

Dedham

PARISH MAGAZINE

April 2021



Easter Garden Competition
See pages 8 & 9

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1876

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

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 APRIL 2021

Good Friday, 2nd April

11am Stations of the Cross Dedham Churchyard
2pm An hour at the Cross Livestream

Easter Sunday, 4th April

5.30am Dawn Vigil Dedham Churchyard & Live Stream
9.30am Holy Communion Live Stream

Sunday, 11th April

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

Sunday, 18th April (In Person services re start today)

9.30am Matins Dedham Church & Live Stream
11am Eucharist Ardleigh Church

Followed by APCM

3pm Sunday@3 via Zoom

Sunday, 25th April

8am Holy Communion Ardleigh Church & Live Stream
9.30am Morning Praise Dedham Church & Live Stream

Followed by APCM

5pm Revive@5 Dedham Church

**Service will be live streamed via our website*



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC78SZfH5QRXMpy7DgfwYslg>
Morning and Evening Prayer online Monday to Friday at 9am and 5pm
Weekly Midweek Services

Palm Sunday, 28th March – ‘Breaking Day’ a lockdown passion play
Via zoom at 5pm.

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, 10th April, 9am via zoom.

Walk & Talk – Thursday, 8th April, 10am. Meet outside the Dedham Church.

Ardleigh Friendship Group – details of the date this will resume
will be communicated in due course.

Easter – a heroic failure?

By AD 33 he had had three years on tour gathered thousands of followers, and lived amongst a band of 12 close friends (and a few enemies too). But how quickly things can change. The star of the tour is arrested by his enemies, the close friends melt away into the background or deny they were ever close to him, a sentence of death is carried out and the band of followers slip away to hide from the authorities.

From one reading Jesus' mission was a failure, he was killed in the prime of life, at the peak of his ministry. And yet, within 50 years of his death that same band of close friends had taken the message of Christianity throughout much of the Roman Empire in Europe and North Africa. By 313 AD Christianity had become the official religion of the whole Empire. Christianity became the largest religion the world has ever seen and has changed the lives of hundreds of millions of people. It has had an indelible impact on civilisation, culture, education and medicine.

One of the first Jewish converts to Christianity was Paul, who we know as St. Paul. He started life as a persecutor of Christians, but had a dramatic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. He like many of the early followers of The Way, as they were known, risked his life to share this message with the known world. He was martyred in Rome on the orders of Emperor Nero.

What motivated these ordinary people to share the message of Christianity? It was their belief in the Easter message – that Jesus Christ died and was raised to life again. They were prepared to put their lives on the line because the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus gave them courage and they had an unshakeable belief in the hope that Jesus' resurrection offers – the promise of new life beyond death.

In 1930 Frank Morrison started out aiming to write a book denying the reality of the resurrection of Jesus. In the process of writing the book he was forced by the evidence to change his mind and wrote a book '*Who moved the Stone*' arguing for the reality of the resurrection.

What do you think? Have you ever thought why Christians commemorate the death of Jesus, on a day we call Good Friday? Do you think the resurrection is true? What do you make of the courage of the ordinary men and women who took the message of Christianity out through the Roman Empire?

If you want to explore more and find out how the Resurrection is at the heart of the Christian faith, giving us power for today and hope for the future, do join us over Easter via our online services – details are found later in the magazine, or do get in touch, we would be happy to chat about what Easter really means

On the Sundays following Easter we're going to be exploring how the lives of five people were radically changed by



the death and resurrection of Jesus. **In person services re-start on 18th April in both our churches, live streaming will continue.** We'll meet Mary, John, Thomas, Peter and Paul, and listen to their stories, you are welcome to join in.

Take care
Reverend Antony

Church Annual Meetings

are important gatherings in the life of our churches as we review the past year and look forward to the next.

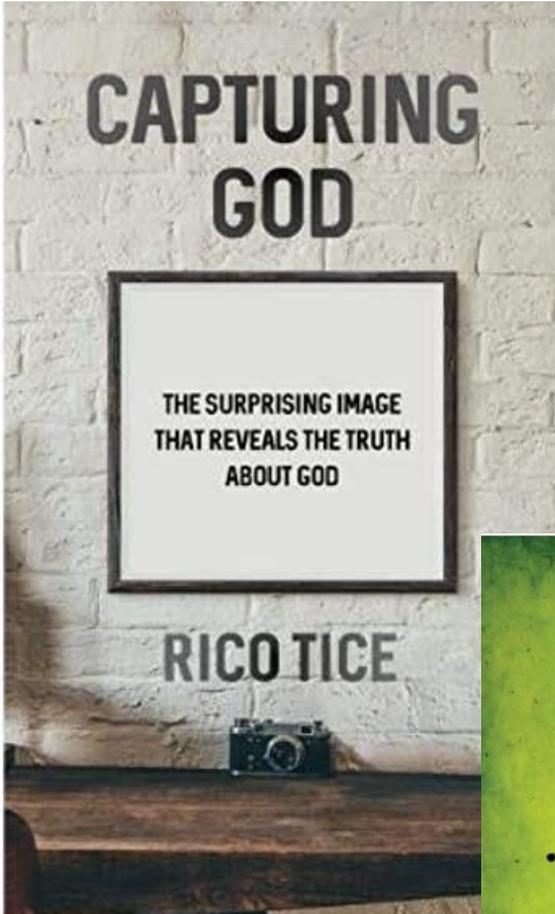
Annual Reports will be available before Easter.

