



DEDHAM Parish Magazine



D-DAY

6 JUNE
2024

June 2024



Dedham Parish Magazine

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DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

The deadline for July/August magazine entries is the 10th of June.

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MAGAZINE CONTENT

2. Contacts/contents.
3. Services & Church events.
4. Rural Missioner
- 5-8. Church News & Events.
9. Feeding Faith Mission.
- 10-11. Stained glass - the Resurrection.
- 12-13. Dedham Parish Council
- 14-16. A D-Day mystery.
17. A celebration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.
- 18-19. Gardening Notes.
- 20-23. News and Events.
24. Family Sports & Activity Day.
25. Events Calendar.
26. Kingsleigh.
- 27-48. Advertising.

Cover Photo - DDAY80 official logo.

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: Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598.**

If you would like a lift to church contact Sharon Sarson Tel: 07876 114418

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 need any further support, please contact the Parishes Office Tel: 322 136 and your call will be returned.

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

Sunday, 2nd June

8.00am Eucharist (BCP)
9.30am Café Church
9.30am Rise N Shine
5.00pm Evensong

Ardleigh
Ardleigh
Dedham*
Dedham*

Sunday, 9th June

9.30am Morning Prayer
11.00am Holy Communion

Ardleigh
Dedham*

Sunday, 16th June

9.30am Holy Communion
9.30am Morning Praise
5.00pm ReVive@5

Ardleigh
Dedham*
Dedham*

Sunday, 23rd June

9.30am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion

Ardleigh
Dedham*

Sunday, 30th June

9.30am Joint Benefice Service Ardleigh

* = Services which are live streamed.

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



YouTube

Our services are on YouTube. Search Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes.



Follow us on Facebook, search - Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes.

Dedham and Ardleigh parishes website - QR code




Opinions expressed in contributed articles are those of the contributor and do not necessarily represent the position or opinions of the PCC or the Editorial team.

Ardleigh Friendship: every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: 10am to 12 noon - Ardleigh Church.

Ardleigh Craft Group: every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month: Meeting at Ardleigh Church from 1.30 to 3.00pm

Little Steps Pre-School Group: every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month: 1.00-3.00pm in Ardleigh Church.

Men's Breakfast - Saturday 1st June 9am - venue tba. For bacon butties, tea, coffee and chat.

Monday Lunch Club – Monday 3rd June 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms. Phone 322192 to reserve a place indicating it is for the Lunch Club.

D-Day Concert: Saturday 8th June, 7.30pm, Dedham Church
Tickets £15 each via ticketsource.co.uk/dedhamd-dayconcert or from Kingsleigh Property consultants (cash or cheque only)

Walk and Talk - Thursday 13th June, Dedham Arts and Craft Centre for a walk. 10am for a walk, or at 11am, same venue, for just a chat.

Mission Bake Sale: Saturday 29th June, 10am-12pm, Dedham Church

FROM THE REGISTERS.

Baptism Service.
May 5th - Anna Clover

The Parishes Office hours are changing to Mondays 9am-1pm.

The change will come into effect from Monday 10th June and the office will no longer be open on a Tuesday or Thursday.

Dear Friends

As the holiday season comes upon us, I wonder if it is the time when you take the opportunity to do a little reading. My wife Dawn is an avid reader and will have two or three books on the go at one time – a novel, an autobiography or some other non-fiction book.

At a friend's house the other day we were both shocked to hear her say she may read up to seven books in a week! I am pleased to say I read three books whilst on holiday recently and (as I always think to myself) I must make more time to read especially when not on holiday.

Did you know the Bible is the best-selling book of all time? It is so consistently a good best-seller it is excluded from the popular Best-Sellers lists. I suspect there is a copy, somewhere, in most homes, even if a little dust covered. In the New Testament it says:

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right." (2 Timothy 3:16).

Many of our current laws, values and ethics have their origins in Christian teaching and although other faiths and teachings have similar themes, for Christians Jesus is the interpretive key. The bible is not just a history book, it has wisdom literature, worship songs (Psalms), letters of instruction and of course biography – the Gospels, giving us the Good News story of Jesus' life.

Many of us would readily accept the fact that Julius Caesar was a Roman Emperor. Yet, for example, there are only about 10 copies of 'Caesar's Gallic War' written some 900 years after the events it recalls. The New Testament is based on some 20,000+ copies of manuscripts in various languages, the earliest estimated

to be written just 30 years after the events it recalls.

Many Christians, whether on holiday or not, try and read a passage from the Bible every day as a means of spiritual nourishment and guidance for their everyday living.

I hope this summer you will get a chance to have a break, whether just a change in the daily routines or a wonderful holiday away. And perhaps a good read will be part of this. I encourage you to consider making the bible at least a part of your holiday reading – Mark's Gospel could easily be read in one session.

Enjoy your summer, enjoy your reading and enjoy getting to know Jesus through the bible. I pray you may know something of God's love and purpose for your life and find rest and recreation (that is re-creation) in whatever break you may have.

Best wishes
Rev'd John Saxon

FROM THE EDITOR

Please contact the editor if you have an event that you would like to appear in the calendar page. The Parish Council pages include details of the new council. D-DAY 80 is remembered with details of the concert on 8th June as well as an article about a Spitfire pilot.

Remember the cut-off date for submitting articles for publication is normally the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication, we would love to hear from you via dedhameditor@gmail.com



BERTHA OF KENT: HERO OF PRAYER

Wednesday the 1st of May, was the feast of Queen Bertha of Kent. In the year 578, Bertha, a Frankish princess, moved to Canterbury in the English kingdom of Kent to marry its ruler Æthelberht. Catholic Christianity was not yet established in Britain and Æthelberht was a pagan King, but his new bride had a strong Christian faith. Æthelberht restored an old Roman church as a private chapel for Bertha, which she visited daily, praying diligently for the conversion of her husband.

