

# DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



JULY & AUGUST 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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## 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!

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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 Ardleigh parishes

## Services & Events JULY 2021

### Sunday, 4th July

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

### Sunday, 11th July

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

### Sunday, 18th July

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

### Sunday, 25th July

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

\* = services which are live-streamed

 **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.

**Walk & Talk** – Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 10am. Meet outside the Dedham Church.

**Mens Breakfast** - Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 9am., The Vicarage garden, Dedham.

**Mission Bake Sale** - Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 10am, outside Dedham Church.

**Ardleigh Friendship Group** – every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month  
10am to 12 noon, Ardleigh Church.

## From the Register....

Burials: 26th May, Joan Betty Mayhew  
28th May, Hazel Jean Hampton (Interment of Ashes)  
2nd June, Kenneth Cyril Johnson  
12th June, Philip Roy Everett (Interment of Ashes)  
12th June, Emmy Everett (Interment of Ashes)  
12th June, Michael Kenneth Everett (Interment of Ashes)

## Services & Events AUGUST 2021

### Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> August

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

### Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> August

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

### Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> August

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

### Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh*
9.30am	Morning Praise	Dedham*

### Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> August

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh*
11am	Benefice Morning Praise	Dedham*

\* = services which are live-streamed

 <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.

**Walk & Talk** – Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 10am. Meet outside the Dedham Church.

**Men's Breakfast** - Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 9am, The Vicarage garden, Dedham.

**Ardleigh Friendship Group** – every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month  
10am to 12 noon, Ardleigh Church.

**Mission Bake Sale** – Bank Holiday Monday, 10am, outside Dedham Church.

**The Monday lunch club** - will restart on Monday, 9th August at 12.30pm at the Essex Rose Tea Rooms. Bookings are not possible so please arrive promptly.

## Singing is good for you



One of the many things we have missed over the past few months is the opportunity to sing together. Here at church we are starting to sing together on Sundays, when we gather outside at the end of our service. You are welcome to join us!

Have you found yourself singing on your own, in the bath, while muted on zoom?

Here, according to science, are 10 key benefits of raising your voice in song (from healthline.com)

1. Relieves stress
2. Stimulates the immune response
3. Increases pain threshold
4. May improve snoring!
5. Improves lung function
6. Develops a sense of belonging and connection
7. Enhances memory in people with dementia
8. Helps with grief
9. Improves mental health and mood
10. Helps improve speaking abilities

On **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September** we are inviting you to join us for a **Songs of Praise** at Dedham Church at 5pm. We would love to make it an all requests sing along (hopefully in the church but perhaps outside depending on the rules in place) so please email your favourite hymn into [stmaryda@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryda@gmail.com) and if you would like to add a few words to say why it's special to you that would be great!

While we are talking about favourites, one of mine is **Great is Thy Faithfulness** because it reminds me of the unchanging character of God

*Take care and have a good summer*

**Reverend Antony**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

## SONGS OF PRAISE



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Dedham Church at 5pm**

*Save the date....*

Music for a Summer Afternoon / Evening  
in the churchyard

**Bank Holiday Monday 30th August**  
**Bring a picnic**

*This event will only take place if COVID rules in place at the time permit it - More details nearer the date - look out on Facebook*



## RiSe N SHiNE

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

***hymns-songs-bible stories-refreshments***

*Dedham-and-Ardleigh-parishes.org.uk*



### **Cherishing Our Churchyards**

Come and join us for a service in our churchyard, celebrating creation and thinking about the part we can play to care for it



