

# DEDHAM

## Parish Magazine



February 2023



# Dedham Parish Magazine

First Published in 1876

February 2023

## DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

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

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## DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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- Cover Photo - John Goldsbrough

## 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 **Tel: 322 192** or Sue Browne **Tel: 07778 198 118**

If you have been bereaved or know of anyone who has, please contact Vee Druitt **Tel: 322 000** or Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598**

## ***If you would like a lift to church contact***

Ann Shaw **Tel: 322 192** Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598**

**First Steps:** Want to get back involved with church but don't know where to start?  
Contact Liz and John Reed **Tel: 323 770**

Throughout the magazine local telephone numbers omit the 01206 area code unless otherwise stated.

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30am Rise N' Shine [Dedham\\*](#)  
11.00am Worship Together Ardleigh  
5.00pm Evensong [Dedham\\*](#)

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> February**

8.00am Eucharist, BCP Ardleigh  
11.00am Holy Communion [Dedham\\*](#)

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30am Matins [Dedham\\*](#)  
11.00am Eucharist Ardleigh

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

7.00pm Ash Wednesday Service Ardleigh

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

8.00am Eucharist BCP Ardleigh  
9.30am Morning Praise [Dedham\\*](#)  
5.00pm ReVive@5 [Dedham\\*](#)

**Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday,  
10.30am at Dedham Church**

**Online Prayer - Monday Morning  
at 7am and Friday Evening at 6pm**

**Benefice prayer meeting on Zoom  
each Monday at 5pm. Please  
contact the Parish Office for  
further information.**

\* = Services which are live streamed.

 **YouTube** Our services are on  
YouTube - search  
Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes.

 *Follow us on Facebook, search -  
DedhamandArdleigh*

 Scan this QR code to access  
the Dedham and Ardleigh  
parishes website

**Ardleigh Friendship Group – every  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month:**

10am to 12 noon in Ardleigh Church -  
outside when weather allows.

**ACTS Living Stones Prayer Group –  
every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the  
month, 6.25pm at Ardleigh Church.**

**Ardleigh Craft Group – every 1<sup>st</sup>  
and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month:** 1.30-  
3.00pm Ardleigh Church – in the  
Heritage Cafe.

**Little Steps Pre-School Group –  
every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the  
month:** 1.30-3.30pm in Ardleigh Church.

**Men's Breakfast - Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup>  
February, 9am. Venue tba.** For  
bacon butties, tea, coffee and chat.

**Monday Lunch Club – Monday 6<sup>th</sup>  
February 12.30pm, Essex Tea  
Rooms.** Phone 322192 to reserve a  
place indicating it is for the Lunch Club.

**Walk and Talk - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>  
February. 10am** - Meet at Dedham  
Arts Centre at 10am for a walk or I I am  
for a chat.

**FROM THE DEDHAM  
REGISTERS**

December Baptisms  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Adult baptism  
of Adrian Beckingsale

November Funerals  
Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Kenneth  
Robinson  
Mon 7<sup>th</sup> November - Roger Baker  
Tues 15<sup>th</sup> November - Sylvia Nodder



**THOUGHT FOR FEBRUARY**

**“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another”.**

A basic Christian tenet, never was more relevant than it is today.

Before Lent begins in earnest later this month, we celebrate that famous saint for all true romantics today; St. Valentine. Although from the way we celebrate this saint’s day you might be forgiven for thinking that he was a talented matchmaker, he was actually a minister and physician in Rome in the late third century.

He ministered to Christians suffering during the persecution of Christians by the emperor Claudius Gothicus and was eventually martyred around 270 A. D. – not very romantic, I confess!

Jesus had much to say about love during his life and ministry on earth. In fact, He gave a new command to His first followers on the subject: “love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34) But what did Jesus mean by love?

How are we to love one another? If the books and poems are to be believed, love is an uncontrollable feeling, it is about how the other person makes us feel:

I love you because you are beautiful kind, funny, clever and so on. There are many kinds of love: romantic love, the love of a parent, the love of a sibling or close friend.

But how does Jesus want His followers to love each other? “As I have loved you.” Jesus doesn’t love us because of anything inherently lovely in us – in fact, He loves us in spite of ourselves. The wonder at the heart of the Christian message, the Gospel is that “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

He willingly gave up His life to save ours. So when He says, “As I have loved you, so you must love one another” we begin to get a sense of just how big a thing that is!

Why not come and explore more of this message of God’s love at one our services this month? You would be very welcome!

*Rev. Phillip Young  
Rural Missioner to the Harwich Deanery*

## JANUARY THOUGHTS

As I start to write this article, it is early January. Christmas and New Year celebrations are over; the decorations taken down and the traffic is back, speeding down our roads once more! But there are so many memories of shared times with family and friends to hold on to and treasure from these special times together.

I look back to the Carol and Crib services; the beautifully decorated church, the laughter and smiles of the children as they came into church with families or friends. The joy that so many of us have felt in sharing the deep belief that God became man on that Christmas morning in Bethlehem, and that he is still there for us all today.

Looking out of the window I can see the sun shining and slanting shadows through the silhouettes of the trees, now devoid of leaf. I thank God for all that we have been given, and pray that we can work together as communities and within the global network of countries, to save this beautiful world for our grandchildren and great grandchildren.

I thank God for our families and friends and I ask that He will help us all to reach out to those who need our support and care in this year to come. It felt so right to smile at each other and wish one another season's greetings, so I pray that each day as we meet up with others, that we can cheerfully wish each other a "Good Morning or Afternoon," knowing that a smile can help both those who receive and those who give.

So may I wish everyone A Very Happy and Peaceful New Year ahead.

*Liz Reed*

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Bishop Roger Morris, the Area Bishop of Colchester, will be conducting a service of Confirmation for any baptised members of the Church of England in our Deanery (the Harwich Deanery) on Thursday, 23 February at 7 o'clock (venue TBC).

If you would like to explore this step of faith, our Rural Missioner, Revd. Phillip Young, will be running some preparatory classes for candidates beforehand. Please contact him on [HarwichRMPhillip@GMail.com](mailto:HarwichRMPhillip@GMail.com) or 01206 323 919 to discuss.