For 18 years, Bertha's daily prayers went seemingly unanswered. But in 597, a mission team sent by Pope Gregory the Great, and led by a monk named Augustine, arrived from Rome. Landing in Kent, they first preached the gospel to King Æthelberht who at last acknowledged the sovereignty of Christ.

Within a year, it is estimated that more than 10,000 people had followed Æthelberht's example and converted to Christianity. On Christmas Day in 597, there was a mass baptism service.

Largely because of Bertha's support for the mission, Canterbury became a base for Christianity in England and, to this day, Canterbury is the spiritual home for millions of Anglicans around the world.

Bertha left no writings, and there is no record of her ever making a public speech or exercising political power.

And yet, through her faithfulness in prayer, she had a huge impact on the evangelisation, not just of England, but of other nations too.

Today, her prayer chapel, dedicated to St Martin, is recognised by UNESCO as the oldest place of unbroken Christian worship and witness in the English-speaking world.

Bertha may have thought she was just

praying for her husband, but she was also interceding for generations to come. The Lord heard the prayers she offered day after day in the chapel, and He used them to do immeasurably more than anything Bertha ever asked or imagined (Eph. 3:20).

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18 (NIVUK):

Lectio 365 May 1st 2024

Revd. Phillip in his Ascension Day sermon asked that each of us think of 5 people we know that we could pray for each day that they would come to know Jesus in their lives, so just as Queen Bertha prayed for her husband may we too know the power of prayer in our daily lives Amen

“Life is”
by Mother Teresa

Life is an opportunity,
benefit from it.
Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is a dream, realise it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.



MISSIONS BAKE SALES



29th June 10am to 12noon
27th July 10am to 12noon
26th August Bank Holiday Monday
10am to 4pm

THE APCM FOR DEDHAM CHURCH.

The APCM was held on 28th April and was well attended. Vee Druitt stood down as Church warden and was warmly thanked for her dedicated work and commitment to the role. Liz Reed and Paul Brebner also stood down from the PCC and we are grateful for their contribution over the years.

We are pleased that Sharon Sarson who has been a PCC member for some time has agreed to take on the role of Church warden. Following the meeting, the PCC co-opted Adrian Beckingsale and Roger Berry who had offered to stand but, had not been on the electoral role for the required period, as members of the PCC.

The Treasurer reported that the financial position of the church is sound, and thanks to the generosity of members we were able to pay the Parish Share requested by the Diocese in full. Dedham church is a Grade I listed building and we continue to maintain the fabric of the building in a good state with regular maintenance being undertaken.

The project to replace the old organ is now fully funded and we are hopeful that it will be installed prior to the year end.

We had much to be thankful for during the year to December 2023; we welcomed our second Missioner, John Saxon, to join Phillip in ministering across our 9 rural Parishes. Dedham has continued to provide regular services every Sunday in various formats to cater for people of all ages, and it is pleasing to see our numbers slowly increasing, as is the Junior Church which meets every Sunday for children between 3-10 years of age.

Revive @5 continues to meet on a monthly basis, there is a morning prayer meeting every Tuesday and our home

groups continue to flourish. We have a vibrant church family that is growing spiritually and in numbers, and we extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join us.

We are conscious that part of our mission is outreach, and we continue our pastoral work in our local community through visiting the sick and elderly, and activities including a lunch club, food bank, Christmas food vouchers, regular coffee mornings at the Duchy Barn, and Mission Bake stalls to raise money for local and overseas charities.

Details of our church activities are published each month in the Parish Magazine.

Peter Wilson

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

In recent years the value of churchyards as areas where wildlife can have sanctuary and peace, in our increasingly built up and busy world, has been recognised. Churches are being asked to encourage wildlife and positively change our maintenance routines to become even more inviting to nature.

Not only is this part of 'A Rocha's' Eco-church Initiative, in which Dedham church has a Bronze award and is aspiring to a Silver award, but it is part of our role as stewards of God's world.

As Christians we accept this role as an act of discipleship as it states in Genesis 2:15 when we are asked by God to 'cultivate and care for the world'.

One important aspect is having a variation in grass length around the churchyard. Short grass encourages birds such as Thrushes and Wagtails and medium length grass is great for insects, small mammals and slow worms. We plan to keep the grass short around most of the graves themselves but the historic graves will be less cultivated.



We have identified an area just through the archway where we hope to create a wild flower meadow and work will start in the Autumn on this. This section will only be mowed once or twice a year and should be hugely beneficial for diversity.

Please look out for our new birdboxes and a hedgehog/amphibian house which will be arriving in the churchyard soon. These have been kindly made for us by Dedham Therapy Farm. One discreet corner will also have a log pile to encourage stag beetle larvae and other insects.

Hopefully, these subtle changes will give our wildlife a much-needed helping hand. Any other suggestions you may have will be very welcome.

*Sara Marshall
Eco-Church Representative*



**We would like to
invite you to
St. George's
Church, Great Bromley
(CO7 7TS)**

**for our Flower Festival
14th, 15th and 16th June 2024**

All around the church you will see our wonderful flower displays based on the theme, 'Bee Friendly'. There will also be a large raffle, a Bee Cafe and a variety of stalls to tempt you.



Friday 14th June (10am-5pm) there will be singing by the local school, morning and afternoon.

Saturday 15th June (10am-7pm) throughout the day there will be extra stalls, organ recitals and the Deannery Choir at midday. Becky Butchers will be providing a BBQ at midday. At 6pm the Black Cactus Choir will be performing (entry free but donations are welcome).