We aim to be a welcoming presence in our church for visitors

*Can you spare 2 hours to help us once a month?*

*Please contact Liz or John Reed*

*Tel: 323770*

*[lizannreed@icloud.com](mailto:lizannreed@icloud.com)*

## WALK & TALK



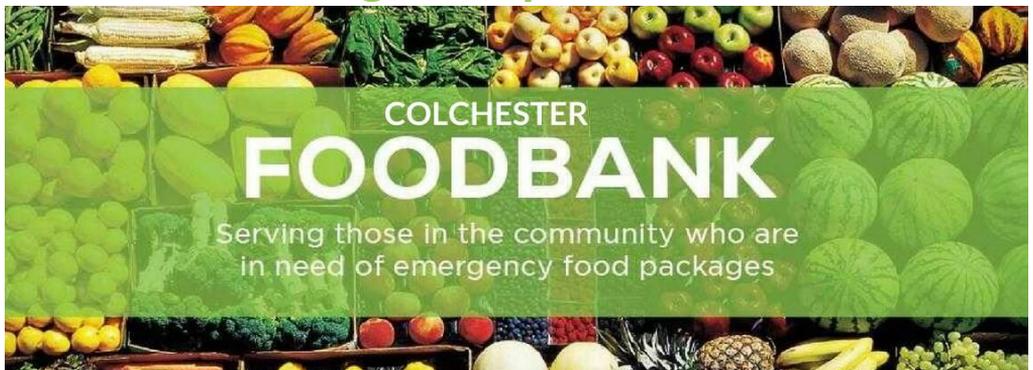
THURSDAY 8TH JULY, 10AM  
MEET OUTSIDE THE DEDHAM CHURCH  
OR JOIN US AT THE ARTS CENTRE CAFÉ AT 11AM

## *Monday Lunch Club*



Restarts **Monday 9th August, 12.30** at **The Essex Rose**  
Bookings are not possible so please arrive promptly

**We are collecting in the porches of our churches**



**Please do support the Foodbank**

# *Baking Recipes...*

## **CHOCOLATE DRIZZLED FRUITY FLAPJACKS**



### **Ingredients:**

- 150 grms unsalted butter, cubed
- 75 grms light brown muscovado sugar
- 3 tbsp clear honey
- 250 grms rolled porridge oats
- 170 grms dried berries
- 100 grms milk chocolate, cut into chunks

### **Method:**

1. Heat oven to 180 C/gas mark 4. Grease 30 x 20 x 4 cms tin
2. Heat butter, sugar and honey in pan, stirring until melted.
3. Remove from heat and stir in oats, fruit and half chocolate chunks. Put mixture into tin. Spread evenly and bake for 20-25 mins until golden brown.
4. Remove from oven and allow to cool.
5. Melt the remaining chocolate. Drizzle over flapjacks. Cut into 12 flapjacks.

# RECIPE FOR PRESERVING CHILDREN

## Ingredients:

1 Grass grown field  
1 Half a dozen children (or more),  
Several dogs (and puppies if available)  
1 Brook  
Pebbles



## Method:

Into the field pour children and dogs. Allow to mix well.  
Pour brook over pebbles until slightly frothy.  
When children are nicely brown, cool in a warm bath.  
When dry serve with mild and freshly baked gingerbread.

*This was printed in the United Norwich Hospitals Nurses League Journal of 1998*

## Mission Bake Sales



**10am to 12 noon Outside Dedham Church**

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***

## CHURCH CHANGES

*Much that is mentioned can still be seen inside the church, so the illustrations concentrate on features which have either disappeared or not currently visible.*

The exterior appearance of our church has changed very little since it was built at the very end of the fifteenth century but the interior has seen a succession of alterations and restorations almost from the beginning. The earliest must have been the removal of the figures on the rood screen which divided the nave from the chancel in every church at that time. We have no visual record but a contemporary reference suggests that Dedham's screen was surmounted by the Crucifixion with the Virgin Mary and St John on either side flanked by archangels. They cannot have been there for long because in 1547 Henry VIII's Anglican Church decreed that all such figures should be removed. The screen itself may have survived much longer.

Luckily we have remarkable evidence of the church's appearance in the following century. By fortunate chance a very early glass negative has survived which shows the nave looking westwards in c.1850, when it was still furnished with box pews, a high pulpit and a reading desk complete with its Bible, an arrangement belonging to the heyday of Puritan worship in the parish. Sermons preaching the "pure" word of God were all-important then and Dedham had its own Lectureship set up in 1577.

A charismatic preacher John Rogers (c.1570-1636) was appointed Lecturer in 1605 and his powerful delivery earned him the name "Roaring Rogers". More space was needed to accommodate the growing congregation attending services at this time, so galleries were built across the two western bays of the nave and aisles in 1629. Although they almost collapsed under the overload of the huge numbers who attended Rogers' funeral seven years later they remained in use until they were taken down in 1862. All trace of them has long vanished though Dedham antique dealer Harry Griffiths is said to have had some of their woodwork still stored in his barn in the early twentieth century. The level of the galleries is clear because we can still see how the north door was cut across so that it could be opened underneath and deduce where the school boys sat because there are graffiti dating from 1701 onwards (like those on Shermans and the Grammar School) scratched high up on the second pillar from the west on the north side of the nave arcade.