## BELL RINGING



The year of 2022 was my first year as Bell Captain for Dedham Church.

It has been interesting, gratifying, kept me on my toes and really nice. Meeting & teaching new people to ring the bells. We have had seven newbies to the team, they have all enjoyed the commitment and also ringing the bells.

I think my amazement has been the commitment from a family in Great Horkesley, Mum, Dad and two teenage boys - they really enjoy it. Long may it last!!!

A thank you to all the team, I am very grateful to you all.

If anyone else would like to join us that would be great. Please contact Lou on 0771 244 6198.

*Lou Davison*



It was wonderful to see so many families at our Crib service in Dedham on Christmas Eve. We would love to see you all again, and you would be very warmly welcomed should you come along to our Junior Church, which takes place at the same time as our Sunday services.

We launched in December and we have had great fun so far. Before Christmas we looked at the story of Jesus' birth and made our own crown and superhero decorations. This term we have started with the story of creation. Junior Church runs for children aged 3-10 during the normal Sunday service at Dedham Church (details of which can be found on the Dedham and Ardleigh parish website) except on the first Sunday of the month, which is our Rise 'n' Shine all age service.

Each week we play games, have a short time of age-appropriate teaching from the Bible, enjoy drinks and biscuits and make a craft to take home with us. Do join us! For further details contact Louise Young ([youngle@cantab.net](mailto:youngle@cantab.net)).

Over recent years, my attitude to each New Year has changed. I'm not referring to the seasonal fireworks, resolutions, Hogmanay, Jools Holland, counting down to the pop of champagne corks...

It wasn't always like this. Christmas is the 'main thing' in our family and New Year seemed somehow forced, an effort to celebrate. Dare I say... it seemed a little Contrived.

So, what has changed?

Just a few years ago, I came across the notion of talking to God about the year ahead. The idea resonated. I began asking, 'God, what are Your plans for me in the upcoming year?' 'Are my plans in sync with Yours?' It is easy and so obvious to ask God what His plans are.

After all, He knows what lies ahead. I then began to dedicate my plans, hopes, and wishes to His Lordship. There are the big things... when and where to take holidays, what to focus on at work, which school / job to apply for... Others seem more trivial. But they are not... I love the fact that God really is interested in what I grow in the veg plot and which birthday card to choose!

This is the practice of consecration... the word may sound archaic, but the reality is very different. Consecration allows God in. We are inviting Him to infuse the year ahead with His grace, love, counsel, protection, and peace.

Here's a current example...

In 2022, as we all emerged from COVID restrictions, a small group in Ardleigh began to pray about how to reach out to young families in the parish. I was not part of that group, but I'm so grateful to them. Their prayers are resulting in something new and exciting. As relative newbies to Dedham/Ardleigh churches (we only started to worship

here, in our local parish, in 2021), I was struck by the absence of children or young families in our church services. I am a childcare professional (previously a nursery provider, tutor and now podcaster), so when asked to consider how we might make church more welcoming to children, my response was a definite 'YES'!

Perfect timing. Was this an accident? I don't think so. It has taken longer than hoped to get things off the ground, due to the necessary processes and regulations required to keep everyone safe. We lost a little momentum, meaning that the launch of Little Steps in Ardleigh and Junior Church in Dedham were delayed until the autumn.

It has been a slow start, but families are coming and enjoy the sessions. There is a kindness to this slow start. We are not disheartened; we're learning so much. Now we are eager to stepping out further, to get to know more young families in our villages.

I have found this New Year the perfect time to check out whether our plans are in sync with God's... asking just that... Is He in this? We believe He is. Here are some of the reasons why... Young families need to feel welcome in our church services.

This means having resources and activities that children can access easily whenever they come to church. It is also wonderful to see some Sunday services becoming more family friendly in both parishes.

We want to welcome children of all ages. Thank you to those who have worked over the years to build links between our churches and schools.

And so, we move into 2023 with renewed vision, moving step by step with God and young families in our communities.

See alongside for new meeting times and dates in Ardleigh...



**Little Steps on Sunday** (1st week of each month at 9.30 am).

**Little Steps on Wednesday** (2nd week of each month 1.30 to 3pm). This is a new day and time, which we are trialling. Ardleigh Pre-school does not meet on Wednesday afternoons.

**Little Steps on Thursday** (4th week of each month 1.30 to 3pm). We will keep this in place for now. It may evolve to become 'First Steps' (for babies) OR we may move it to Wednesday afternoons for both midweek groups if that is more popular.

**Step by step:** praying for families (3rd week of each month) We use the format of Mother's Prayers

**Striding out** (school holidays)

Please let anyone you know, who are involved with the care of young children about these activities. We'd love to welcome them. Please also let us know if you'd like to be involved in any way. It's rewarding and great fun!

We look forward with much anticipation to all God has planned for us, which is far more than we could ever ask or imagine!

*Caroline Allen*

(Caroline hosts Turning Little Stones podcasts, a free resource for anyone involved in the care of young children)

## MARJORIE CULHAM

We wish to congratulate Marjorie Culham on being awarded the BEM (British Empire Medal) in this year's New Year's Honours List from King Charles III for her longstanding hard work and dedicated voluntary work for people with visual impairment.

She has been a volunteer for Guide Dogs for 60 years, starting out as a fundraiser before becoming a public speaker for 45 years.

Over the past 35 years Marjorie, who is chairman of the Charity's Stour Valley branch has also raised 31 puppies on their Journeys to becoming guide dogs.

Last year she was also given the Pearl Volunteer Award for Longstanding Dedication from the charity.

She was also on the parochial parish council of the church and was once a Girl Guide leader



Kenny, 6 month old labradoodle trainee guide dog pup with Marjorie.



### February 12th

The Deanery Choir will be singing at St George's church at Great Bromley at the 10.30am Communion service. The anthem that they are singing is **The prayer of St Richard of Chichester** by **J.L.White** and arranged by **Alan Bullard**.

