the need to go through the main hall. There is a new, more convenient staircase to the gallery. The permanent platform previously in the hall has been replaced by a demountable stage for performances and a Green Room extension was built behind the south wall. The Hewitt pictures have been reinstated and the walls are hung with reproductions of paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings donated by the Munnings Museum at Castle House. The Assembly Rooms are once again a splendid asset for the people of Dedham and the surrounding area, providing an unique venue for meetings, weddings, gatherings, and events of many kinds.

© **Lucy Archer**

*With many thanks for their help to
the Rev. Dr Gerard Moate and Tracy Woods*



The Assembly Rooms
have a new website
<http://dedhamassemblyrooms.essexonline.net>



Management Buyout

Dedham Therapy Farm offers Occupational Therapy and Animal Assisted Therapy to support people in our community with learning disabilities and mental health problems. Through activities such as animal care, dog walking, and gardening, we help people overcome barriers to everyday life. In addition to this service, we work with Universities by offering Practice Placements to students studying Occupational Therapy.

David and Gill De'ath founded the company, which began with visits to local schools, care homes and hospitals with the Nurture Dogs. Soon after, David and Gill decided to open a therapy farm in Dedham Village, where they were able to incorporate farm work into their therapy sessions. Since then, we've helped hundreds of people overcome their battle with ill mental health and learning difficulties. However, we still have so much more we'd like to achieve.

In September this year, David and Gill retired from the farm, but we're pleased to announce that two dedicated members of the team and directors, Amy Boyce and Megan Dack, have purchased the entire business.

This is an exciting time for the farm. Amy and Megan, who are both experienced in developing and delivering Animal Assisted Therapy, hope to tackle a wider range of needs within the community. We've recently noticed, for example, an increase in referrals from young people with dog phobias, and, as a result, this is service we will be adding to our future offering.

Due to COVID 19, we're sadly unable to offer community visits at the moment, but we hope to restart these as soon as it's safe to do so. In the meantime, we'd like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the pandemic with food and cash donations, volunteer work and fundraising events. We have used the time during the first lockdown to upgrade some of our facilities, smarten the farmyard, clear, begin clearing away broken structures, planting trees and building new sheds, animal shelters and fencing. Our staff and volunteers have done a great job and are always looking for more people to get involved.

We hope that we'll be able to welcome the public back at weekends very soon. For now, though, you can keep up to date with Dedham Therapy Farm by following us on social media or checking out our new website

www.dedhamtherapyfarm.org

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance helps transfer COVID-19 patients

Following the busiest year ever for its critical care teams, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is now helping with the transfer of some COVID-19 patients between hospitals.

When required, the team based at the charity's North Weald Airbase travel by helicopter or Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) to the relevant hospital, and accompany the patient in a designated land ambulance to the receiving hospital. The EHAAT team is able to provide the advanced level of care that allows a safe transfer of this group of patients. At present this is happening once or twice a day. When not engaged with transfers this the team continues providing its normal response to pre-hospital emergencies.

A second team based at EHAAT's Earls Colne Airbase is continuing to respond to the charity's normal workload of medical emergencies, cardiac arrests, road traffic collisions and serious injury. Stuart Elms, Clinical Director at EHAAT said: "As soon as we identified there was a need, we put plans in place in early January to help with these transfers with the same outstanding level of care and clinical governance that we apply to our usual caseload. The first request came in within a few days, and we were happy to help. This is not affecting our ability to respond to emergencies in the normal way, but we will continue to review this. "The system is currently incredibly busy, and we are helping to move COVID-19 patients from hospitals in our region which are facing challenges due to the

unprecedented number of patients they are seeing, to those with capacity. The aim is to help level the load and redistribute this huge demand.

"We are doing everything we can to keep our patients, staff, volunteers and supporters safe at the moment and East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) are helping us by vaccinating all our frontline patient-facing staff."

"Please help us and our NHS partners by following the guidelines, staying COVID secure and doing everything you can to ensure friends and family are doing the same."

Last year was the charity's busiest ever year, despite a brief fall in the number of incidents its teams were sent to during the first lockdown. Between January and December EHAAT's crews attended 1,626 patients, up 6% on the 2019 figure of 1,526. One reason for the increase was that 2020 was the first full year of 24/7 operations (see editor's notes), which began in October 2019. A total of 480 patients were attended at night, who would have previously been in need outside of our operational hours.