You are most welcome at these meetings.

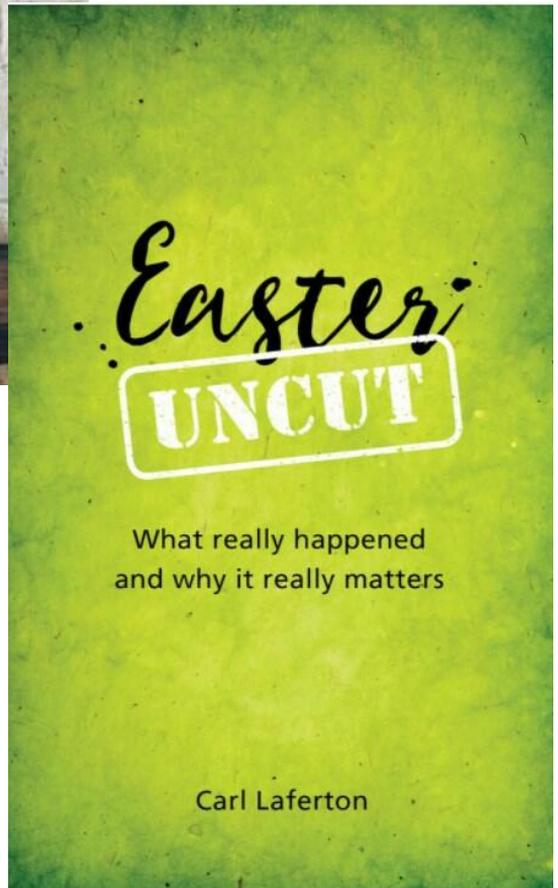
To vote you need to be on the Electoral Roll of the church.

Our meetings will be:-

Ardleigh 18th April after 11am service
Dedham 25th April after 9.30am service



Free
Easter Books available
in our churches



Easter Events

Our Easter services will mainly be online but, COVID regulations permitting, you can join in with two outside services – Good Friday

Palm Sunday 28th March



At 5pm join us to watch and reflect on this new play specially recorded in lockdown

Join here

Meeting ID: 898 0170 9723

Passcode: 983856

Good Friday 2nd April



Stations of the Cross

At 11am, starting outside the church in Dedham

An Hour at the Cross

At Dedham Church at 2pm (live streamed only)

Easter Sunday 4th April



Dawn Vigil 5.30am

Outside Dedham Church
(and live streamed)

Holy Communion 9.30am

(live stream only)



MAKE AN EASTER GARDEN



Making an Easter Garden is one way to Celebrate Easter.

Please join in and make an Easter Garden, take a picture and send it to the Parish Office. This is a competition for all, doesn't matter how old you are, or if the whole family joins in. Any size, shape or design.

Remember to include your name, age if under 11, and contact details.

Closing date: April 18th



Email: stmaryd@gmail.com



How to make an Easter Garden

You will need

- A deep tray/or a space in a flower bed outside
- Potting compost or garden soil
- Moss
- A small flower pot or plastic cup
- A large stone that covers the opening of the flower pot/cup
- Gravel
- Twigs and string/garden twine, enough to make 3 Crosses
- Some small plants or artificial flowers



We are going to create an Easter Garden to remind us that Jesus came back to life. And that is what we celebrate at Easter.

First, decide where your garden is going to be, inside the house in a tray or outside in a flower bed. Maybe somewhere else!

Gather up the things you need and make the 3 crosses using the twigs and string.

Prepare the soil and place the small flower pot/cup into the soil, leaving the open end exposed. Place soil/compost to form a hill over the pot/cup. Place the three crosses on top of the hill and cover with moss or leave bare. This is the sad part of the garden and represents Good Friday.

Around the hill, or in front of the hill, place your small plants or artificial flowers. Make a path with the gravel/ small stones. This is the happy part of the garden which represents Jesus coming back to life.

The large stone is placed over the entrance of the pot/cup on Good Friday and rolled away on Easter Sunday.

Above is just an example of an Easter Garden, feel free to create what-ever you would like to celebrate Easter. Have Fun.

Last thing, take a picture and sent it to-email: stmaryda@gmail.com

Dedham in 1830 -1835

Excerpts from the Recollections of Elizabeth Wormeley Latimer (1822-1904) written c.1880, which were sent by her son Ralph to the Vicar, Canon Given-Wilson and printed in the Dedham Parish Magazine in November 1911. Elizabeth describes her parents Ralph and Caroline Wormeley and their children “moving to Dedham, a beautiful little village on the borders of Suffolk and Essex, with a magnificent old Church, and excellent society and a great reputation for its county balls”.

“The house I we occupied at Dedham stood in the village street, but was large, old fashioned and very substantial. It had all sorts of queer ups and downs in it, closets in inaccessible places, a beautiful walled garden full of fruit, a large stable and brewery² adjoining. Every family brewed its own beer then. Our house stood next to that of the village doctor³, who indeed was our landlord, and was a very eccentric person. He had a beautiful field, surrounded by a most expensive iron railing, which was opposite our house and almost like a park to it, and in this he kept an old mare and two donkeys he had rescued from ill-usage. The animals never did any work and were devoted to each other.