St Richard, who was Bishop of Chichester for eight years in the mid-13th century, was well acquainted with both hard work and suffering. Though a gifted scholar and lawyer, he did not flinch from physical labour; and as Bishop he found himself a homeless outcast in his own diocese, until King Henry III finally accepted his appointment by the Pope. His prayer reflects the commitment and 'stickability' needed by anyone who seeks to be a true follower of Jesus.

### February 23rd

The Deanery Choir will be singing at the Confirmation service at Harwich at 7pm and the anthem they have chosen to sing is **Lead me, Lord** a setting by **Fred Bock**.

In Christian churches that practise infant baptism, confirmation is seen as the sealing of the covenant created in baptism. Those being confirmed are known as confirmands. For adults, it is an affirmation of belief. It involves laying on of hands by the Bishop and is a very important service in the church calendar.

For location details please visit Facebook page 'All Saints' Harwich or telephone Revd Kirsty Emerson on 07956688304.

## MARJORIE WEST

Sadly we must report the death of Marjorie West on December 23rd. During her nearly 102 year life she saw five monarchs, meeting just the last in 2021 when she had turned 100 and he was still Prince of Wales.



She was born in Brentford in 1921, and followed the local football team throughout her life although first watching them live when she was eighty years old, as crowds were exclusively male in her youth. This is just one example of tremendous social change in her lifetime.

She married her teenage love in 1942 when they were both 21; Ted Graysmark, newly qualified as a Spitfire pilot in the RAF Reserve. He was recalled to his squadron after just seven days of their honeymoon, and tragically was killed in the defence of Malta five weeks later.

Marjorie was inspired to join the war effort, and volunteered for the WRNS with her skills as a teleprinter operator. After basic training and a spell in Poole she was assigned to SHAEF, General Eisenhower's team planning for D-Day. SHAEF moved to Versailles in September 1944, and she met another airman, Victor West in Paris.

After return to civilian life the relationship blossomed and they married, having two children, who in turn

delivered Marjorie five grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. She was delighted by youngsters, and watched them arrive and develop with great pleasure.

Over the years, Marjorie worked in various roles, including with the Midland Bank and British Airways. This last job brought the benefit of discounted flights, which she and husband Victor used to travel extensively. Particular pleasure came from visits to family in Oregon and New Zealand.

In 1988, Vic and Marjorie moved with their son, Colin and his wife, Lyn and their family to Grove Hill House in Dedham. They both immediately threw themselves into village activities. Marjorie was a keen member of Dedham WI and Ladies Fellowship. With her love of children, a highlight of her week was visiting Dedham Primary to listen to the children read. She was a church flower arranger and enjoyed attending Family Service in Dedham Church. She rarely missed a Remembrance Sunday service, in later years arriving in her wheelchair when mobility became a problem.

Victor died in 1999; Marjorie remained active in Dedham village activities for some years. In October 2019, she was presented with the Légion d'Honneur at a short ceremony in the Duchy Barn, conferred by President Hollande of France. She found brief national fame on BBC News in May 2020 (75 years on from VE Day,) being interviewed about her wartime life, and her walking during the Covid pandemic to raise funds for the NHS, following in the footsteps of Captain Tom Moore.

In 2021 she moved to Wethersfield with Colin and Lyn. Mobility was a problem, but visitors were always welcome into Marjorie's quarters. She is survived by Colin and by her daughter Christine, and is much missed by the extended family.

*Colin West*

## EAST ANGLIA GREEN (EAG) PYLON PROPOSALS.



### **Bernard Jenkin writes**

This is to update everyone who has contacted me on the issue of the East Anglia GREEN (EAG) pylon proposals. Please forgive the general nature of this email. I have had vast numbers of emails objecting to these proposals (which is itself a very strong indicator!) so I thought it best email everyone with a general update in the interests of time.

As many will know, I chair the OFFSET (Offshore Electricity Transmission System) group of MPs from Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. We have been campaigning for an off-shore ring main to replace the current proposals for on-shore pylons as put forward by the Electricity Supply Operator (ESO) which is part of National Grid. Recently, the OFFSET MPS met the energy minister, Graham Stuart MP. Previously, we had secured a commitment from National Grid Transmission Network to produce a costed version of an offshore alternative to East Anglia GREEN.

Their costed option is merely a point-to-point undersea link and fails to optimise all the advantages of a fully coordinated offshore network, which connects to the offshore wind farms, coastal power stations like Sizewell, and with interconnectors to the European

continent. The OFFSET MPs were very clear about how unacceptable this is. National Grid Electricity System Operator initially agreed to produce a costed alternative to East Anglia GREEN that that would do this. It appears, however, that the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) discouraged them from this.

The OFFSET MPs will continue to push the department to explore an optimised offshore alternative to East Anglia GREEN and we have today written to the Minister again making this point. Beyond the fundamental flaws with the EAG proposals, such as the lack of strategic forward planning, there are various location-specific issues within the current plans which are nonsensical. The Ardleigh substation is completely unnecessary.

There is a viable alternative, which would neither require the massive expansion of infrastructure at Ardleigh, nor the planned double run of cables, back and forth around the north of Colchester. The alternative would connect the new off-shore wind farms, North Falls and Five Estuaries, direct to the Nautilus multi-modal connector at Felixstowe. Despite my highlighting this repeatedly, there has been no willingness to adopt a common sense approach and change the plans.

This is a very bad indicator of how the whole of EAG is being treated as a done deal. It is an uphill battle across the board and typifies the difficulties OFFSET and local campaigners have had over the past year. Finally, thank you for all the kind words regarding mine and my parliamentary colleagues' efforts to see these proposals changed.

I am struck by the strength of feeling and sheer numbers of emails from hundreds of constituents all making the same arguments against the current plans.

The local campaign group is making a strong case and I will keep pressing these arguments at every level of Government.

I am afraid we must keep fighting these proposals. I am incredibly grateful to the local campaign being coordinated by volunteers, and their work may yet prove decisive.

Wishing you all a good New Year.

*Bernard Jenkin*

### TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE DEDHAM.



The village of Dedham is a beautiful place. It is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty, is in a conservation area and has some wonderful buildings, church and a thriving community. Yet it is a village that has in recent years faced major challenges regarding tourism, affordable housing, nature of the usage of the river and problems with parking. How does the village respond to these issues in a positive and constructive way?

