



# DEDHAM Parish Magazine October 2025



Photo credits: John Goldsbrough - A 2024 Harvest Festival arrangement.

# Dedham Parish Magazine

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October 2025

## DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

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## Can we help?

Sometimes things in life can just get too much to cope with on your own... **Psalm 34:18: *The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*** If you would like some support or know of any one who would, please contact: 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 Drutt **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.

**The deadline for November 2025 magazine entries is the 10<sup>th</sup> October.**

## Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> October

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

Ardleigh  
Ardleigh  
Dedham\*  
Dedham\*

## Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> October

9.30am Holy Communion  
11.00am Holy Communion

Ardleigh  
Dedham\*

## Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> October

9.30am Holy Communion  
9.30am Matins  
5.00pm Revive@5

Ardleigh  
Dedham\*  
Dedham\*

## Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> October

9.30am Morning Praise  
9.30am Holy Communion

Ardleigh  
Dedham\*

\* = Services are possibly live streamed.

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

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

**Ardleigh Craft Group: every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month: Meeting at Ardleigh Church from 10am to 12 noon. Please contact Ardleigh Churchwarden if you are interested in joining the group.**

**Little Steps Pre-School Group: every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month: 9.30am in Ardleigh Church.**

**Monday Lunch Club – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms.** Phone 322192 to reserve a place.

**Men's Breakfast - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 9am - Breakfast, Bacon, Buns and Bible.**

**Walk and Talk - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 10am or 11am, Dedham Arts and Craft Centre.** 10am for a walk, or at 11am for just a chat.

## FROM THE REGISTERS.

### WEDDINGS:

**16<sup>th</sup> August** -Toby Wilson and Megan Proud

**23<sup>rd</sup> August** - Joshua Williams and Claudia Harris

### FUNERALS:

**21<sup>st</sup> August** - Renee Robinson, memorial service.

**30<sup>th</sup> August** - Stanley Ablett (Internment of Ashes)

**1<sup>st</sup> September** - Audrey Thomas



**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.*

## RURAL MISSIONER

Dear Friends

Summer is long gone and we are now well into Autumn and our season of Harvest Festivals. There is little rest for our farmers as preparations for the next harvest are well underway. The variety of crops varies across our farms, but early October is a typical time to be sowing winter barley for a good yield next summer.

This got me thinking that, as we are celebrating and giving thanks for our Harvest this year, farmers the other side of the world are carefully attending their emerging seedlings in anticipation of good yields.

Around our wonderful world, there is a cycle of life continually happening. Creatures of land, sea and air, plants of every kind are in a constant cycle of birth and growth and death. Yet in whatever place, with whatever crop however sown, it is a miracle of nature that the seeds germinate and grow.

Yes, we can help, but it is God who sustains things and makes them happen, (see Hebrews chapter 1 verse 3; *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.*)

I was recently reminded of St Francis of Assisi's song 'The Canticle of the Sun'. St Francis, who loved the natural world, composed this song in 1225 and used a repeated refrain 'Praise be to you' as he poetically described the sun, moon and stars, land, sea and air, animal and plants, and of course us humans. He repeatedly said 'Praise be to you' because through the wonder of creation we are blessed by God with all sorts of things; beauty, wonder and mystery as well as food, warmth and shelter for example.

In a children's poem version of Francis' canticle (written by Reeve Lindbergh called 'The Circle of Days') it finishes with:

*For all your gifts of every kind,  
We offer praise with quiet mind.  
Be with us Lord and guide our ways  
Around the circle of our days*

St Francis recognises our mortality in his song, and as well as a season of Thanksgiving for our food, Autumn includes a season of Remembrance.

There will be the usual Remembrance Sunday services (this year on 9 November). As other years, there will also be "All Souls' Services". These are more personal acts of remembrance in the context of a service to give thanks for loved ones no longer with us. There will be time for quiet reflection and the lighting of a candle if you wish. Whether for a recent bereavement or from further back in time, you would be most welcome to come along.

We can join the song of St Francis and give thanks for creation and of course for the love and care shown us by the special people who have helped us on our way.

*Best wishes  
Rev'd John Saxon*

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## IN YOUR MAGAZINE

In this month's issue we are including the second and final part of the second chapter in the book by Gerald Randall, entitled 'Dedham in History'. The book had three chapters, Feudal Dedham, Industrial Dedham and Puritan Dedham.

This month sees the start of an occasional series of Past and Present photos of Dedham.

We are looking for an Advertising Co-ordinator to take over from Sara Marshall. Check out the job advert on page 22 if you are interested.

*John Goldsbrough*



### MISSIONS BAKE SALES



The remaining date for the 2025 Mission Stall is as follows:

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 10-12 noon.**  
Outside Dedham Church

On August Bank Holiday Monday we raised £664 bringing the total so far this year to £1608



**Revive@5 Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October,**  
**Dedham Church**

An informal contemporary guitar and keyboard led service with worship, bible teaching and prayer ministry. A warm welcome for all with refreshments from 4.30. Worship begins 5pm.

Come and join us and encounter God in a different style of worship service.



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

### October 2025

#### October 12<sup>th</sup> 2025

The Deanery choir will be singing at St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS at the I am Communion service. The choir will sing 'Ave Verum' by Saint Saens.

Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns was a French composer, organist, conductor and pianist of the Romantic era. Saint-Saëns was a musical prodigy; he made his concert debut at the age of ten.