Sunday 16th June (10am-6.30pm) during the day stalls will be available and at midday another BBQ. In the afternoon there will be organ recitals between 12 and 4pm. At 4.30pm the Raffle will be drawn (first prize £00) and the weekend will end at 6.30pm with a Community Songs of Praise.

Free Admission/Donations Welcome
Plenty of Parking



**THE
DEANERY
CHOIR**



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

JUNE 2024

June 9th The Deanery choir will be singing at St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ at the 11.00am communion service. They will be singing the anthem 'Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake' by Farrant.

June 15th The Deanery choir will be supporting the 'Bee Friendly' themed Flower Festival '24 at St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ at 12.00 noon, singing a variety of anthems.

June 23rd The Deanery choir will be supporting the 'Choral Evensong' service at 6.30pm at St Mary's Church, Great Bentley. CO7 8QG. The choir will sing an anthem suitable for the season of Trinity.

*Graham Bell
Deanery Choir Organiser*

CAMPANOLOGY

The art of Campanology started way back during the sixteenth century, when bell ringers went from a simple lever to swing the bell; firstly using a quarter wheel, then a half wheel and finally a full wheel. This enabled the bell to be swung right up to mouth uppermost, where it could be held by the rope just over the balance. It then enabled the ringer to ring his bell when he wanted to and not be determined by the natural swinging speed of the bell.



Dedham Church bell chamber showing the remains of the full wheels.

Little bells swing much faster than large ones, so until this time ringers had little or no control over when their bell sounded, resulting in a cacophony of sound that may still be heard from churches on the continent. Locally, within our nine parishes, it is only Ardleigh, Great Bromley and Tendring who have peals of bells in a ringable condition and all are rung regularly. Sadly Dedham and Little Bentley are both unringable (in terms of peals) and Beaumont and Wix have just one bell. The Wix bell is in the churchyard in a bell cage.

Dedham has eight bells: one being the lightest and eight, the Tenor bell, the heaviest. Lou Davison is our Bell Captain and she has 4 people at any one time who hold two bell ropes each, and normally ring them in a circular motion before our services.

Lou has been ringing our bells now for 20 years and feels it is a privilege to do so, especially at weddings and funerals.

The Tenor bell is rung at funerals; the number of times is equivalent to the age of the person and Lou is aware that she must toll the bell every 10 seconds in order to ensure that the last sound is heard as the coffin is brought into the church.

Lou (together with Anne) was responsible for tolling the Tenor bell for an hour between 12 and 1pm, along with other churches locally, as well as those throughout the country when our late Queen died. She recalls it was a huge honour and one she will never forget.

She feels strongly that bell ringing is an important part of village life, drawing people together through the chiming of the bells, particularly on historic occasions.

Her group of bell ringers give up their time to come down to church and take part in church services for which Lou is very grateful.

So thank you to Lou and her young group of ringers for all they do behind the scenes; to encourage us all to get to church on time and to prepare us all for the services through their voluntary commitment.

Thanks to Lou Davison and to David Culham for their contributions to this article.

Liz Reed



Peal board in the ringing chamber



Hello Dedhamites! We hope you are all doing well and still enjoying your cooler weather.

We are currently experiencing record highs and to be honest, it is extremely brutal. It has been over 40 degrees for the past 2 months, reaching 41-42 some days as well as being in an extreme drought.

The drought in some areas is so bad that the river beds have dried up so the water we bring for drinking is literally the only water some families have for everything; drinking, cooking, bathing, and cleaning. Normally these areas would use river water for household chores but there is none.

We have only had about one hour of hard rain since September. We are praying things will shift soon as the traditional rainy season begins May 1st.

Since our visit in February we have been extremely busy. We had just opened our 2nd water purification plant when we were there and it is now up and running providing clean, purified water to families in a remote village as well as a newly built clinic for special needs children. In addition we broke ground on the well digging for our 3rd purification plant and are still digging!

Because of the drought the water is proving to be harder to access, even from underground. At the time of writing, the workers have reached 30 metres and still haven't hit water. This is all dug by hand. I am attaching a video made by one of the workers as he descends into the

well and talks about the rocky conditions he is finding. It is fascinating and truly scary. Not a job either of us would want to have but a very common one here.

Our feeding program is continuing to be a success, bringing nutritional meals door to door to a local village where most children don't eat more than one meal a day. On average we provide 300 meals per week. Lastly we had a large donation of packets of "Suero". This is a powdered drink mix similar to Gatorade or Pedialyte that provides electrolytes to help with dehydration. We've been bringing bags of packets to families in our water program as well as handing them out to families in the soup program.

This was a first for us and we were shocked at how much they were wanted and needed. We've had some success stories just this week of elderly family members drinking them daily and it has increased their quality of health during this heat wave.

Thank you all so much for your continued support both financially and spiritually. We ask that you pray for this heat wave to be lifted soon and truly appreciate all you are doing to help us and the people of Guatemala.

May God bless you and your loved ones,

*Kristen & Julian Crisp
Feeding Faith Missions Guatemala*

www.feedingfaith.org

QR code for the YouTube well digging video





Wix window

white who told them “He (Jesus) is not here, He is risen” and reminding them that Jesus had told them He would rise again. (With slight variations this is recorded in all four Gospels.)

The beautiful narrative stained-glass window shows three women: probably, Mary Magdalene, one of the other Marys, and Salome or Joanna looking distraught and confronted by the angel.

One woman holds a jar of spices while a jar of oil rests on the ground. A little extra detail shows in the distance, above the head of the left-hand woman, “Calvary” with two of the crosses standing there. Below is written “He is not here, He is risen” so that viewers should be in no doubt about Jesus’ resurrection and the story this is depicting.