To me, we should be looking to develop a vision and a strategy for a

Sustainable Dedham that aims to empower all people and communities in the village and those who come to visit to learn how to live in a Sustainable way. Be it how we drive in and through the village and in what form of vehicles, how we ensure that the river and surrounding meadows are used in a way that does not harm the environment, and that housing and other relevant policies follow clear sustainable principles. But most important of all how we can as individuals, families and communities live in a way that improves the quality of life for all.

This means any vision has to be more than asking councils or other public bodies to do things, it has to be what we as a village community can and should be doing.

As a resident of Dedham for more than 20 years, I am now in a position to give more time to working with others to improve the quality of life for everyone. I am keen to hear from others in the village, particularly community groups, on how we can work together to develop and promote a vision and what perhaps could be called a Charter for Sustainable Dedham.

I have already had conversations with the Parish Council in the village, who are supportive of what I would like to see happen. I see an initial goal is to form a Forum of interested groups to develop such a vision and charter.

My background is in education with specific experience in Sustainable development. I am happy to come and talk to interested groups and start an online conversation about these matters.

*Professor Douglas Bourn*

Email: [d.bourn@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:d.bourn@ucl.ac.uk)

## SPORTS CLUB PAVILION IMPROVEMENTS

Dedham Sports Club took advantage of the recent lockdowns to spend some time and money making improvements to the pavilion.



The Lounge area

The bar and lounge area has been redecorated and new storage has been installed behind the bar.

The kitchen has been completely refurbished and equipped with commercial catering appliances including a large oven, a microwave oven, a new fridge and a high specification dishwasher. The kitchen now benefits from hygienic, easy to clean, stainless work surfaces and wall cladding.



The Kitchen

The hot water and heating system has been upgraded and a new boiler and hot water tanks have been installed.



The Bar

New emergency exit lighting and smoke alarms have also been installed.

The club has further plans for the pavilion including new lounge furniture, new flooring and improved energy efficient lighting. The building can accommodate groups of up to 60 people and we have already hosted several private parties and events since carrying out the work.

The club wants to share this facility with the wider community, making it a social hub in the village, so would welcome ideas from the community for the future development of the club.

If you would like to hire the pavilion for a family or business function or just look around please contact Andy Bell via [a.bell@btinternet.com](mailto:a.bell@btinternet.com) or 07753 838375.

*Andy Bell*

The forerunner of the Sports Club pavilion was the Dedham Village club which was built in 1893. The 1896 revised Ordnance Survey map shows a building in a similar position (though parallel to the Path through the drift) to the existing building, later maps describe the building as a reading room. The extract of an article in the the Essex Standard describes the opening of the Dedham Village Club. The long speech by Sir John Gorst has been omitted.

**The British  
NEWSPAPER  
Archive**

**Essex Standard -  
Saturday 21 January  
1893**

**NEW VILLAGE CLUB FOR  
DEDHAM. Opening by Sir John  
Gorst, M.P.**

Yearning to keep abreast of the progressive spirit of the age, some of the more public-spirited inhabitants of the pretty village of Dedham thought there was one thing lacking in their beautiful oasis, viz., village club. This feeling, commendable all times gradually, but surely gaining ground, certain supporters of the movement made representation to the Vicar of the parish (Rev C. Alfred Jones), and he, acting with promptitude and showing characteristic public spirit, called an open meeting of parishioners in August last.

The unanimity of the meeting was gratifying it was unexpected, and from this time the project has developed until Monday evening, Jan. 16, saw the Village Club opened. The inhabitants owe a lasting debt of gratitude to their Vicar, who threw his whole heart and soul into the work from its inception its close. Other leading inhabitants, irrespective of party or creed—for the Dedham Village Club knows no politics—co-operated with him most willingly, and as the result of their efforts a capital site was acquired the south-east corner of Duchy Farm in the occupation of Mr Gooch, the necessary funds (as nearly as possible £200) having been raised by loan from the bankers and Guaranteed by the Vicar, Mr. Hamilton Lang, Mr. J. Medows Rodwell, and Mr Tremlett. The building itself has been erected by Messrs. Saunders and Son, and gives general satisfaction. The exterior is of galvanised iron, the inside is match-boarded, and

there are three rooms for reading and recreation.

On Monday evening, Jan. 16, the Club was declared open by Sir John Gorst, Q.C., M.P., in the presence of large company of villagers. The meeting, which was held in the largest room of the new premises, was presided over by the Rev. C. Alfred Jones (vicar), and among those present beside Sir John Gorst were Mr. J. Medows Hodwell, Dr. Ashwin, Mr. English, Mr. Cooper Fenn (Ardleigh), Mr. H. Clover, Mr. T. W. Scott, Mr. T. Mason, Mr. W.Saunders, Mr.Beaslin, Mr. Fairhead, Mr. Ray, etc.

The room was crowded, the attendance consisting mainly of working men. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said they would all congratulate Sir John Gorst on his return after a successful tour, and thank him for honouring Dedham by making there his first public appearance since his return. (Applause.) The Chairman sketched the circumstances under which the Club was first started, and said he took neither credit nor discredit to himself in connection with the matter. His path from the first had been a very clear one. The result of the parishioners' meeting was the building they now saw, and he ventured to say that the accommodation and the building altogether were very satisfactory. He hoped they would all pull together and that they would make the club a real success, because he was sure it supplied a real want. The Chairman then called upon Sir John Gorst to address the meeting. At the close of the meeting, the Chairman announced that Mr. Arthur Scott and Mr Page would. As provisional secretaries, take the names of intending members of te new club, and that a meeting to appoint a Committee and officers would be convened within a week.

### WORK OFF YOUR SEASONAL EXCESSES.

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you're rested up because now we're entering February, the weather is hopefully better and there's plenty to be done to get ready for the year to come. As you work, don't forget to enjoy the crocuses, Iris Reticulata and maybe some daffodils emerging.