2020 was also the first full year in which the charity's helicopters and RRVs carried blood supplies on board, enabling potentially life-saving blood transfusions to be given on-scene before a patient reaches hospital. A total of 72 patients received blood transfusions at the scene or in the air last year.

For more information about the work of the charity and how you can support it, visit ehaat.org/donate

A Planet For Us All

Sitting down one Monday evening and switching the television on, I was captivated by a documentary presented by Prince William called 'A Planet for Us All'. It made me realise once again how little we are doing as a global population to look after our planet. During lockdown, I spoke to so many who repeatedly recounted how lucky they felt to live in such a beautiful area - enjoying long walks amongst beautiful mature trees and woodland, rivers and brooks, stunning wild flower and pasture meadows, visiting local coastline. So surely it is our responsibility to look after this precious world that we live in? To preserve it's beauty and fragility?

Genesis 1:26 says "Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground'".

I think most of all it is our responsibility to encourage the younger generation to adopt this mindset of nurturing and protecting our planet, to care for God's creation.

I was full of admiration for the primary school children in Liverpool and Cornwall who are so passionate about the environment, beach combing - picking up the litter and dangerous objects posing a threat to sea life. Planting wild flower seeds on a grass space in the middle of a suburb of

Liverpool to attract bees and insects. It made me think what can we do as a community to protect our environment and encourage young people. It just takes a few with passion and inspiration to lead and the benefits could really make a difference! Some suggestions could be litter picking groups, no plastic wrapping policy in our school / work packed lunches, changing the paper we use in our printers to 100% recycled paper, walk or cycle to school or work as much as possible. Not always possible for us all but even to do a little more than we are doing now, and in larger numbers, will surely have an impact. So why not try getting a group of you together - neighbours, family, friends - see if you can make a difference. We would love to see any pictures or read about what you do. Email our Eco Rep, Christina Volkmann on stmarydaeco@gmail.com. 'Start small and let us know what you're doing'.

"You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them."

Professor Wangari Maathai

Claire Arculus
Parishes Administrator

Useful websites for resources/ideas:
<https://www.hopeinaction.uk/>
<https://www.hopeinaction.uk/my-actions>
 Environmentally friendly toilet paper:
<https://nakedsprout.uk/>
<https://uk.whogivesacrap.org/>

Dedham Horticultural Society

A happy new year in the garden

With spring on the horizon, now is the chance to put the final touches on preparing the garden for the coming year.

I have three rhubarb plants and early this month I force one of them. Just cover the plant with a tall bucket, dustbin or forcer so light is blocked out and leave it for eight weeks or so before harvesting the tender pale stalks. I rotate the chosen plant each year so that the others can recover for a couple



of years afterwards.

Another job is to prune late-summer flowering, Group 3 clematis. If you don't know much about clematis pruning or keep losing the labels as I do, the groups are based on when the plant flowers and

the age of the flowering wood.

In Group 1 are early-blooming clematis that flower on shoots produced the previous season and need no regular pruning. You might need to train and thin them every few years, but mainly just deadhead. Group 2 clematis have large flowers between May and June on shoots developed from the previous year's growth. Prune after the first flush of flowers in early summer, back to a large growth bud immediately below and you may get more flowers in late summer.

Finally, there are plants in pruning Group 3; in my garden a yellow *Clematis tangutica* 'Lambton Park', blue bell-shaped *Clematis* 'Rooguchi' and red-purple 'Sweet Summer Love' on tripods or scrambling through roses in the borders. I've seen nodding pink

“Alionushka’ paired with mid-blue Hendersonii’ in another garden: both can be treated the same. All flower from mid- to late summer on the last two feet or so of the current year’s growth and, if left unpruned, you just get a mass of tangled flowers over your head with bare stems everywhere else. So, I prune back hard this month to the lowest pair of buds, usually about 30cm from the base, then tie them in ready for the rapid growth they’ll put on soon.