Last month we looked at depictions of the Crucifixion and Jesus’ death which took place late on a Friday, the eve of the Jewish Sabbath and in this case the Feast of the Passover.

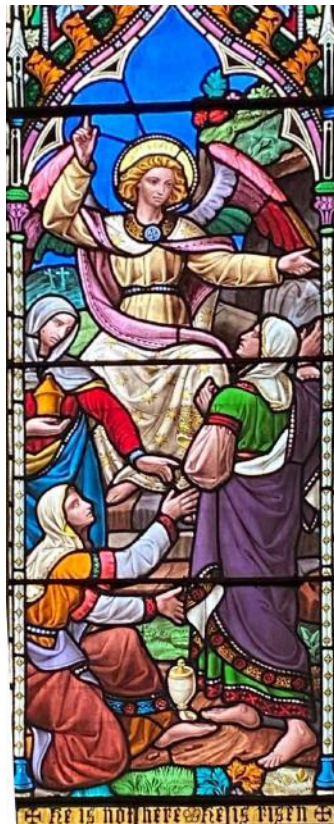
There was therefore, little time to properly prepare Jesus’ body and formally bury Him before the holy rest day. So, Joseph of Arimathea got Pilate’s permission to take the body, and he hastily wrapped it in cloth and laid it in a tomb, which was sealed with a large stone. This can be seen in a stained-glass window in Wix church. (Mark 15: 42 – 47 / Luke 23: 50 – 56)

Now we return to St Mary’s Church, Dedham to see what happened next and look at two testaments to the resurrection depicted in stained-glass windows there.

The first is in the central panel of the furthest side window of the South aisle. As soon as the rest day of the Sabbath, was over, women went to the tomb with oils and spices to anoint Jesus’ body.

When they got there, they were shocked to find the tomb open and only the cloths which Jesus’ had been wrapped in remaining.

However, they were met by a figure dressed in



Dedham Church, central panel of South Aisle window.



Dedham Church, first window on South side of the Chancel

resurrection was not generally understood. These two disciples wrapped in their grief initially failed to recognise Jesus, who as he walked with them, explained these scriptures. When they reached Emmaus they persuaded Jesus to stay and dine, and only when He is breaking bread with them do they realise who He is. (Luke 24: 13 – 35)

This story is shown in the three panels of the first window on the South side of the chancel, best viewed by sitting in the choir stalls opposite. The window shows Jesus in the centre, at the rather lavish dinner table, breaking bread.

One can just make out the 'stigmata' on his hands. At each end of the table Cleopas and his friend have jumped to their feet and their faces clearly show their shock and amazement, as they realise that they are with the "Risen Christ".

Within this main window in the left-hand panel, is a small vignette showing Jesus and the two travellers in their hats and cloaks, (also depicted removed and draped on the bench in front of the dining table,) walking the Road to Emmaus together.

Having started at the end of the Gospel stories of Jesus, next month we shall go back to look at some depictions of Jesus' early life.

After His resurrection Jesus appeared in various places, mainly to his close disciples. However, Jesus also met with Cleopas and his companion as they walked the Road to Emmaus, on their way out of Jerusalem, having witnessed the terrible events of what we now call Good Friday.

They were downcast at the death of Jesus. To Christians the Resurrection is fundamental, but to the Jews of the time the interpretation of the prophecies in the Psalms and Isaiah predicting much of Jesus' life, death and



Detail - on the Road to Emmaus

Adrian Beckingsale



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

At the recent Dedham Parish Council election, the following were elected as Councillors to Dedham Parish Council.

Douglas Charles Bourn
Lucy Goodhall
Paul Harrison
Helen Elizabeth Main
Christopher Martlew
Andrew Neil McLaughlin
Steve Mole
Gillian Irene Neville
Charlotte Sneddon

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FROM THE MEETING ON 13th May 2024

On Monday May 13th there was the Annual meeting of the Parish Council and the first meeting of the new Council.

Steve Mole was elected as chair and Lucy Goodall as vice chair.

The annual report for 2023-2024 was introduced by Steve Mole in lieu of the retiring chair Jonathan Smith.

The report noted that there had been a number of changes to the Council in the past year including appointment of a new clerk, the resignation of some councillor and one new co-option.

Reference was made to the consultation on the Royal Square parking proposals, continued improvements to the playing fields and ongoing issues in the summer months with usage of the river banks. It was also noted that there are ongoing plans to address the problems of increased traffic use and

speeding through the village.

In the open forum, reference was made to impact of visitors to the river banks and the village the previous weekend, and it was noted that the Council are planning to organise a meeting at the end of May for relevant bodies to address issues of anti-social behaviour, parking and usage of the river.

It was noted there were still ongoing issues regarding Petalo Lodge and the way it was being used.

Signage for local residents on the 30mph limits was being distributed.

Funding was agreed for the Barfields Almshouses Rejuvenation Project.

Much of the formal business of the Council was concerned with governance and financial matters and it was agreed that an additional informal meeting of Councillors will be held to identify areas of priority.

It was agreed to defer to the next Council meeting decisions about role and composition of sub committees

*Councillor Douglas Bourn
on behalf of the Parish Council.*

The next meeting of Dedham Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 3rd June in the Duchy Barn.

The Agenda for the Parish Council meeting always includes an open session - Have Your Say and visitors reports (CCC and County Councillors).

The agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting can be viewed on the homepage of the Parish Council website or by scanning the QR Code.