There will be snowdrops and cyclamen, hellebores and primroses, camellia and winter-flowering honeysuckle as well as the catkins of pussy willow and Garrya Elliptica, the silk tassel bush. But don't spend too much time admiring, there's plenty to do including the last chance to finish pruning wisteria. I'll cut back the whippy shoots, already trimmed over the summer, even further to two or three buds. I also want to try and take the plant over an arch, so this summer will try to train some of the whippy shoots where I want them.

Plant lilies this month: I've a huge,



Skyscraper Lilies

scented Skyscraper (Oriental x Trumpet) lilies in the centre of one bed and Martagons in shadier areas. If your soil is heavier, plant them in pots – five in a 10-inch container – and be prepared to stake the taller varieties. Bear in mind that lilies are very toxic to cats though –



Day lily shoots

so if you have them and they like a nibble on your plants, best choose something else.

There's also plenty I need to do with fruit in the garden and down on the allotment. I'll take secateurs to my gooseberry bushes (no doubt shredding my hands on merciless thorns as I do) to cut back sideshoots to two or three buds. I'll need to take more stems out of the centre of the plant to create a goblet shape and open up the centre. It will improve airflow to reduce mildew and can have the added bonus of allowing birds in to snack on pests. Gooseberry sawfly are the biggest fear and a couple of years ago their caterpillars decimated the leaves of my plants. They don't go for fruit but left unchecked can stunt the plant's growth, so it's always good to know that a man with a drencher of nematodes – and his mate, the brighter-plumed female Slumper – will be active later in the year as the weather warms up.

I'll drop forcers over a couple of rhubarb crops this month to encourage bright pink, tender shoots that are ready to harvest earlier than the usual crop. Anything that cuts out the light – like a bucket – will do but avoid clumps that

you forced last year as they'll appreciate the chance to recover. Before you leave the borders, get some mulch on any bare soil. There's just time this month to do it although try to avoid places where you have dwarf bulbs coming through – your tulips and daffs won't mind at all.

I usually have a good bin of compost ready to go by this time of year, which lets me turn the other two bins once it's empty and sets me up for the new season. The mulch will keep in all that lovely moisture from January and December, as well as keep down annual weeds and improve your soil structure as worms take it down. Just spread it good and thick – 2-3 inches – but if you have a heavier soil, it's best to leave this until March when the soil has had more time to warm up. Finally, if you're still trying to work off any seasonal excesses, don't



Spring Show

forget that gardening – especially the hard work of digging, hand weeding and raking - is good for you. But you don't need that added encouragement do you. Do you?

Our Spring Show returns on Saturday 1 April, so as you move round the garden think what you might want to exhibit. It's free to enter and the



schedule will be on our website, [www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com](http://www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com), soon.

*Elliott Frisby*

### RICHARD BROWNS ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- If you do not need it Switch it off.
- Wear additional warm clothes.
- Try to reduce your room temperature. A 2°C reduction could save about 6% of your heating cost. This is an approximate amount and will vary from house to house.
- Ensure that the boiler runs only when the house or water is cold.
- Use an electric blanket and another for the lounge, OAP stands for “Old and precious” and not what you originally thought!
- Pull curtains, if you have them, they are an excellent blanket.
- Close the door on every room and heat only those rooms you are using
- If you are not using a room turn the thermostat down to about 10°C.
- If the boiler is located outside ensure that it has frost protection.
- Buy a thermometer and reduce the room temperature to find out what is comfortable for you.
- Try and reduce your electricity demand between 5 and 6 PM at a time when the country demand is high. Some companies will pay you to do this.
- If you have a gas or electric hob on your cooker use a burner that is slightly smaller than the pan. The TV frequently shows a small pan on a very large burner, this is obviously ridiculous as it is heating the handle and not the contents.
- Do not waste the hot water to wash small items including hands.
- Heat water in the summer by electricity is very advantageous if you have a night meter.
- When you have a bath, why not leave the hot water in the bath until it is cold and warm the bathroom.

I hope you were able to have an enjoyable and peaceful festive period and thank you to all the volunteers and key workers for the work over Christmas, New Year and throughout the whole year.

A significant matter affecting the village has been the performance of the 80/80A/81/81A services since the change in operator from Panther to First Essex. Thank you to those who contacted me about your experiences. I collated all evidence sent to me and Essex County Council's (ECC) Passenger Transport team investigated the poor performances and are working to ensure solutions are put in place by First Essex.

The feedback received recently has been that this work has ensured service improvements but please do let me know how the service keeps performing to ensure it is the quality we expect. There are some issues arising from the A12 works that ECC is working with operators and National Highways to resolve.

I was pleased to have secured £12,000, including through our locality budget and with support from the Parish Council, for the delivery of the first step of the Parish's road safety and traffic management plan. We have received the data from the initial surveys just before Christmas and now ECC's technical team is reviewing to propose possible solutions. These solutions will be subject to full consultation with the Parish Council and village and I look forward to sharing these with you soon.

The repairs that I included in the second round of the additional pothole repair fund have commenced or are being scheduled in. The additional pothole repair fund is extra resources I voted for for this financial year and they are defects I put forward in addition to the normal maintenance programme for priority repairs. For Dedham, I put

forward Gun Hill, Shoebridge Hill, The Drift and Stratford Road for the second round, following my submission of Princl Lane and Mill Lane in the first round, the latter which at the time of writing was scheduled in for the repairs.

If you have any highways issues, please do get in touch on [cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk) with details and I will do what I can to get the resources to resolve it.

On public transport, I am leading on a project to introduce Digigo, an on demand and electric bus service, to Colchester. This service has proven hugely popular in rural Chelmsford and Braintree where it currently operates on a trial period and it is planned to be expanded into Tendring too. I am keen that Colchester gets this service and I have held positive talks between Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council. I believe this would also assist minimising traffic and parking pressures in Dedham during the peak season. Please do search Digigo online for more details of what it would involve.

Up until at least 31st March, single fare bus tickets will be capped at £2, regardless of length of route. Please do take advantage of this offer while available. I hope that this can be extended into the longer term.