The society at Dedham was excellent. Perhaps if I were to enumerate some of the persons who composed it, it would

give you an idea of the kind of persons who ... had their homes in and around it. We had four clergymen, three of them doctors of divinity. First, our Vicar, Dr Miller; second, the master of the Dedham Grammar School, Dr Taylor; third, Dr Hurloch, Rector of Langham; fourth, his brother, our Lecturer. Then we had Mr Merry⁴, ex-ambassador to Portugal and to the United States, where his appointment had not been popular, as they expected a more important and titled Englishman. Then there was Mr Mules, Master of the Hounds, and his wife Lady Pilkington⁵, widow of Sir John Pilkington, but according to English custom, having been her ladyship she kept her title. There were many widows and old maids, several naval officers and their families⁶, and many others of no particular interest in this history.

A great many dinner parties were given. Dinner was always at five, but people began to come at half past four. For why? All had phaetons, none closed carriages but Mr Merry, so they had to depend for conveyance on the village post chaise and the village sedan chair. The Clerk was the man, who with an assistant, carried the chair.

After dinner we little folks came in to dessert, then the ladies retired to the drawing room until the gentlemen left their wine and joined them, then they played whist. Dr Miller, who always dressed in black small clothes and black silk stockings and buckles taught me the game.



The front of Great House a hundred years later but essentially unchanged since the Wormeley family lived there.

He was a most dignified pastor, attentive to all his parish duties and preached excellent sermons of the dry and sound kind. His losses at whist he bore himself, but his winnings he always put into the poor box. A very good whist player was the Abbé Couffon. He had emigrated from France early in the Revolution, unwilling to take the oath⁷ required of the clergy. He had settled at Dedham as chaplain to a neighbouring Roman Catholic nobleman, and was the teacher of French to all the country round. I was one of his pupils. The reading book he used for us was called *Les Accidents d'Enfance*; such a collection of misfortunes befalling disobedient and naughty children that it was comical. I can see him now combing with a pocket comb his little yellow wig before he began his lesson. Everybody loved him; no thought of religious differences ever entered the minds of his neighbours in social intercourse.

Dr Hurloch⁸ had in his house a magnificent bedstead, rescued from the wreck of one of the vessels of the Spanish Armada. The bed posts were little boy angels life size, carved and gilded and holding up the canopy. Once a year Mrs Hurloch gave a syllabub party, when we all went to a farm she had at Langham and syllabub was made as the cows were being milked, for syllabub to be syllabub must be just milked from the cow.

In Queen Elizabeth's time it was found there was so little preaching of any account in numbers of parishes

throughout England that funds were raised for establishing in such parishes a Lecturer to preach once a week, and the Vicar of the parish had to permit him to do so. Mr Hurloch⁹ had a Tuesday morning service, when he gave his lecture. The idea originated with the Puritans, who desired that the people should at least have the Gospel, as they called it, once a week.

The great feature of Dedham was its Grammar School, a fine old red brick building, standing in a prominent position in the street, with playing fields adjoining. In it a certain number of boys received free education, but the greater part of the pupils were the sons of gentlemen, who boarded with Dr Taylor, the headmaster. It was an excellent school. My brother¹⁰ went to it, and Dr Taylor was very anxious to prepare him for Cambridge. The great seal of the school is a curiosity: at the top of some high steps sits the headmaster with an immense birch rod in his hand. On the steps kneel three boys in the costume of the days of Edward VI. Whether they are waiting for punishment or saying their lessons we never could determine. The great day of the school was Guy Fawkes Day, the 5th of November. They always had fireworks, and a guy was burned in effigy before the School House in an immense bonfire.

One of the interesting events of my life in Dedham, where I was very happy, for my mother gave me my lessons and I had a beautiful little pony called Gazelle, was the marriage of Miss Maria Daniel,

daughter of Admiral Daniel our neighbour and great friend, to Mr Jennings, a chaplain in India ... in our beautiful parish church. ... In a big round hand I transcribed my name in the parish register as one of the witnesses.

All this time the Reform Bill¹¹ excitement was going on and my father¹² was in the thick of it. All his acquaintances round Dedham were of a different way of thinking, but nothing impaired his friendly relations though he was the most outspoken of men. For several years he was steward of the Dedham Balls¹³. One night some English officers came over from Colchester and one of them was the son of the traitor, Benedict Arnold¹⁴. My father said it gave him a pang to do his duty and find him partners.

My dancing master at Dedham was Mr Novarre, [whose] father¹⁵ arranged all the Opera and Court Ballets, etc [in France]. He taught all over the three counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. He [had] emigrated during the Revolution. An English lady of rank offered, if young Novarre chose, to send him to College and make a clergyman of him. This would have involved a change of faith and he refused, preferring to become a dancing master.

The time came when my father and mother decided to leave Dedham. It was the year after the birth of my youngest sister, Ariana Randolph, who was carried to the church to be

christened in a sedan chair on our nurse's knees. They left Dedham with great regret, and at first thought of settling among the naval society at Southampton, but finally decided on London."