If you’ve lost all your labels and can remember what flowered when last year (if you can’t, it’s a good excuse to take lots of photos on your garden this year), then there’s a rhyme to help you remember which clematis to prune: *if it flowers before June, don’t prune.*

By now my clumps of *Sedum* ‘Herbstfreude’ (now called *Hylotelephium* but I can’t pronounce that let alone remember it) which I left for the birds and eye-catching frostiness, need cutting back. You should see the new buds coming through from the base already and, as the weather warms up, they are unlikely to need protecting. Larger clumps of snowdrops (*Galanthus*) can be lifted and divided once they have finished flowering and still ‘in the green’. Make sure the leaves remain attached to the bulb when you replant and they’ll have a better chance of establishing than planting bulbs alone.

I have 1.8-metre-tall clumps of *Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Ferner Osten’ and ‘Malepartus’ giving winter structure and making a link through the garden. Late in

the month (and during March) is the best time to cut back to ground level these and other deciduous grasses before growth begins. Just rake gloved fingers or a handfork through evergreen grasses to remove dead material.



All this (and plenty of other jobs) will help get the garden back into some order before new growth begins in earnest.

Elliott Frisby
Dedham Horticultural Society

Due to Covid-19, it is looking unlikely that we will be able to hold a Spring show in April this year and our other events are similarly interrupted. We’ll email members as soon as the situation changes or check our website, www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com, for latest updates.

Ardleigh Surgery

On behalf of the Partners and Staff at Ardleigh Surgery we would like to wish all our patients a Happy and healthy New Year.

With the release of the Covid-19 vaccine we hope we will all be able to move to a more 'normal' life as soon as possible.

Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

The Covid-19 vaccination programme is being implemented nationally. In line with Public Health England requirements, vaccines are being offered in stages to specific Patient groups. Patients are being contacted by a central booking team to be invited to receive a vaccination.

Currently, across North East Essex it has been agreed that the programme will be delivered from three dedicated vaccination sites. When contacted by the central booking team, Patients will be given further details of their nearest centre.

Practices are facing unprecedented volumes of calls and workload and we request Patients not to contact the Practice with queries specifically relating to Covid-19 vaccination appointments.

The central booking team will contact Patients directly and in accordance with the national Patient bands.

Appointments/Queries

Due to the current situation and to keep

our staff and Patients safe we have made the difficult decision to allow essential only access to the surgery. Please do not be concerned, we are still open and all here working hard to look after our patients.

If you need to make an appointment please telephone the Surgery on 01206 230224, you will be offered a telephone appointment and a Doctor or Nurse Practitioner will ring you back, anyone who needs to be seen following that assessment will be seen in a Covid safe manner.

If you have a query or want to speak to the receptionist please telephone the Surgery on 01206 230224, **please do not come to the surgery unless you have a booked appointment.**

The Dispensary

The Dispensary is open from **10am to 12pm and 3pm to 6pm**. Collections will be made via the waiting room window

Flu Vaccines 50 – 64 years

We still have a small supply of flu vaccines for 50 – 64 year old patients. If you have not yet been vaccinated and would like to have the vaccine please ring the surgery to book an appointment.

We would like to thank all our patients for their continued support of our Practice Team who have shown amazing commitment and dedication during the COVID Pandemic.

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!*

Dedham and Ardleigh Helpline

The Helpline is still active and ready to take calls and offer help where they can. If you are in need of help collecting your medication please give them a call on 01206 322025

We would like to say a big thankyou from everyone at Ardleigh Surgery to all the amazing volunteers who have kept this great service running throughout the Pandemic.

Stour Valley U3A

learn, laugh, live

Zoom has impacted upon many of us and reluctant users have become advocates in a short space of time, some of us relying on our children or grandchildren to put us right! This video conferencing tool has enabled many of our groups to continue, including French, German, Italian and Spanish language groups. Our first Zoom lecture took place in November,

Christmas quiz in December and Annual General Meeting in January.

Activity groups such as walking, table tennis and keep fit, have staggered between one tier and another but enjoy considerable support when legally allowed. Many new members have joined in order to be active and some to learn how to play the ukulele! We are planning for better days in 2021, including National U3A Day on 2nd June, annual social in Summer and Christmas lunch in December.

If you have finished working full-time or in the near future and would like to pursue new interests you may like to look at our website – search for “Stour Valley U3A” to see what we have to offer. New members are always welcome.