The A12 widening project to provide three lanes in each carriageway between Chelmsford and Marks Tey, overseen by National Highways, is progressing. Essex County Council supports the principal of the widening but has objected to National Highways' proposals for some of the junctions.

There are various reasons for these objections but the main one is the impact of the junctions on increased volumes of traffic on the local road network. The £35 million investment in resurfacing the A12 between Marks Tey and Stanway has begun.

The works are expected to last until late 2023/early 2024 with the road kept open by a contraflow system. We are liaising with National Highways and Essex Highways to ensure that the impact on the local road network is minimised. We will keep the community updated on these two key road schemes.

I was pleased this financial year to use £1,500 of my locality budget to support the AONB's seasonal rangers, which will assist in managing tourism during peak season. In addition to the Digigo scheme, the other means to manage tourism we are pushing are:

1. A campaign to promote safe and sustainable usage of waterways and surrounding areas, working with Essex Fire and Rescue Service to do so.
2. Local rural business support network
3. Support for litter collection and a designated toilet in the carpark
4. A firmer response to illegal trading

Finally, at the time of writing, there is no further update on the National Grid Pylon Scheme. We have attended briefings on the matter and we are continuing to make representations with the Members of Parliament for an offshore option to be progressed instead of the overground pylons. I strongly support upgrading our infrastructure to ensure we have abundant, clean and cheap energy. However, my strong preference is for this to be delivered via offshore infrastructure.

Please do consider subscribing to my email updates by emailing me on [cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk) with subscribe. These are on local issues and news.

*Cllr Lewis Barber  
Essex County Councillor for Constable  
Division*

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**Saturday 18th February**  
7pm

Dedham Assembly  
Rooms

**CANCER RESEARCH UK**

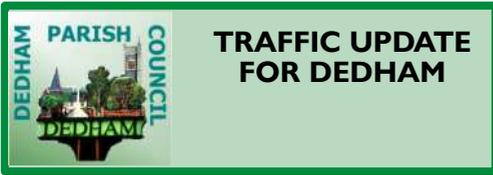
**For tickets call :**  
07795909471

£15pp including fish & chips  
Tables of 6

## TOWER TOUR GUIDES



We need volunteers to help lead Tower Tours at Dedham Church. Please speak to one of the churchwardens if you are interested. Also you can email the Parishes Office on [stmaryda@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryda@gmail.com).



The results from the Automatic Traffic Counters (ATC's) placed throughout the village between the 6th and 12th of October have now been published. A full set of results can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/4e84sfem> or scan this QR code to access the site.



However you need to have a lot of patience, a love of statistics, and very good eyesight to make sense of them, so DPC has pulled together some of the facts and figures. Fortunately DPC were able to pay for four extra sites to be covered, Bargate Lane, Coggeshall Road, Long Road West and Castle Hill. We all know from personal experience and figures provided by our Speed Watch team that Dedham has a significant issue with speeding.

These figures make astonishing reading, and to back that up we have chosen to look at the percentages of drivers travelling above the speed limit and include those travelling significantly above the limit i.e. over 40 mph in a 30mph zone. We have chosen this approach because it is a fact that you are statistically more likely to die as speed increases above 30 mph and that you are more likely to be killed on rural roads than urban ones.

**BARGATE LANE** - classified as a rural lane with a 30-mph limit. Northbound 54.3% of cars were speeding, Southbound 32.0%. We believe there were fewer because the ATC was close to the junction with Long Rd East, so

drivers were only just beginning to accelerate.

**GROVE HILL** -The percentage of drivers exceeding the 30 mph limit was North East bound 58.7%, South West bound 65.6%. Drivers are clearly not slowing down as they leave the 40 mph limit and reach the 30mph zone. There were two accidents in 2022 alone with cars leaving the road at the at the bottom of Grove Hill. There is a pavement but quite often it is covered in debris and pedestrians are forced to walk in the road.

**COGGESHALL ROAD** - a main route into Dedham that meets the Dedham Heath crossroads where the priority is wrongly given to the rural lane of Long Road. There are no pavements. Northbound 62.4%, Southbound 65.1%

**CASTLE HILL** - a main route into Dedham and in particular to the school. Northbound 62.4%, Southbound 65.1%

**LONG ROAD WEST** - Bearing in mind that LRW currently has a limit of 40mph even though residents and DPC believe that it meets Essex Highways own criteria to be designated a 30-mph zone, plus the fact that there are no pavements. It is on a main bus route and adults and children alike are forced to walk in the road.

There are also significant issues on sunny days when easterly drivers are blinded by the sun in the morning and westerly drivers in the evening. The police have also stated that shadows cast by the trees make it difficult to see pedestrians. Eastbound 18.7%, Westbound 17.7%. A better mathematician than me could work out just how high those percentages would be if the speed limit was just 30 mph!

MILL LANE - this produced some unusual results that we are yet to fully understand with 13% and 15% of vehicles travelling above 30 mph, but with a high proportion travelling at significantly above the 30 mph limit. However, the ATCs were laid in October in relatively poor weather at the end of the tourist season. We are all aware just how busy Mill Lane is in the summer with the car park full, and the narrow pavements full of pedestrians crossing the road on a blind corner. DPC believes that this alone warrants Mill Lane being included in the 20 mph zone proposed in our Local Highways Plan.

### THE WAY FORWARD

Essex Highways have requested more information and ATCs will be placed on Ardleigh Road, Brook Street and Crown Street. DPC believes this is a good sign. However, it took 16 months to get the first ATCs laid so nothing will happen overnight. We all know that local councils are strapped for cash.

DPC will continue to campaign for the Traffic Management Plan we submitted in August 2021, particularly in light of the likely increased traffic volumes, resulting from the housing developments in Tendring (Manningtree and Mistley). Essex has a VISION ZERO policy to reduce deaths on the roads and let us hope we do not have to wait for a death or another serious accident to take place before action is taken.

Furthermore Essex and DPC fully support a SUSTAINABLE transport policy. This cannot happen whilst residents do not feel safe enough to walk or cycle along our country lanes, because of the blight of speeding inconsiderate drivers.