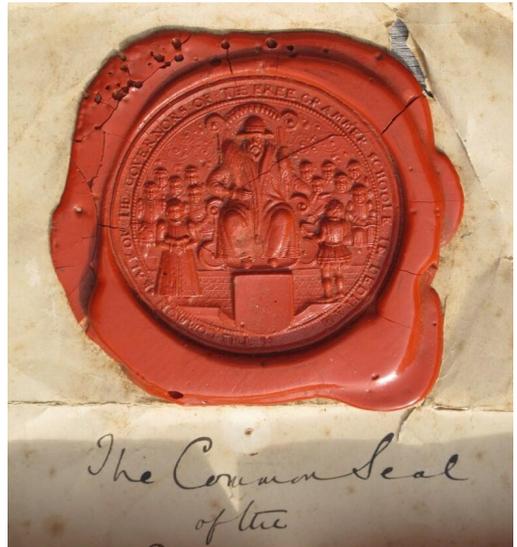
The following account comes from recollections of her father by Elizabeth's younger sister Katharine Prescott Wormeley (1830-1908).

"When he lived in Dedham he used to drive about the country in a four-wheeled chaise, drawn by a stout horse ... [which] became the property of the neighbourhood. Two or three times a week he would drive it to Colchester, loaded with friends who wanted a day's shopping; and on Saturdays he generally took the Vicar to attend the gathering of the clergy which took place on the market-day. If by any chance he found himself alone in this conveyance, he would pick up foot-passengers - "giving them a lift" he used to call it. One summer's day, as he was walking home from Colchester, he overtook a poor old woman of our village who made her living by selling fish, which she fetched herself from the neighbouring town. [She was sobbing because she had hurt her foot and gone lame, so that she and would not be able to deliver the fish for Miss Ward's wedding breakfast in time and would lose all her custom.] 'Cheer up, Mrs Vince', cried father, 'never mind, give me your fish.'... So saying, he shouldered the basket and walked away. ...

He met every fine lady he knew driving into Colchester, and they all stared to see the Captain's load; but he walked briskly along, shifting it now to one shoulder and now to the other, the tail flapping as he walked, till he had ... delivered it safely to Mrs Ward's kitchen door."

© *Lucy Archer*

*With thanks for his help to
the Rev. Dr Gerard Moate*



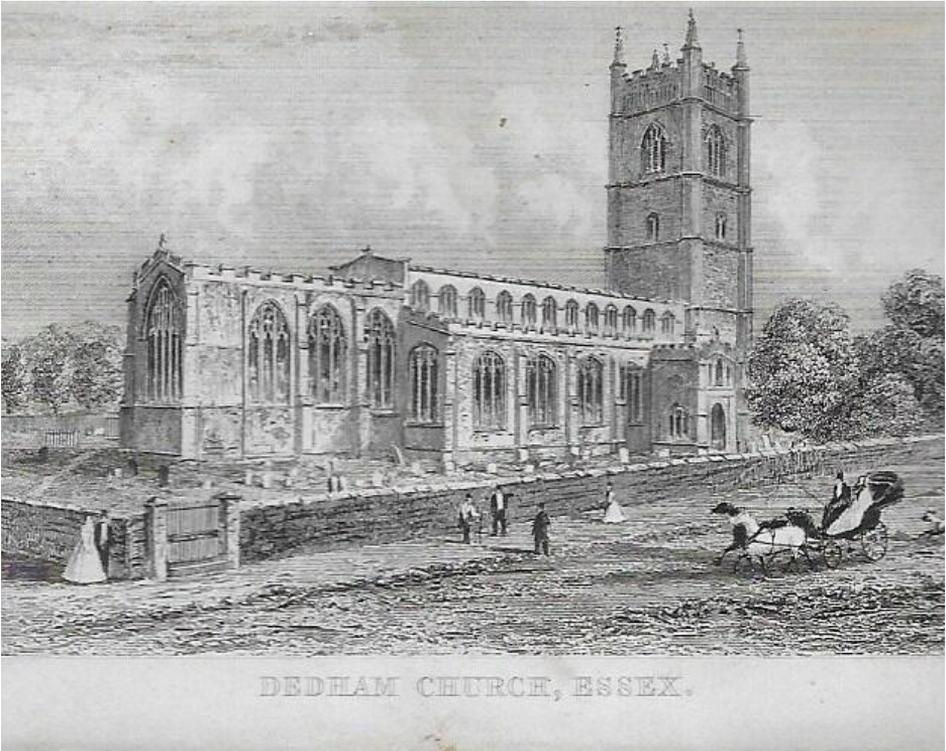
*The great seal of the Grammar School
described by Elizabeth Latimer.*



Great House c. 1910, still much as it must have appeared in the Wormeleys' time. Note the substantial earlier wing at right angles to the mid-eighteenth century front of the house. The property included a coach house and stable building fronting the High Street and a brewhouse lying behind it (now Littlegarth house and studio).



The same gate still leads into the field opposite Great House, where the village doctor kept an old mare and two donkeys.



Dedham Church by William Henry Capone, who engraved his topographical prints between 1832 and 1855.