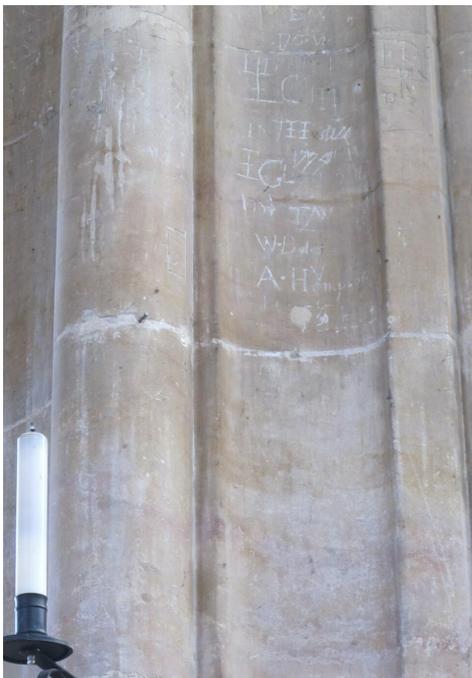
The church has always needed constant repair and maintenance but in the words of Dedham's twentieth-century historian Canon Gerald H. Rendall "*in the Victorian years [it] experienced the blessings and the banes of the Restoration period.*" In 1862-3 the church underwent a major reordering and rearrangement. The earlier furnishings in the nave were swept away. The box pews were replaced by a complete set of up-to-date



*A view looking westwards c.1850, showing the box pews, tall preaching pulpit, reading desk with Bible and organ up in the gallery.*



*The north door records the level of the vanished galleries at the west end of the church because it was cut across so that it could be opened underneath.*



*Graffiti scratched by the Grammar School boys on the second pillar of the nave arcade near the north door, showing the level of the former gallery seating.*

pitch pine pews, which increased the seating by seventy places. A fashionable encaustic-tiled floor was laid, its reddish-brown and ochre patterning inspired by medieval tiles, like the comparable floor which still survives in our sister church, St Mary's, Ardleigh. During the excavations which were involved the buried fourteenth-century font from Dedham's earlier church on this site was dug up and reinstated. In the early nineteenth century attention had turned to the east end, where repair and reordering led to the installation of a redesigned east window. This was shortened c.1880 to accommodate a new reredos, which is still in place today.

A thoroughgoing restoration of the chancel followed in 1909, funded by William Wilkins Hewitt and his sister Sophia in memory of their brother James. All the furnishings including the choir stalls and altar rail were renewed and the tiled floor replaced by the present black-and-white marble paving. Four windows which had been blocked (perhaps to save the cost of necessary repairs) were opened up and filled with stained glass by W. Tower, nephew and successor of C.E. Kempe who had previously made the east window and those at either side. Comfort began to be a consideration and because extra windows in the chancel would have made it colder, a gas heater was installed there in 1909. In 1882 two cast-iron solid fuel stoves had been brought in to warm the nave. By the late nineteenth

century there was gas lighting. The church was lit by electricity for the first time on Palm Sunday 1934.

The organ in the west gallery had been made by William Hill and Son in 1843 and funded by subscription. It was enlarged in 1871 and brought down to ground level; in 1887 it was moved to the east end of the south aisle where it remained until 1975, when it was returned to its present position in the west gallery. It conceals the door to the ringing chamber, which was installed in 1963 as part of a major restoration and embellishment of the church which took place in the early 1960s.

To that time belong the carved angels' heads in the chancel by Aileen Kent and the heraldic shields on the nave roof. The font was moved from its central position near the choir vestry into the south-west corner of the south aisle. The nave was transformed once again. Stone and parquet flooring replaced the Victorian encaustic tiles and in the early 1970s the present oak seating with carved roundels and inscriptions replaced the pitch pine pews.

Innovations in the twenty-first century have been practical. In the early 2000s the stairs to the west gallery were rebuilt, replacing the worn-out steps with new ones carved with the names of donors or the loved ones they wished to commemorate. This made it possible for the public to access a new viewing platform constructed on top of the tower which was opened in 2007.