### WHAT OUR RESIDENTS CAN DO -

Make sure we stick to the limits.  
Report every single accident to the

police and Essex Highways. There is a grave temptation not to report minor bumps and scrapes because we do not think any action will be forthcoming. However, we need to have a record of everything to support our case. SUPPORT the Speed Watch team.

*Gill Neville*

Vice-Chair Dedham Parish Council  
[gill.neville@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:gill.neville@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk)

Traffic management plan  
<https://www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk/dedham-traffic-plan/>



### CORONATION WEEKEND

The Parish Council are looking for ideas to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III over the Coronation holiday weekend. Please contact Gill Neville Vice-Chair, Dedham Parish Council on [gill.neville@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:gill.neville@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk)

### THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of Dedham Parish Council will take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 6:30pm in the Duchy Barn. The Agenda for the Parish Council meeting always includes an open session - Have Your Say and visitors reports (CBC and County Councillors).

Questions may not be answered at the meeting but may go on to the next agenda. A maximum of 3 minutes per person/group to make representations to the Parish Council, a total of 15 minutes. The agenda can be viewed on the homepage of the Parish Council website.

Just scan this QR code on your phone to access the Parish Council website  
[dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk](https://www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk)





At the beginning of January, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Gemma Chester to Dedham Church of England Primary School to be our new headteacher. In a very short space of time, she has made great strides in getting to know staff and families as well as learning over 200 children's names!

Lots of exciting plans are already beginning to gain some momentum and we look forward to being able to share information about the development of the school grounds and Forest Schools very soon.

Please do follow us on Twitter (@PrimaryDedham) to keep up to date with what's happening in school, and visit our website to download and read the weekly newsletters.

Recently, Ranger Stu came in to spend time with KS1 to support their work on animal classification and habitats and he brought with him some fascinating creatures including an armadillo, a tenrec, a bearded dragon, a boa constrictor, a tarantula, a scorpion and a tortoise! Class One's top facts from the day were that a bearded dragon's tail can't grow back, the longest boa-constrictor is nearly the length of our school hall and that a bearded dragon doesn't breathe fire when it's cross because it has a beard of spikes that puff up!

We have a wide range of extra-curricular clubs on offer at school and our drama club gives children in KS2 the opportunity to rehearse and to perform a play each term. The club's latest performance was *The Jungle Book* which the children performed to their families and their classmates. It was wonderful to see such confidence, teamwork and pride in the children as they performed, and it was fantastic to see how the children's skills have developed since their last performance of *Oliver Twist*.

At the end January, the KS2 Choir will be performing at the O2 Arena in London with thousands of other children in a Young Voices concert. They have been learning the many songs for this since September and are incredibly excited about the opportunity to perform where some of their musical idols have performed! We'll share some feedback and photos with you next month...

*Miss Laura Valentine  
Deputy Headteacher*

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR from DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE**

Thank you to all our readers and advertisers for all your continued support to the magazine over the last year, and now moving forward into 2023.

**Deadline for Magazine entries:  
10th of the month**

Anything received after that date may not be included in the magazine as it could have an impact on the lead time for printing.

John, Sara, Liz & the brilliant Parish Magazine Team .



I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave so generously both in time and contributions to last year's Poppy collection.

Following the success of the sales table in Royal Square previous years, I arranged to do this again. It was adorned with a Legion table cloth which made it look far more appealing and "manned" by volunteers from the village. The table collected a total of £1837 and included the card reader of about £634. The ugly skip, present on Remembrance Sunday had been suitably camouflaged by the builder for which we were very grateful. Although the table was there throughout the week, rain on several days made a significant difference because the number of visitors was much lower on the wet days. The volunteers "manning" the table for a 2-hour stint did not find it too onerous and generally enjoyed talking to people as well as taking their contributions!

The total amount raised in the Dedham area was nearly £4500 including the collection from the Remembrance Day Service. This was slightly less than 2021. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the businesses and especially the Dedham Primary School who provided enthusiasm, space and security for the collection boxes.

The total includes the contribution from "Gift Aid" which was £112. Gift Aid does 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. Gift Aid returns showed that many contributors were visitors to the village.

If anyone requires wreaths or other items for 2023 and which are available from the Legion, please let me know by the beginning of September 2023 so that it can include the items in the order. This will save the Legion money in postage etc. These items will then be delivered to Dedham for collection.

This was my last year as the "Poppy Area Organiser". I took over from Bernard Lambert 15 years ago, and in that time, we have collected nearly £50000. I think that is an excellent result from a comparatively small village and it deserves a big thank you to all those who have helped in so many ways. This year my place will be taken by Mr Arin Andrews, to whom I am very grateful. I shall become his assistant as "Assistant PAO". I shall still be around.

We shall be grateful for more help this year. If you would like to volunteer, please telephone me, my number is 01206 321241.

*Richard Brown PAO (Poppy Area Organiser)*

# Stour Valley Arts & Music

CONCERT AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, EAST BERGHOLT, CO7 6TG  
SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 4PM.

## ECHÉA QUARTET



Rosa Hartley, violin I  
Gabriella Jones, violin II  
Ami-Louise Johnsson, viola  
Johannes Przygodda, cello

### Programme:

Haydn, String Quartet no 57 in C major op. 74 no.1  
Mendelssohn, String Quartet no 1 in E flat op 12  
Beethoven, String Quartet no.7 in F major, op. 59 no.1, Rasumovsky'

### Booking Information

Tickets £16 (members £12) online at [www.svam.org.uk](http://www.svam.org.uk) where all details can be found. Alternatively, please email [svamtickets@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:svamtickets@btinternet.co.uk)  
Tel: 01206 298426.

Buy from Grier or on the door.

### Future event.

Sunday 12 March 2023. St Mary's Church, Dedham at 5 pm

The Mithras Trio  
lonel Manciu violin, Leo Popplewell cello, Dominic Degavino piano

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We have over 40 interest groups including walking – from strollers to 5+ milers – theatre, film, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, science group, keep fit, international travel, pickleball ..... there's something for everyone.

Do visit our website and see what we offer. Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, East Bergholt.