Footnotes:

¹Great House, not the present building but its predecessor which burned down in 1936.

²Now Littlegarth, a separate property.

³Presumably Westgate House.

⁴Anthony Merry (1756-1835), Britain's Ambassador to the United States in 1803-6 moved here after his wife's death and was remembered locally as "a ceremonious, polite and highly refined old gentleman". There is memorial to him in the north aisle of the church and his Merry hatchment is high up on the east wall of the south porch. From 1824 to '35 he lived with his unmarried sister at Dedham House on the Stratford Road, south-east of Dalethorpe; this house was subsequently demolished and its name transferred to the present Dedham House in the centre of the village.

⁵There is memorial to her in the south aisle of the church.

⁶Elizabeth's father was a naval Captain (later Admiral).

⁷i.e. to swear to uphold the new constitution.

⁸Dr James Thomas Hurlock was Rector of Langham from 1829 to '47.

⁹Mr William Milton Hurlock (1783-1840) the Dedham Lecturer. There is a memorial to him in the church on the east wall of the north aisle.

¹⁰James Preble Wormeley (1826-51).

¹¹Leading to the Reform Act of 1832, changing the British electoral system which had long been criticised as unfair.

¹²who had liberal views.

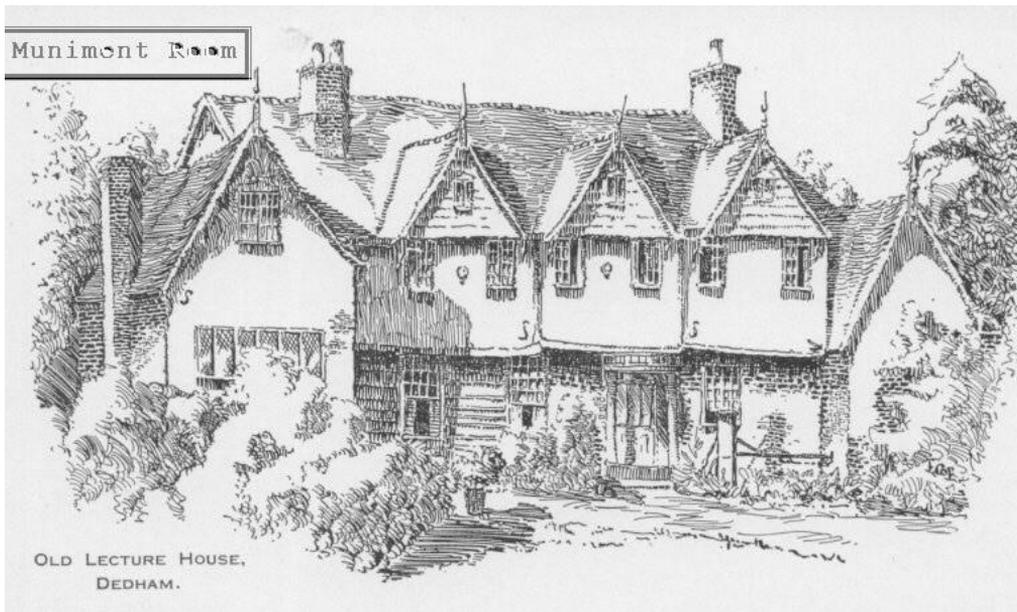
¹³Held in the Assembly Rooms.

¹⁴A distinguished American officer (1741-1801) who defected to the British side in the War of Independence.

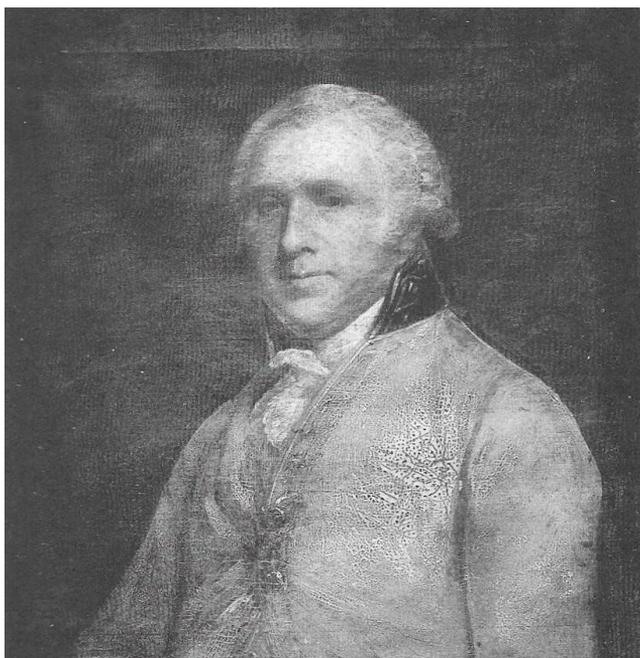
¹⁵Jean-Georges Noverre, French dancer and ballet-master (1727-1810).



Dedham in a drawing by G.B. Capion, illustrated in Thomas Wright's Picturesque Beauties of Great Britain, published in 1832. The Wormeleys' son James Preble was a pupil at the school at this time.



The Lecture House in 1869, reproduced from a watercolour sketch by K.A. Murray, neé Dunnage. This house where the Lecturer William Milton Hurlock lived in the 1830s was demolished in 1872 and replaced by the present Lecture House.