TOWARDS A GREENER DEDHAM – FOOD

The food we eat, and where it comes from, can have a significant impact on the environment and the area around us. Here at Greener Dedham, a group of local residents keen to share ways for us all to become more mindful of our food consumption, we have developed a few helpful tips to help you reduce carbon emissions (and costs, too!):

1. Choosing local food – eating from local suppliers not only supports the local economy, it also helps to reduce mileage associated with transporting food.

Did you know, businesses within the village stock produce from local suppliers, including Hall Farm Shop, and Birchwood Farm Shop. In addition, the East of England Co-op Food store in Dedham is proud to stock over 130 products which are sourced from local producers. As a co-operative committed to being a more sustainable business, they're proud to be working closely with local producers and suppliers in Essex to reduce food mileage.

Popular products at the store on High Street in the village include Fairfields potatoes and crisps, as well as apples from Honey Tye, all of which are produced in the county. You can also buy locally-laid eggs around the village too – including from Dedham Animal Therapy Farm.

2. Grow your own fruit or veg – whether this be a full-spread of home-grown delights from your garden, or some cress valiantly grown on your windowsill, tending to your own produce not only cuts down on emissions, it is incredibly satisfying too.

You could also you could apply to Dedham Allotment Association for your own Allotment Plot to rent for a small fee, currently there are a few plots available!

3. Dispose of food waste in an impactful way – you can make fantastic compost from vegetable peelings, doing wonders for your own garden and saving money, too.

Disposing of food waste via the Council's kerbside collection is also a great way for food you no longer use to be turned into useful energy and fertiliser, rather than sitting in landfill.

Greener Dedham

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE SIGNS YET?



They should soon be popping up in some areas of the village. Residents who live on the

“rat runs” that link Tendring to the A12 have long expressed concern about anti-social driving. In the absence of any action by Essex Highways, DPC have decided, with residents support, to trial these bin stickers.

The idea is to remind drivers to stick to 30 mph where that is the limit and to encourage drivers to stick to 30 in the 40 mph zones. By EH own criteria many of these zones should be 30 in any case. We have a network of residents distributing the stickers -so they are on the way.

However if you think you may have been missed out please email the clerk and we will make sure you receive some. Thank you for your support.

Dedham Parish Council



“OK, Arthur? If your parachute is buckled on, we will be off”. I was at Biggin Hill aerodrome, south of London sitting in a Mark VIII Spitfire, number MT818, the first to be converted to a two seater. It was the 19th May 2022 and I was realising a dream that started several years previously.

The reason for the flight was to remember and honour my Dad who was a pilot in the RAF during the Battle of Britain and to commemorate what he and the other pilots did for Britain during World War II.

Dad joined the RAFVR as a cadet in 1938 and learned to fly at Gatwick at the weekends, and in the evening twice a week to learn the theoretical side – navigation, meteorology, gunnery etc at a centre in Store Street, London.

He was ‘called up’ on the 6th September 1939 as a Pilot Officer three days after the declaration of war and was posted to a centre in Cambridge where he was taught how to salute, march and polish his boots!

The principal theatre for the Battle of Britain was in the south east in the skies over the home counties around London. Dad was posted to 607 Squadron based at Drem in Scotland over which he flew and defended.

Suddenly the world was filled with flames, smoke and noise as 27 litres of Rolls Royce Merlin engine burst into life. Sitting in the front seat my skipper, Smithy, an ex RAF Tornado pilot and member of the Memorial Flight, flying Spitfires and Hurricanes for display, came over my headphones, “Your Dad would now be checking the oil pressure, magneto output, flaps, etc. prior to take off”.

This, I thought was a considerate gesture. I had explained to him the reason for my flight – to honour my Dad’s war efforts. Smithy realised this significance and was helping me to experience some part of Dad’s flying routine.

We trundled to the end of the runway and after the “all clear” from the control tower, Smith eased forward the throttle and with an ear shattering roar we took off.

I had invited some old school friends and family members to share the experience and all six of them were already at 5,000 feet in a ‘chase’ plane over Westerham, Kent waiting for my Spitfire to join them. Three minutes later, Smithy eased the Spitfire alongside the chase plane, first on the port side, and after several minutes then on the starboard side, allowing closeup photos of the Spitfire in flight.

After ten minutes playing with the chase plane, Smithy said “Hold on Arthur, your Dad’s going into attack!” and immediately put the Spitfire into a steep dive. I will never forget the thrill of that manoeuvre.

Smithy ‘pulled up’ the plane and we headed towards Folkestone and Dover, and in particular to Capel-le-Ferne, a site on the White Cliffs above the ports and one of the two memorials in honour of the pilots of the Battle of Britain, the other being on the Embankment in London.

My Dad's name, and one of the 2,936 names on the memorials, was Pilot Officer V.A. Carter.



The Battle of Britain memorial at Capel-le-Ferne.

A voice over the intercom – “Arthur, take the controls”. My hand took the control column and suddenly I was flying the 1944 Spitfire. We flew at about 5,000 feet at a speed of 250 knots and for about 15 minutes I was in control.

Despite the controls being light and easy to manoeuvre it made me realise how demanding it must have been for Dad and the others to control the plane, navigate, check instruments and be “on the qui vive” (alert) for enemy aircraft, in all weather conditions and possibly in the dark.

Flying over the Channel Tunnel terminal, Smithy took back the controls and we flew along the White Cliffs and out towards the Channel. I had told Smithy my reason for the flight and he agreed to overfly Capel-le-Ferne and to perform a Victory roll over the memorial in a salute to my Dad.

“Don't forget to to look above your head when we Victory roll if you want to see the memorial as you will be upside down”. We flew back towards to the White Cliffs and the plane turned towards the memorial, made obvious by the replicas either of a Spitfire and a Hurricane.