Dedham Parish Council

Elections:

Residents may remember that this year's local elections, which were scheduled for May, were delayed by twelve months as part of the government response to Covid-19. This meant that the term of office of the current members of DPC was extended for one year. We hope that elections will be held in May 2021 and we know that a number of current councillors will be standing down, most having served nearly nine years.

Please, please take a moment to consider whether you could serve your community as a parish councillor. Parish Council work is voluntary, rewarding and wide ranging. Anyone interested in standing for election is encouraged to get in touch with either the Clerk or any of the Councillors (contact details may be found on our website). If there are insufficient nominees then Colchester Borough Council could be asked to step in!

Precept:

Each year Dedham Parish Council sets its budget for the year to come. Full details of the expenditure for the current year and our spending plans for next year can be found on our website. The headlines are that we will precept for £41,225 and that the resulting Parish Council element of the Council Tax will be £45.38 (Band D equivalent). This is a 0% increase on this year.

Highways:

We continue to press Essex County Council, which is the Highways authority, and Essex Police on matters such as speeding and traffic levels as well as trying to take some action on the inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking on Lamb Corner.

Remote meetings:

We will continue to meet remotely using 'Zoom' for the foreseeable future. Meetings are normally held at 7pm on the first Monday of each month. Full details are on our website and we welcome any member of the public who would like to attend.

Nicola Baker

www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk
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01255 871483 or
clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

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POPPY APPEAL

I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave so generously to this years Poppy collection. Covid made this year very difficult especially as there could be no “door to door” collection. I don't think that I was alone in thinking that the amount Dedham collected would be significantly less than last year and most areas I have been told that is indeed the case.

I arranged a stall in Royal Square and this was manned by volunteers from the village. The licence for this provided for 8 days but rain and Covid reduced this to just four and a half days and in that time we collected £854. A special thanks is due to those who gave their time helping with this and I hope to arrange to repeat this next year.

The total amount raised so far in the Dedham area was about £3670. It included £300 from the 2 Facebook accounts and the Remembrance Service collection; This was more than last year and was a very welcome surprise. I should like to thank the shops and

other businesses who provided space and security for the collection boxes.

Together they raised a total of £1150

The total will includes the contribution from “Gift Aid” about £120.

Gift Aid can make a real contribution. Please remember that it costs you, the donor, nothing! The additional 25% comes from the Government as the Legion recovers the tax you paid!

If anyone requires wreaths or other items for next year and which are available from the Legion, please let me know and I will arrange for them to be ordered and delivered to my home for you to collect.

I should be grateful for more help next year. If you would like to volunteer please telephone me, my number is 01206321241.

Richard Brown PAO
(Poppy Area Organiser)



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EPC Rating: TBA

Guide Price £580,000



Monica House, Colchester Rd, Ardleigh, CO7 7PA

Fabulous four-bedroomed, double-fronted house situated in Ardleigh which benefits from a generous plot of approximately 0.3 of an acre (subject to survey).

EPC Rat-

Guide Price £700,000



Dedham Mill, Mill Lane, Dedham, CO7 6DJ

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EPC Rating: D

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Earlings, Long Road East, Dedham, CO7 6BW

This Grade II listed country home offers accommodation comprising two reception rooms, garden room, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms, en suite and family bathroom.

EPC Rating: Exempt

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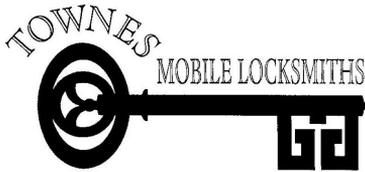
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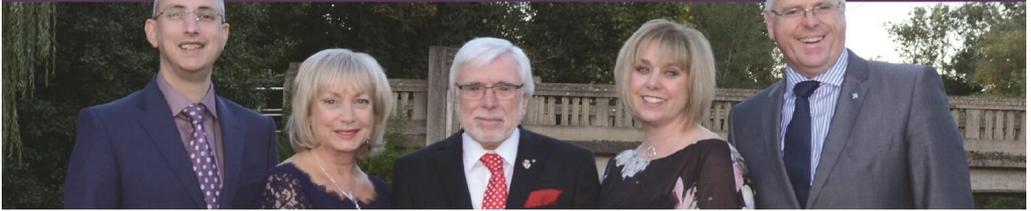
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