Photograph of a lost portrait of Anthony Merry, painted at Washington by Gilbert Stuart in 1805.

Baking Recipes...

ANZAC BISCUITS



Ingredients

- 2oz butter
- 1 tbsp golden syrup
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 2 tbsp boiling water
- 2 oz plain flour
- 3 oz sugar
- 2/3 cup coconut
- 2/3 cup rolled oats

Method

1. Pre-heat oven to 180°C
2. Melt butter and golden syrup. Add 2 tbsp boiling water to ½ tsp of bicarbonate of soda. Add this to butter and syrup.
3. Mix dry ingredients together. Make a well in the centre and pour in the melted ingredients.
4. With a spoon scoop out a small amount of the mixture. Form into ball put on a greased baking tray and repeat this process until all mixture used up. Then lightly flatten the balls with the back of a fork.
3. Bake in an oven for 15-20 minutes until golden.

*Ruth Higginson -This recipe was from a relative in Australia
Thelma Horrocks*



HINTS AND TIPS FOR PERFECT CAKES

- Weigh out all ingredients carefully before starting the recipe, so that you have everything to hand when you begin to make the cake.
- Always work in metric or imperial – never mix the two measurements.
- Check that you have the correct cake tin for the job.
- Always line the tin properly where necessary.
- Allow the oven to preheat to the correct temperature.
- Try not to be heavy handed – when folding in flour, use light strokes so the air doesn't get knocked out.
- Don't let cake mixture sit around once you've made it; pop it straight into the cake tin and into the oven, otherwise the raising agents will start to react.
- After it has come out of the oven, leave the cake in the tin to cool for 10 minutes and then turn out on to a wire rack to cool completely.
- Let the tins cool completely before washing them in warm soapy water with a non-abrasive sponge.

Some Common Problems – Some possible reasons

The cake sinks in the middle:

- The oven door was opened too soon.
- The cake was under baked.
- The ingredients haven't been measured accurately.
- The wrong sized cake tin may have been used.

The cake has a cracked, domed top

- The oven temperature was too hot.
- The cake was too near the top of the oven.
- Insufficient liquid was used.
- The baking tin was too small.
- Too much raising agent was used.

The cake has a dense texture.

- The mixture curdled when adding the eggs.
- Too much liquid was used.
- The mixture was over-folded.
- Too little raising agent was used or an ineffective agent that is past its 'use-by date' was used.

The fruit has sunk to the bottom.

- The mixture was too soft to support the weight of the fruit. This is liable to happen if the fruit was too sticky or wet.

The cake edges are crunchy.

- The baking tin was over-greased.

AUNTIE BETTY'S EASY CHEESE BISCUITS



Ingredients

- 4 oz margarine
- 4 oz self-raising flour
- 6 oz strong grated cheddar
- 1 tsp English mustard powder
- Pinch cayenne pepper

Method

1. Pre-heat oven to 180°C
1. Mix all the ingredients together until a ball is formed.
2. Take walnut sized amounts and form into balls. Put on a greased baking tray and press each one down to form a flat biscuit.
3. Bake in a oven for 15-20 minutes until golden.

Thelma Horrocks

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*

ELECTIONS 2021

6th May 2021

Lewis Barber for Constable Division



I am delighted to introduce myself as the prospective Conservative Candidate for Constable Division for the May 6th Essex County Council elections. I would like to thank Cllr Anne Brown for her tireless service for Dedham since being elected in 2009. Anne will be standing down in May 2021.

I grew up in Colchester, attending Colchester Royal Grammar School before undertaking my undergraduate and postgraduate studies in History at University College London. I have recently completed my law conversion and Legal Practice Course and I live and work locally in Colchester. I have

been elected to Colchester Borough Council since 2016, representing several villages that form part of Constable Division.

I will fight for the issues important to Dedham, such as protecting and enhancing the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, tackling road safety, flooding and ensuring a good deal for our local, rural Highway network and mitigating the impact of tourism on the village. I will strive to maintain and enhance that which makes Dedham so special, its village setting surrounded by wonderful countryside. I will work with the Parish Council, Cllrs Nigel Chapman and Peter Chillingworth and the whole community to do so.

Due to Covid restrictions, it is more challenging at the moment to engage with the community as I would ordinarily like to. However, I am writing to reassure you that I am available to discuss or listen to any issue or matter that is important to you.

I can be contacted on 07876237137 and/or lewisbarber2707@icloud.com. You can also subscribe to the team's email newsletter on dedham@colchesterborough.com.

Lewis Barber

Note: No other candidates were declared at the time of writing.

To check updates visit www.whocanivotefor.co.uk/elections/ Final candidate lists will be available on 9th April

Constable Country Medical Practice

Coronavirus Vaccination Programme

As of 8th March, the practice has administered over 5000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. We have now vaccinated in excess of 96% of all patients over the age of 70. We continue to vaccinate patients against Covid as fast as we take delivery of the vaccines. Unfortunately, we still have little forward visibility of when and how many vaccines will be delivered.