“Here we go Arthur!”, and then slowly and gracefully the Spitfire dipped

one wing and I was looking up through the Perspex canopy to the memorial. “Hello Dad”, what a moment, one I will never forget.

Smithy then headed back towards Biggin Hill during which I took the controls again. “Relax Arthur, you are too tense”

“How do you know skipper?”

“The Spit is telling me, I can feel it through its performance.”

“Take your hands off the controls, and now look at my hands.”

Neither of us had our hands on the controls, the Spitfire was flying itself, it was so well balanced.

At the controls again, I was able to circle around Leeds Castle, admire the building, moat and the grounds, after which we headed back to Biggin Hill. We landed shortly later and taxied back to the hangar.

Back on the ground, I stood back to examine the Spitfire, admiring its slender profile and slim wings and smelling the hot Merlin engine, and thought about R. J.



F/Lt V.A. Carter (left) in front of a Hurricane

Mitchell, its designer.

After this whole exciting experience, it took me 24 hours to mentally come back down to earth.

Dad spoke little about his wartime experiences, but occasionally, when returning late home after work he would admit that he had been seeing his old girl friends. These were the replica Spitfire and Hurricane sentinels standing guard outside the RAF chapel at Biggin Hill. Dad flew both. I had the opportunity to fly just one. I realise now why he called them "girlfriends" because the Spitfire behaved like a perfect young lady.

As a postscript, John Goldsbrough, our magazine editor found some valuable links to Dad's wartime episode, information about which my sister Jean and I had no knowledge. We have in our possession Dad's RAF logbook, a diary of where he was, planes flown, purpose of the sorties (flights), outcome etc.

From the logbook we know that Dad was posted initially to Drem, East Lothian and that on the 24th June 1942 he



HMS Phoebe coming alongside the quay at Larne (Belfast) on 24th June 1942.

escorted a fast warship (HMS Phoebe, a Dido-class light cruiser of the Royal Navy) from Stranraer to Larne in Northern Ireland carrying the King and the Queen on a goodwill visit. Their Majesties returned to Stranraer on June 26th. Dad was 'lead' pilot of a flight of eight spitfires providing aerial cover and protection to Their Majesties.

The logbook continued to provide an almost daily record of his life until the

middle of 1944. Then mysteriously the logbook is silent because two of its pages had been cut out. Why?

John's information sourced from The Genealogist website (*Royal Air Force Operations Record Books [database online]. TheGenealogist.co.uk 2024. Original data: "AIR 27 Air Ministry and successors: Operations Record Books, Squadrons" The National Archives*), shows that Dad was posted to No. 16 Squadron on 1st June 1944.

The Operations book entry for 01/06/1944 - 7 operational sorties were sent out during the day, results were not good, 4 were unsuccessful due to cloud, including a dice. The only local flights made were air tests, the ground crews hard at work bringing the serviceability up to scratch, one new pilot arrived today F/Lt.V.A. Carter, Carter has had some experience in fighter squadrons and should be a useful addition, he is allotted to "g" flight.

No.16 was reconnaissance squadron based at Northolt, and Dad had been posted there just five days prior to the 'D' Day landings in Normandy.

Were the details that Dad wrote in his logbook about his tasks in photo reconnaissance during the five days prior to the invasion so sensitive that they had to be removed for security reasons? We shall never know, sadly, as Dad passed on 18th August 1991. I wish I had spoken more to my Dad.

On the 6th June this year, it will be the anniversary of that memorable day 80 years ago when 24,000 allied troops landed in Normandy and Operation Overlord, to free Europe from tyranny and oppression commenced.

Let us take a few moments to remember what those brave men and women, from all the armed services achieved for us and their sacrifices.

Arthur Carter

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'Full on' in the garden

It's June already – half way through the year – and everything is 'full on' in the garden. You can't turn around without something flopping into your path or slapping you in the face. It's tie in, cut back, weed, mow and repeat for the next few weeks.

As well as the regular tasks to keep on top of everything, there are also some bigger jobs to tackle this month. I've Weigela 'Bristol Ruby' at the back of one border and a couple of unidentifiable pink varieties in another. If they are starting to outgrow their spots, now is a good time to prune them. Cutting back these early-flowering shrubs as soon as



Iris and Wisteria

the blooms have dropped in June promotes the growth and ripening of new shoots over the remainder of the season and these will hold plenty of flowers in the next.

I'll cut out any damaged or dead shoots and thin out some stems at ground level

if the shrub is looking overcrowded. I'll also take off any weak or spindly growth to let the plant focus its energy on stronger shoots that will carry the best flowers.

With secateurs in hand, now is also a great opportunity to make softwood cuttings of several perennials like pelargoniums or penstemons, as well as shrubs like fuchsia and the Russian sage, perovskia. Ideally take cuttings of fresh new growth from younger plants which will root more readily.

Head out into the garden nice and early when plants are full of water and the coolness allows more time before your cuttings start to wilt. Look for non-flowering shoots and remove 10cm lengths by pruning just above a bud. If you are taking several cuttings, pop them into a plastic bag as you go, sealing it to retain as much moisture as possible.

When you are ready to pot them up, trim each shoot just below the point where a leaf joins the stem – there are hormones here that will stimulate root production. Remove the lower leaves and pinch out the very soft tip. Dip the base of the cutting in hormone rooting powder (this isn't always necessary, but I like to be sure) and pop it into free-draining compost so that the first pair of leaves are just above the surface.

Water from above and place the pot in a



Osteospermum

propagator or inside a plastic bag to create a humid environment. If you can provide bottom heat, this will help the

cutting to root too, but a warm windowsill is fine – just don't let it get so much sun that it dries out! The cuttings should be well-rooted in 2-4 weeks when they can be potted on.