Toilets have been installed this year inside the former Vicar's Vestry in the south porch, out of sight from the nave behind its closed doors.

@Lucy Archer



*The organ made by William Hill and Son in 1843 situated at the east end of the south aisle in the 1960s.*

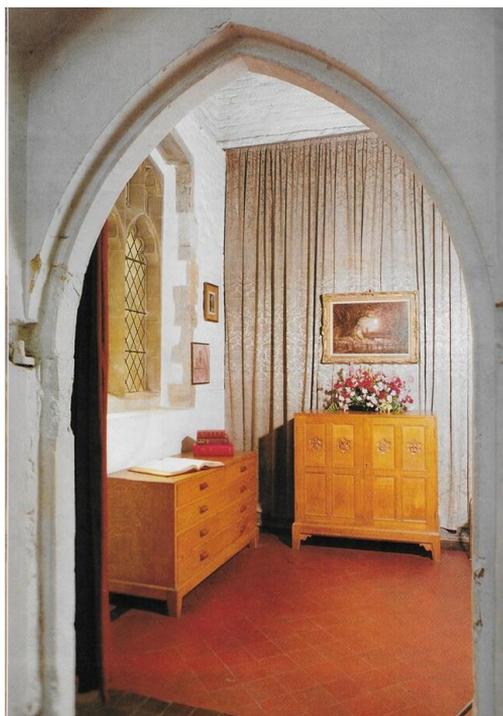


Interior of Church, Dedham

*View looking eastwards showing the east window shortened to accommodate the reredos installed c.1880. Note the gas lighting, the central position of the font and the encaustic-tiled floor.*



**The door to the ringing chamber, designed by the church's architect Raymond Erith in 1963, which has been hidden by the organ since it was moved back to the West Gallery in 1975.**

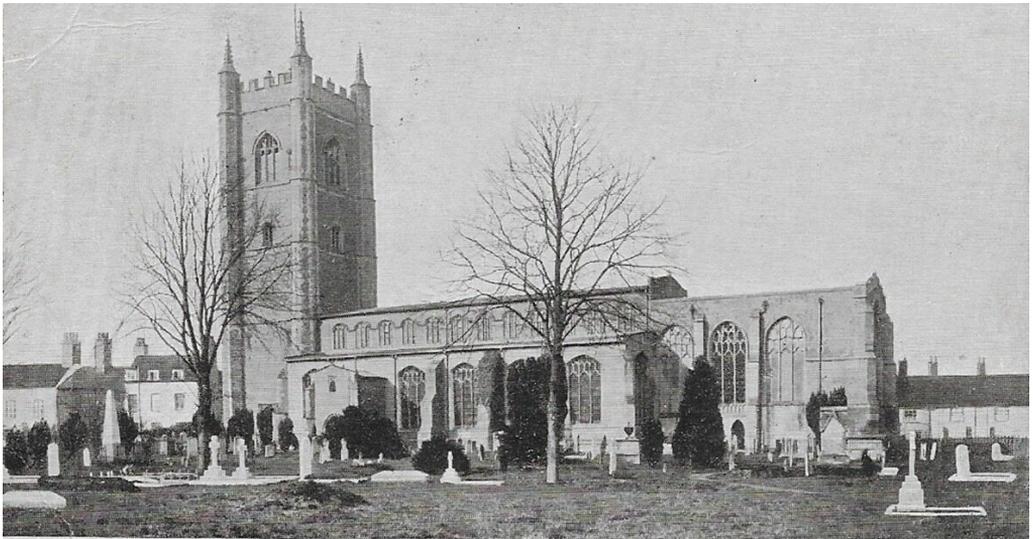


*The staircase to the west gallery with steps carved with the names of donors or loved ones to be commemorated*

*The former Vicar's Vestry c.1970; this space is now occupied by new toilets installed in 2021 which are concealed behind its closed doors*



*The north side of the church c.1900 showing two blocked windows in the chancel. Note that the lime trees had not yet been planted but the chestnut was already well established.*



*The south side of the church c.1905 showing two of the blocked windows in the chancel which were opened up in 1909.*



*The chancel in the mid-nineteenth century showing the east window of c.1820, which was shortened in 1880 to accommodate the present reredos. The furnishings were all replaced in 1909 by those we know now.*



## Dedham Primary School

It's the final half-term of the school year and even though the usual big-scale productions and whole-school events unfortunately can't take place, the school calendar still features lots for children to look forward to.