Please be assured that as soon as we have confirmed delivery dates we are setting up clinics and inviting patients in. Our preferred method of booking for all under 80 year olds is via a text message which contains a link to follow enabling patients to select an appointment date and time.

Patients who don't have a mobile number recorded with the practice, and those patients who don't book via the text message link, will be contacted by the practice to book an appointment.

Patients have also been contacted to book vaccinations at mass vaccination clinics. The practice will be informed when the vaccination has taken place and removed from our list of outstanding patients.

Second doses will be administered approximately 11 weeks after the first

dose. However, although some patients were booked an appointment for a second dose, we cannot confirm the date and time until we have received confirmation of the vaccine delivery date. We may not receive this until 10 days before the vaccines are delivered. We will therefore contact patients the week before their second dose is due to either confirm their existing appointment, rearrange it, or book a new appointment. The practice has detailed records of when second doses are due so there is no need to contact the practice. Please wait for us to contact you.

Please note that current guidance is that the type of vaccine administered for the second dose should be the same as the first dose, i.e. Pfizer or Astra Zeneca. Also note that we will administer second doses to those patients who have been vaccinated at the practice. If you have been vaccinated elsewhere, they will arrange your second dose.

Thank you again for your support and consideration whilst we continue with the vaccination programme.

Pete Keeble
Practice Manager

Dedham Dental Surgery is open

We are operating under government guidelines to ensure patient and staff safety at all times. Patients are advised that a Dental appointment comes under a medical need and therefore they are allowed to travel to see the Dentist.

We are delighted to inform you that Audrey our Hygienist is also back in practice seeing patients so please call reception to book an appointment with her. She is welcoming all her "regulars" and new patients as well.

To book call 01206 322489
Dedham Dental Ltd, Princes Lane,
CO7 6HD



WALK & TALK
Thursday 8th April
10am
Meet outside
the Dedham Church

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!*

Blooming marvellous

Depending on the weather (of course), April brings marvellous blossom and the blossom-like to the garden and hedgerows. It brings the first signs of the fruit harvest to come with the flowers of apple and pear covering cordons and stepovers in my mini-orchard; an older, taller greengage tree spreads white froth over the shed; and there are petals of almost-red on a small cascading flowering cherry.

All this is complemented by the white flowers of a fabulous *Spiraea* 'Arguta' and pink from a flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), while tulips bring pops and spots of colour around the garden.



There's plenty to admire in the beds and borders right now, but needless-to-say there is plenty of jobs to crack on with, so enough standing about!

A couple of quick jobs to warm up first. Stake herbaceous peonies which will be putting on plenty of growth now ready to flower in May and June – the big heads will topple over without support, especially if we get an April shower. Prune penstemons by making cuts just above fresh, new shoots at the base of the plant. If you can't see any new shoots low down, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.

Early in the month is also a time to prune *Hydrangea Macrophylla*; the lacecaps and mopheads of the genus. I've never had much luck with growing these – or with pruning them – but I'm going to give it another go by pruning back to a healthy-looking bud or pair of buds. If the plant is well established, you could also cut out up to a third of the older, woody growth to make room for new. You can prune lavender now too, though I chopped mine back in the autumn after flowering. When you do, avoid going back into older wood but look for any new growth emerging from lower down the stems to show you how far back you could cut.

Take basal cuttings from perennials like delphiniums, dahlias, campanulas, asters and phlox by looking for shoots rising 10 -12cm from the base of the clump and using a sharp knife to cut three or four as near to the base as possible. They don't need to have root attached but if they do, they will establish more easily.



Remove any leaves that may be buried by compost and rot (killing your cutting) and pinch out the top to reduce moisture loss as the cutting roots. You can dip them in hormone rooting powder – although this isn't necessary – and pop them at least 2.5cm deep around the edge of a pot of cutting compost.

Pop them in a propagator or under a plastic bag and mist occasionally. New growth will show you that the cuttings have rooted.

You can do this any time of year, but it's a task that I only care to do a couple of times a year and I like to get it out of the way before I'm distracted by everything else: turn the compost. I have a pretty serious three bin system (and a mightier four bin system on the allotment that I share with a couple who are trying to corner the market in redcurrants and gooseberries). They're not quite up to Monty's standard but the three metre-squared bins need turning over.

Finally, a serious word about weeding. I know some of you love a dandelion and a couple of you (you know who you are) think bindweed brings a lovely splash of white to the border. But it's time to untwine them from their chokehold on your roses, dig them out at the root, and chuck them on a bonfire or in the white sacks. It's going to be weed, weed, weed for the next six months, so you might as well get used to it now.

Elliott Frisby
Dedham Horticultural Society

The Society held its first virtual speaker evening with Mary Stevenson sharing her knowledge of bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes. If you're interested in joining us whether you are a member or not (it's free while Covid restrictions prevent us hosting our usual events), then you can find more details about our next event on our website,

www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com.

Dedham Parish Council

Elections

The term of the current Parish Council is rapidly drawing to a close, with local elections scheduled to take place on May 6th. Last year's elections were postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic so all councillors have completed an additional year.

Our Clerk is also moving on to a new challenge so it really will be all change in Dedham! We are currently engaged in trying to tie up all the loose ends before putting out the rubbish and turning off the lights!