I've reduced the lawn to a patch small enough that I can finally try and make it a perfect (this might be over-reaching) sward. I've already been mowing it weekly in both directions, gradually lowering the mower blades each week until I can use the lowest setting. I removed all the clippings at first, but that



Roses and Linaria

now much less is being taken off the top, I leave them on the lawn as a healthy mulch.

Next, I improve aeration by pushing a fork 15cm into the soil, wriggling it and heaving the soil up by a centimetre or so to reduce compaction and support root growth. I'm not fond of using chemicals if I can avoid it and the lawn is small enough that the next step, hand weeding

dandelions and plantain, isn't too much of a chore. Then it'll be scarified – essentially raking out dead grass and moss – with a spring-tined lawn rake. This is hard work, so I bought a cheap machine version to do it far more quickly. Once done the lawn looks horrible – scraggy and raw – but will soon recover and be even healthier for it. Whether you've bigger jobs like this or just a bit of pottering about in the borders, don't forget to take time to enjoy the fruits of your labours. Happy gardening, everyone.

Elliott Frisby



**Dedham
Horticultural
Society**

www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com

Wednesday

5 JUNE

7:30 pm

History of the National Garden Scheme

Speaker: Ed Fairey

Meetings are held in

The Assembly Rooms, Dedham

Visitors welcome - £2 entry for non-members

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dedhamgardening.wordpress.com - QR code





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Job Description

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic Caretaker to join our schools. This is a unique opportunity to work between two schools (Dedham Church of England Primary School and St. John's Church of England Primary School in Colchester) with flexible working.

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We are looking for someone who will take pride in keeping our school buildings and grounds safe, smart, compliant and fit for providing a high-quality education for our children. We would be delighted to hear from you if you are:

- Able to manage site security and be a key holder
- A good communicator and have good interpersonal skills
- Prepared to undertake relevant training required for your role
- Confident in general maintenance and have a range of practical trade or DIY skills, e.g., decorating, plumbing, basic carpentry
- Able to manage and replenish stock
- Able to liaise with contractors
- Able to demonstrate knowledge and experience of health and safety in the workplace, e.g., COSHH, safe manual handling practices etc

Start date as soon as possible.
Actual salary £12391.43

If you think this is an opportunity for you, we would love to meet you. We can offer a friendly and warm environment in a school that celebrates each and every member of their community.

Visits to our schools are warmly welcomed - please contact the office on 01206 322242 to arrange a viewing of the schools.

Dedham C of E Primary School and St John's C of E Primary School are committed to safeguarding principles and promoting the welfare of children in our care and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Following safer recruitment procedures, the successful applicant will be appointed subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure, satisfactory references, online checks and medical clearance.'

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Email: admin@dedham.essex.sch.uk

QR code to access the job application page on the Essex County Council website





Dedham Cricket Club is excited to invite women and girls interested in playing cricket, getting more healthy and meeting new people in Saturday morning and Monday evening sessions, led by our new coach, Megan Kelland!

Sessions will run as follows at our beautiful ground in the heart of the village as follows:

Saturday Mornings beginning 1st June 9.00am until 9.45am (ages 7-10) and 10.30 until 11.30 (ages 11-14).

Monday Evenings beginning 3rd June 6.00pm until 7pm (ages 15+). Sessions will cost £7 per attendee, paid in advance or on the day.

Megan and Dedham Cricket Club are really excited about the prospect of igniting new player's passion for the game, helping individuals grow their skills and knowledge and, most importantly, have fun while making new friends and memories!

DEDHAM ART SOCIETY

Come and join our friendly art group. Guests and visitors are welcome to attend our sessions in the Assembly Rooms. Your first 'taster' visit is free where indicated. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. We are an amateur group who enjoy painting regularly.

Occasionally we have guest tutors, the rest of the time we help each other, 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

or visit our website at

<http://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk>

Thursday 13th June 2024

Painting together session

Assembly Rooms - 2pm-4.30pm

This week's optional theme is to create something from your imagination. With the use of thumbnail sketches plan out your sketch.

Thursday 27th June 2024

Painting outside, 10am - Maldon

This week we will spend the day exploring Maldon. A great opportunity for plein air painting along Hythe Quay and the town itself.

First session free to non members.

Phone 07872 334729 to book

SAVE THE DATE DEDHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET 2024

Saturday 30th November 1.30-4.30pm

We are now open to bookings for our 2024 Christmas Market!
We look forward to hearing from you, please mail:
dedhamchristmasmarket@outlook.com





MRS KAY TOOGOOD

The funeral took place recently of Mrs Kay Toogood, who was possibly Dedham's oldest resident, having reached the grand age of 100 last October! For the last 2 years of her life Kay was initially hospitalised and then moved to the Cheviot Nursing Home in Colchester where she received excellent care.

Kay was a Dedham resident from 1985, living in one of the almshouses in School Lane. She was a quiet unassuming lady who became a familiar figure in the village – she always felt that her life had been unremarkable, but this certainly was not the case! Kay was born Catherine Elizabeth Watkins in Farnham, Surrey in 1923 – the reason she became known as Kay

was because she was one of only 2 women at a wartime posting with both having the name Catherine, so became Kay to avoid confusion! Kay joined the WAAF aged just 17 and eventually was deployed at a number of secret radar/early warning sites along the South coast.