As it's an Olympic year, classes have become countries, and sports day has become a sports week! Over the course of a week, every child in the school will participate in a range of different activities to earn points for their country. Then, after a week of individual class challenges, children will compete in traditional track events in front of two or three other classes and of course there'll be flag waving as children cheer on their fellow teammates!

Year six have several leavers' events planned including a day at Mersea Outdoor Centre and a picnic in the Vicarage garden. We hope that our new reception intake will be joining us for some 'stay and play' sessions to meet their new teacher and to see the school. The end of a school year is always a time for mixed emotions as we look forward to new adventures but bid farewell to those who must leave us. In May, Mrs Sue Easey decided that the

time had come for retirement after an incredible thirty-eight years working at the school. Our Business Manager, Mrs Gail Plant, will also be leaving us as she puts away her calculator in July after twelve years working at the school. We wish these two wonderful ladies every happiness as they embark on their new adventures and extend our very grateful thanks for all that they have given to the school. We also wish our year six children and other leavers every success as they move on to new schools for the next chapter in their academic lives. We hope that they will not only take happy memories of Dedham Primary with them but also a love of learning.

Finally, the senior leadership team would like to say thank you to the school community and the wider community for their support over the past eighteen months. Every kind word, prayer and gift has been greatly appreciated as we've navigated our way through the most challenging of times. We have greatly missed being able to invite you into school this year but look forward to welcoming you back very soon. Wishing you all a wonderful summer and see you in September.

*Laura Valentine*  
**Deputy Headteacher**

## Introducing Lewis Barber, County Councillor

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new County Councillor for Dedham following the recent local elections. I look forward to the challenges ahead and representing this wonderful village. I will be working with our new Borough Councillor, Darius Laws, Cllr Nigel Chapman, the Parish Council and the local community to deliver for all.

I have started work immediately with my colleagues on your priorities such as focusing on improving road safety, tackling increasing rural traffic, securing a good deal for our rural highway network and investment in rural public transport. I will be working with the Parish Council and Borough Councillors to create a cross-village Highway Plan to address all of these issues. I have also been working with the Parish Council and Borough Councillors to map out how we will manage the increasing levels of tourism in the village and surrounding area.

The parking restrictions on the B1029 to Stratford St Mary were meant to be completed by Suffolk County Council in May. However, these were delayed due to the wet weather, which would have washed the wet paint away. At the time of writing in early June, these were are planned to be implemented in June or early July and I am in close contact with my Suffolk County Council colleague on this matter. I have also been working with Suffolk County Council for a solution on Fen Bridge, which is owned by Suffolk County Council. Also at the time of writing, I am hoping for a positive update to be announced in the coming weeks.

If you need any assistance or wish to discuss any matter, please get in touch on [cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk) or 07876237137. I also have a Facebook page, Cllr Lewis Barber, which I post regular updates on too and I will be looking to keep you updated regularly with my colleagues through local news.

*Lewis*



**The  
Children's  
Society**

making childhood better

### THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES:

Thank you to all those who have supported The Children's Society this year. We have raised **£492.51** which is excellent.

The Children's Society support vulnerable young people in the UK to achieve their dreams. During the pandemic many of the problems children face, i.e. low well being, poverty and abuse, are made worse. The

Children's Society give these children hope. If you would like to know more about how you can help please ring **Ruth on 01206 322598**

## The New Dedham Parish Council Takes Shape

Following the recent local elections on the 6th May nine councillors were elected to serve on Dedham Parish Council and at the first public meeting on the 24th May the chair and deputy were chosen by fellow councillors.

The new council now consists of the following members: *Sheila Beeton, Ann Fletcher, Terry Haines, Paul Harrison, Emily James, Steve Mole, Gill Neville - deputy Chairman, Jonathan Smith (Chairman, Sandra Williams, Jayne Cole (clerk)*

Since our first meeting much thought has been put into the structure and activities of working groups which councillors will sit on outside the monthly public meetings, to effectively deal with the multitude of issues facing the village.