Parish Office

The pandemic has had a profound impact on the way in which we work. This has led to the decision to close permanently our parish office in the Dedham Art and Craft Centre. We thank Miriam and Michael Clark for making us welcome during our time there.

Highways

At its March meeting DPC voted to approach the North Essex Parking Partnership with a request to consider parking restrictions on Lamb Corner to prevent dangerous parking here.

We still await the installation of additional yellow lines along the B1029.

An initial meeting has been held to try to understand the causes of the recent flooding problem down Shoebridge Hill and a date has been scheduled to conduct some pipe investigations by using a camera.

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. The April meeting will be on April 5th. We have not yet agreed a date for the May 2021 meeting, which will need to be held soon after the elections on May 6th. The most likely date is Monday May 17th, but please check the website for confirmation.

'Re-opening the High Street safely'

We are working with Colchester Borough Council to access funding from the above source. This is likely to involve the provision of additional hand sanitising points, signage and banners and queue management.

Play area

We will soon be replacing the unreliable 'Simon Says' equipment with something which is more robust!

Nicola Baker

www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk
Parish Clerk
clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL PLEASE BE AWARE

Our Local Parish Elections are On May 6th.

Many existing Councillors have served for 9 years and it is likely that most will stand down at this time.

It is vitally important that enough local people stand for election. There are a total of 9 seats. Without a minimum of 6 elected Councillors the continuing work of the Parish Council for the village and its services will be in jeopardy.

Please consider whether you could serve our village and community as a Parish Councillor.

Want to know more? - please contact any existing Councillor or the clerk. Contact details may be found on our website.

Nomination forms are now available from Colchester Borough Council.

<https://www.colchester.gov.uk/elections/2021/>

Completed candidate nomination forms must be returned to Colchester Borough Council by April 8th.



**Tell us something about
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write an article**

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dedhameditor@gmail.com**

OBITUARY Peter Gibbins



Peter Gibbins who died in January will be sadly missed by his family and friends, and the many people who he has worked for in the local area, but he is someone who has permanently left his mark on Dedham Church.

Peter was local to the area having been born in Myland and educated at Myland primary school, and later at St Helena secondary school. From there he went on to study at North East Technical College and School of Art, gaining a Higher National Certificate in Building. Peter renovated various properties locally before moving to Dedham in 1992 with his wife Sarah when they bought Hallfields where their daughter

Hannah was born, and Peter set about lovingly restoring the property to what it is today.

Peter enjoyed life in Dedham and became an active member of the village and became a Parish Councillor: He had always been a keen cyclist and soon became a member of the local tennis club: he loved an active life and I remember one Sunday morning not long before he became ill telephoning him regarding an issue in the church; he did not immediately respond, but a little later I had a call from him to say that he was canoeing and could not immediately help but would contact me as soon as he was back in the village.

Peter always had a great love for building and it was his life's passion, and there are many households in and around Dedham who can testify to his great skill and dedication. Over the past 18 months I came to know Peter well as he undertook various building projects for the church. He repaired the wall adjacent to Royal Square and the buttresses on the north side of the church and other small jobs. But it is the toilets and hospitality unit in the church that will be his lasting legacy. He would often tell me how pleased he was to have the opportunity to be working on such a beautiful and historic building in his own village. He took great pride in his work and on this project he demonstrated his creativity, skill and problem solving capabilities: he was not just a builder-- he was a true craftsman whose work will last long as a testament to his abilities.

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance appeals for help keeping 'Blood on Board'



Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is looking for sixty people to help it raise £30,000, so that the charity's critical care teams can continue carrying blood to patients who need it most. Each year EHAAT treats approximately 60 people in need of a potentially life-saving blood transfusion at the scene of an incident.

On average it costs EHAAT around £500 to help each of these patients in need of blood, so it is appealing for 60 people to donate £500 each to get to the £30,000 needed to keep flying blood to those who need it most.

EHAAT's Blood Project Lead Laurie Phillipson said: "Being able to give a transfusion at the scene of an incident can be a life-saving intervention for patients suffering significant bleeding. Our pre-hospital critical care teams can provide this rapidly and safely before the patient reaches hospital."

EHAAT's helicopters and rapid response vehicles carry packed red blood cells of blood group O Negative, meaning they can be used on any patient. When required, these are given with plasma,

the other major component of human blood.

The packed red blood cells are supplied daily from The Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow and delivered to EHAAT's airbases at Earls Colne and North Weald by riders from Essex Voluntary Blood Service (EVBS). The blood is replaced daily and replenished as required.

The blood is delivered and stored in special insulated boxes that keep the blood at a cool temperature for at least 24 hours. These are fitted with a data logger that indicates if the temperature is trending outside of the correct range. If unused after 24 hours the blood is returned for use elsewhere, preventing any wastage of this precious commodity. When the blood is required, it is warmed to body temperature to make it safe to administer to the patient and prevent unnecessary cooling of the patient.

To find out more about EHAAT's
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visit ehaat.org/bloodappeal

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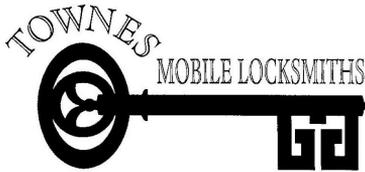
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