She met her husband during the war years – he was a serving member of the RAF. Sadly he died in 1961 leaving Kay with 4 young children to bring up on her own and having lived in Honiton, Devon and Bury St Edmunds, Kay moved with her children to Mistley where her husband was born, thus bringing her near to some of his relatives in the area. Throughout all these years, in addition to raising her family Kay worked hard at a number of jobs in the locality and in Ipswich and Colchester and on her days off undertook voluntary work at Barnardos and Oxfam in the town centre.

During her time living in Dedham, Kay involved herself in village life becoming an active member of the Women's Fellowship Group and attended regularly with her friends the Tuesday community coffee mornings. Aged well over 80 Kay decided to try her hand at painting through joining the Watercolour Group at the Duchy Barn with her close friend Joan Sycamore. She attended for many years and developed into a talented water colour painter surprising herself and her family with her newfound talent!

Lovely tributes to Kay were made by her family at her funeral and she will no doubt be remembered at the forthcoming D-Day anniversary celebrations – a remarkable lady indeed!

Avril Biggins

MAXINE WOOLF

We are sad to record the death of Maxine Woolf a Team Manager at the Coop in Dedham. Maxine moved from London to Langham after a varied career in printing and senior management in the financial services sector within Marks and Spencer's. Once down here Maxine wanted to pick up a part time job and there the story starts with the Dedham Coop. Maxine worked at the East of England Coop in Dedham for almost 10 years. During that time, she had come to love the store, and its customers, many of whom she had come to call friends. She considered the Store



to be an integral part of the Dedham community and believed that as a Rural shop it should provide a close personal service to the people of the local community. Wearing her bright coloured lights at Christmas and wild bow ties throughout the year she tried to bring a touch of sunshine to some very rainy days.

One of Dedham Coops rainy days was when the building was destroyed in a ram raid in 2018. Maxine was integral to the smooth transition from the coop building to the Duchy Barn. Through that time with her perseverance, the community and the coop grew even closer. Maxine was also a constant presence during the COVID 19 pandemic along with the team supplying the Dedham population with the goods they needed.

Maxine possessed the gift of caring deeply for people, she adored her flowers and tended their display with great care. She tried to make a difference and many a life was brightened by meeting her. She leaves a large void. May she rest in peace.



THE HOLDOVERS directed by Alexander Payne (15) 2023

Wednesday, June 19th 2024.
7:30 PM to 10:00 PM

THE HOLDOVERS follows a curmudgeonly instructor (Paul Giamatti) at a New England school who is forced to remain on campus during Christmas break to babysit the handful of students with nowhere to go. He forms an unlikely bond with one of them -- a damaged, brainy troublemaker (newcomer Dominic Sessa) -- and with the school's head cook, who has just lost a son in Vietnam (Da'Vine Joy Randolph). Winner of Best Supporting Actress at the 2024 Oscars.



Tickets £5 will be available online on our website or in person at St Helena Hospice shop in Dedham High Street or on the door.



Organised by Dedham Sports Club
<https://e-voice.org.uk/dedhamsports/>

**Sunday 30th June
12pm to 6pm**

Family Sports and Activity Day

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JUNE 2024

- Sunday 2nd - 9:30am, Dedham Church Rise n' Shine service.
- Sunday 2nd - 5:00pm, Dedham Church Evensong.
- Monday 3rd at 12:30pm - Monday Lunch Club in the Essex Rose.
- Monday 3rd - 6.30pm, Dedham Parish Council Meeting, Duchy Barn.
- Wednesday 5th at 7.30pm, The Assembly Rooms, DHS - History of the National Gardens Scheme.
- Saturday 8th - 7.30pm, Dedham Church. A celebration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.
- Sunday 9th at 11:00am, Dedham Church - Communion.
- Thursday 13th - 2pm - 4.30pm, The Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society, Painting together session.
- Sunday 16th at 9:30am, Dedham Church - Morning Praise.
- Sunday 16th at 5:00pm, Dedham Church - ReVive@5.
- Wednesday 19th at 7.30pm, The Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, **HOLDOVERS** directed by Alexander Payne (15) 2023.
- Sunday 23rd at 9:30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Thursday 27th Dedham Art Society, painting outside - Maldon.

- Saturday 29th - Mission Bake Sale at Dedham Church, 10am to 12noon.
- Sunday 30th at 9.30am, Joint Benefice Service, Ardleigh Church.
- Sunday 30th - Dedham Sports Club, Family Sports and Activity Day, 12pm to 6pm on the Duchy Field.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday

- Meet up Mondays - The Sun Inn, 11am to 12pm.
- Social Table Tennis - Dedham Sports Club, 10:30am to 12:30pm.
- Watercolour Painting Group, Duchy Barn, 10am to 12pm.
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 13:30 to 15:30.

Tuesday

- Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30 to 12pm.
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 09:00 to 11:00.
- Dedham Carpet Bowls Club - Dedham Sports Club, 7pm to 9pm.

Wednesday

- Bridge in Dedham - Assembly Rooms, 1.30-5,00pm.

Thursday

- Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30 to 12pm.



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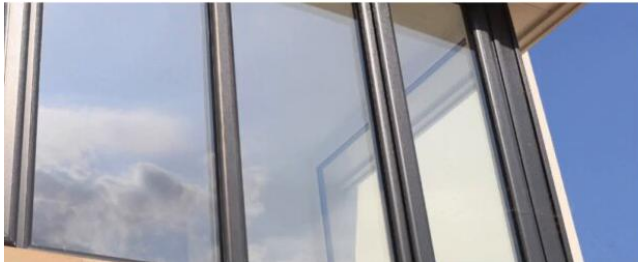


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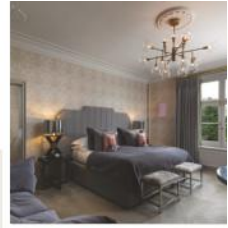
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