Clearly times have changed in many ways over recent years and there has been a need to refocus efforts on matters which are high on everyone's agenda, as well as dealing with the normal everyday activities of a parish council.

The working groups are now as follows :

### **Group 1 - Finance, Standards & Procedures**

Jayne Cole (clerk), Paul Harrison (Group chair), Terry Haines, Steve Mole, Jonathan Smith

This groups role is to manage the finances and ensure appropriate standards and procedures.

Activities to include: Finance and banking, Income generation, Expenditure, Legal matters, Procurement, Contracts, Parish grants, Budgets and accounts, Valuations and payments, Terms and conditions, Standing orders and financial regulations, Sports Club Leases, Insurances, Health and safety, Data

protection, Emergency Plan

### **Group 2 - Infrastructure & Asset Maintenance**

Sheila Beeton, Anne Fletcher, Emily James, Steve Mole (Group chair), Sandra Williams

This groups role is to maintain and improve the hard and soft landscaping which is direct the responsibility of the parish council and to monitor and report on infrastructure maintenance issues managed by other bodies.

Activities to include: Management of general and term maintenance contracts relating to footpaths, playing fields ,verges, flower tubs, play area, bus shelters, leaf clearing, drift paving, tree planting, hedge cutting. Maintain Drift paving and lighting, Liaise with EA regarding flooding, Develop and maintain flooding action plan and monitor Black Brook, Liaise with Essex Highways and Water authority regarding pot holes and drains, Liaise with CBC neighbourhood team regarding toilets, litter and rubbish removal, Maintain play equipment, Village signage, Employ local trades as necessary

### **Group 3 - Planning & Traffic**

Terry Haines, Paul Harrison, Steve Mole, Gill Neville (Group chair), Jonathan Smith

The main role of this group is to review planning applications within the village and to comment to the planning authority as necessary, supporting residents concerns in particular when it is appropriate to do so. With the perceived increase in traffic in recent years due to new residential developments in surrounding areas , emphasis will also be placed on lobbying surrounding planning and highway authorities to take a more regional approach to traffic management to reduce the impact on Dedham.

Activities to include: Liaise with planning and highways authorities on local and regional issues, Review and comment on planning applications on a monthly basis, Maintain and

uphold Village plan, Lobby for improved roads in terms of volume and speed of traffic, Liaise with speed watch and traffic police, Lobby regarding a regional approach to traffic management to stop Dedham being used as the most direct route from local villages to the A12

#### **Group 4 - Community Liaison & Support Services**

Sheila Beeton (Group chair), Emily James, Gill Neville, Jonathan Smith, Sandra Williams

This group will interact with the local community to support the health and wellbeing of the residents.

Activities to include: Liaise with sports clubs, Support the vulnerable, Support local volunteers and charities, Liaise with church, Liaise with healthcare bodies, Patient participation groups, Liaise with Community agents Essex, Community events and activities, Local bus services

#### **Group 5 - Business, Tourism and Media.**

Anne Fletcher, Terry Haines, Paul Harrison, Gill Neville, Jonathan Smith (Group chair), Sandra Williams

The main role of this group is to work with local authorities and organisations to manage the impact of tourism and rising visitor numbers on the village as best we can given our limited powers, whilst supporting local businesses to benefit from increased trade.

Activities to include: Liaise with Colchester BC North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) and Neighbourhood Team regarding management of the main carparks, Business liaison and support, Uphold Street Trading policy and liaise with CBC regarding licences and illegal trading, Liaise with local tourism and media bodies, Liaise with Neighbourhood watch and police, Liaise with other bodies including land owners, local and regional councils, environmental and river agencies and support groups,

AONB etc, Telecommunications, Communication via media, parish magazine etc, Parish website

#### **Group 6 - Special Projects**

Sheila Beeton, Anne Fletcher, Emily James, Jonathan Smith (Group chair), Other members may be co-opted as necessary.

This group will continue to manage the Drift Works Contract and reconsider the landscaping proposals for Royal Square instigated by the previous council.

Any future civil and building schemes will be managed by this group.

Activities to include: Design and construction of capital works, Current Drift project, Potential Royal Square improvements to commemorate Platinum Jubilee

#### **7. Personnel Committee**

*Members to be agreed as necessary, To consider staff employment matters*

This new structure will be posted on the parish council website and residents will be encouraged to contact the working group chairs directly on topics which relate to the activities listed so that the group can action the matter as necessary.