Our monthly talks are held on the second Wednesday at 2pm at in Constable Hall, East Bergholt.

On 8<sup>th</sup> February we have a speaker from the Co – Op's Estate Planning Dept who will advise on making a will, inheritance tax, living wills & other tax issues for our generation.

Please take a look at our website [www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley) for more information and contact details. We look forward to meeting you.

MEET UP MONDAYS  
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#MEETUPMONDAYS #DONTBEONYOURWN

11 AM to 12PM EVERY MONDAY

## Dedham Baby and Toddler Group

All Babies, Toddlers, Pre-Schoolers, Parents, Grandparents, Nanny's, Carers welcome



Dedham Sports Club-Southfields, CO7 6AH

Join us **every Tuesday 10am-12pm** (term time only) for fun, toys, messy play, crafts, singing, storytelling, games and music

£3 per child or £5 per family. Includes hot drinks for the adults and a yummy snack for the kids.

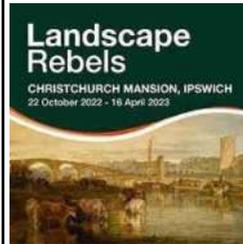
Please join our Facebook Page and feel free to message us with any queries.  
\*Dedham Baby & Toddler Group\*



## DEDHAM ART SOCIETY

Guests and visitors are welcome to attend our sessions in the assembly Rooms. If you are considering joining the society and would like to try out one of our sessions in our programme, your first 'taster' visit is free. Beginners welcome. If you require any information about our activities or joining the Dedham Art Society please contact us by email at [dedhamartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dedhamartsociety@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk](http://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk)

**Thursday 9th February, 10am start** at the Ipswich's Christchurch Mansion



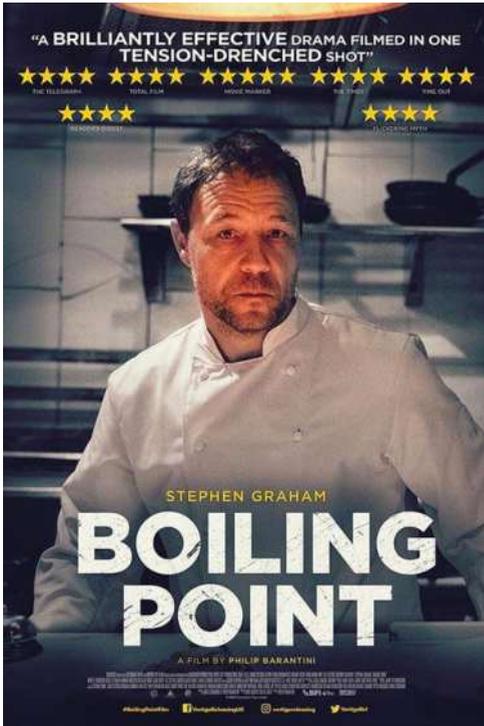
We plan to spend the morning and afternoon at Ipswich's Christchurch Mansion visiting the Landscape Rebels exhibition. The

exhibition brings together artworks by Turner, Constable and Monet, alongside natural history, costume, and global stories. It will show a variety of creative responses to the landscape. <https://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/events/landscaperebels/>

**Thursday 23rd February,**  
2pm - 4.30pm at the Assembly Rooms

Members' painting session  
An optional collaborative painting session. Members to paint a section of a painting from the Landscape Rebels exhibition. Painting will be selected before hand and divided up into sections for members to paint.

Free to Members  
\*Non - members £5.



**BOILING POINT** Directed by Philip Barantini (15) (2022)  
 Wednesday, February 15, 2023  
 7:30 PM 10:00 PM

Andy Jones, Head Chef at one of the top restaurants in London, is battling debts, addiction and an imploding personal life. The pressure is already on when health and safety services unexpectedly show up for inspection. Starring Stephen Graham.

**Tickets £5 will be available Online on our website, In-person at RSVP Dedham High Street or on the door.**

## DUCHY BARN COMMUNITY CENTRE



The Duchy Barn Community Centre holds its community coffee mornings on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 10.30 am - 12 noon. The Barn is available to hire at very reasonable rates for small functions/celebrations/ group meetings etc.

To make a booking or for further details contact Anne Rowledge on 01206 322394



## DEDHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Would you like to try your hand at Carpet Bowls? Dedham Carpet Bowls club was formed almost 30 years ago and we are looking for new players. If you are interested please contact Ron Hill on 01206 322916.



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EPC Rating: C

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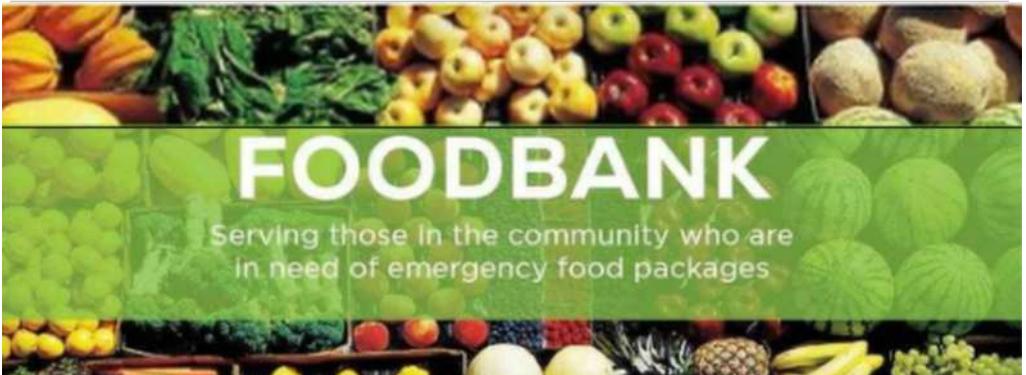
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THE  
**Munnings**  
ARTMUSEUM  
DEDHAM - ESSEX

5th April - 22nd October 2023

Museum open  
Weds - Sun, 1.30 - 4.30pm

Cafe in the garden open all year round  
Weds - Sun, 10am - 4.30pm

Summer art workshops for adults

[www.munningsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.munningsmuseum.org.uk)  
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## Take a closer look