Clearly residents will still have an opportunity to have their say on matters of concern at monthly public meetings in the normal way .

With a lot of new councillors there is undoubtedly endless enthusiasm but needless to say it will take a little while to settle in and become effective so please be patient, we recognise the issues facing the village and will endeavour to improve the situation where we have the power to do so!

*Jonathan Smith*

## Divide and conquer

As I write this in early June, we've just enjoyed a glorious fortnight of summer-like weather giving the weeds – well-watered by that wet May – the chance to make strides in borders and beds and on the plot. Fortunately the wet and warmth has also given a welcome boost to a new *Deutzia gracilis* which is flowering its merry head off, while an experiment with Dutch iris (*Iris x hollandica*) has rewarded me with masses of tall and bright, yellow and white flowers.



*Deutzia*

The borders are full enough now that most of the weeds are suppressed (or more likely just hidden), but there's still a little work to do to properly conquer the garden this month. Once the flowers

have faded, cut delphinium flower spikes back to where the flowers started and you can see side shoots that might make more flowers later in the season. You can treat foxgloves and verbasicum the same.

Give wisteria its summer prune to keep it flowering well by cutting the whippy tendrils back to about 15cm and shortening any of the main stems that are outgrowing their space. Give it some tomato feed after pruning if it looks like it needs a boost.

It's been a few years since I last divided my bearded iris (*Iris germanica*) and they are getting a bit congested. Dividing helps reinvigorate them and doing it now gives the plants enough time to put on new growth before winter sets in. Lifting them also gives me a chance to give them a proper weeding and yank out all those bits of grass and perennial weeds that I've only really chopped the tops off before now.

Get a fork well beneath the rhizomes and lift them clear of the ground. Shake any excess soil off and start separating them so that each plant has a fan of leaves, and a healthy-looking rhizome with a number of roots growing from it. Don't be afraid to just snap rhizomes apart as long as they have some leaves, but discard any that are shrivelled. Shorten the leaves to about 15cm and trim the roots a little.

To plant, dig a shallow hole with enough room to spread the roots out. These need to be below the soil but the top of



*Rosa Guineenew growth*

the rhizome should sit above, where it can bake in the sunshine. You may find it easier to rest the rhizome on a small mound of soil in the hole. Aim to plant taller varieties 30cm apart and dwarf ones about 15cm apart to give them room to expand in the next few years. Watering in gently can help settle soil around each plant but it's not essential.

With the proper care every few years, irises will continue to give a stunning display.

Despite the challenging start to the season, the garden is quickly catching up and there have been some great successes in the first half of the year. I've been trying a new feeding regime for my roses this year to see what impact it has on their growth and flowering. I started off with a dose of Growmore (fish, blood and bone is a good organic option) early on and have since been giving tomato feed every two weeks. With 100-plus roses around the garden (no, I've no idea how there got to be so many either), this takes about 3 hours and is quite a commitment.

Although it's still a bit early to judge whether flowering is improved, I have noticed a lot more new stems. I'm especially pleased with the effect on an old climbing rose (*Rosa 'Guinée'*) which has always grown on a single stem to produce an almost umbrella shape. My regular feeding is encouraging two additional stems at the base and shoots along the whole length of the single stem, so the plant will bush out in time.

As we gradually move further out of Covid lockdown, Dedham Horticultural Society is planning to host more events and I hope to catch up on your own gardening successes then.

Keep an eye on our website, [www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com](http://www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com) for latest details.

**Elliott Frisby**  
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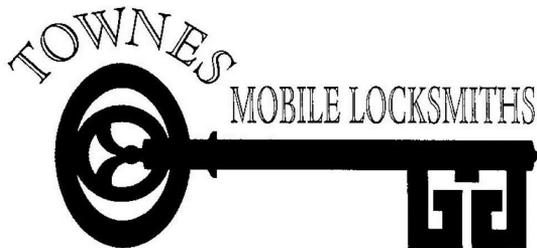
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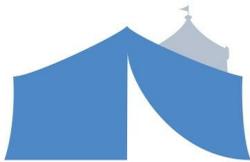
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