After studying at the Paris Conservatoire he followed a conventional career as a church organist, first at Saint-Merri, Paris and, from 1858, La Madeleine, the official church of the French Empire. After leaving the post twenty years later, he was a successful freelance pianist and composer, in demand in Europe and the Americas.

As a young man, Saint-Saëns was enthusiastic for the most modern music of the day, particularly that of Schumann, Liszt and Wagner, although his own compositions were generally within a conventional classical tradition. He was a scholar of musical history, and remained committed to the structures worked out by earlier French composers.

This brought him into conflict in his later years with composers of classical elements in his music, foreshadowing works by Stravinsky and Les Six, he was often regarded as a reactionary in the decades around the time of his death.

*Graham Bell*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER. THY KINGDOM COME

This passage is taken from an analysis by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell and is titled: **Part 3 - God has a purpose for our lives and for the world (Matthew 6: 10)**

The kingdom of God is not a place. You can't find it on a map. Its boundaries run through human hearts. It isn't like the kingdoms of the world. It is not driven by the love of power, but by the power of love.

Strangest of all, it is almost a kingdom without a king. Yes of course, we call Jesus "King of Kings" and "Lord of Lords", and He is the one to whom every knee must bow. Yet he's also the one who stoops to wash our feet (John 13:3-5) who humbles Himself; who comes to us as one who serves (Luke 22:27) and who was obedient to suffering death (Philippians 2:6-8). So when we speak about the kingdom of God and when we pray, "Thy kingdom come", we are referring to God's rule of justice and peace; that the servant - hearted leadership that we see in Jesus may be the hallmark of the leadership of the world.

Therefore, Jesus teaches about the kingdom, and in His own life and ministry shows us what living as a child of God's kingdom looks like. We become citizens of God's kingdom by the free grace poured out for us in Christ by His death and resurrection; but, as a consequence of grace, we are called to live like Jesus as well. As Jesus is compassionate, merciful, hungry for justice and servant- hearted, we must be too. This is how God's kingdom comes and how its boundaries are extended. Jesus Himself taught us that we should receive this kingdom as a child and that children are the greatest in the kingdom. ( Mark 10:14-15)

To pray "Thy kingdom come" is to ask the Holy Spirit to make us children of this kingdom. Not childish, but with child-like trust in God, for it is this parent child relationship which is the defining characteristic of our relationship with God.

Therefore, we do not seek our own way or our own dominion over others, but God's.

*Submitted by Liz Reed*

### REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONES SERVICE, DEDHAM CHURCH SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER, 3 PM.



#### 'All Souls Service'

These are services to allow personal reflection and remembrance for loved ones who have died.

The annual special service to remember those in the parishes who have died, will be held at Dedham Church this year. Everyone welcome whether their bereavement is recent or a while ago.

## FILMS SHOWING IN THE DUCHY BARN STARTING IN NOVEMBER 2025

### NOTICE TO ALL CINEMA LOVERS

St. Mary's Church Dedham is planning to show films once a month in the Duchy Barn, starting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00 am.

The showings will be open to anyone in the community, subject to age restrictions imposed by the film classification, and are free of charge.

The choice of films will cover masterpieces old and new and be determined in part by the spectators themselves. The selection of films will be mostly in English but may include a few foreign films that have garnered high acclaim. Subtitles will be added as required.

Each showing will be preceded by a short 5-minute introduction, giving details about the film and the director.

We shall aim to finish in time for lunch, between 12 and 1pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Further information to follow in the next editions of the Dedham Parish Magazine.



In support of  
 Guide Dogs

St. Mary the Virgin Ardleigh  
CO7 7LD

A Special Service to celebrate the work of Guide Dogs

Saturday October 25th at 3pm.

Guide dogs, Pups in training

Come and meet these wonderful Life Changing Dogs and hear the difference they make to their owners lives

light refreshments after the service

 REGULATOR

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in England and Wales (209627) and Scotland (SC038979) 600640 05/22



### GUIDE DOGS. 🐕

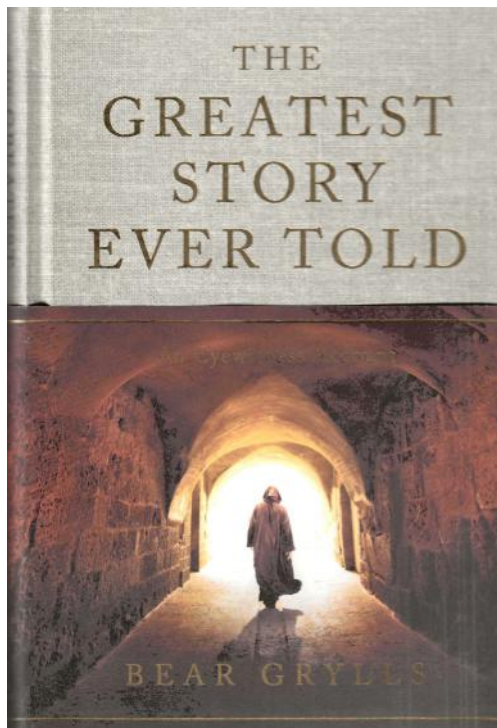
Serge update: He has been introduced to wearing a harness and is progressing well with his training.

We would love you to join us in St Mary the Virgin Church Ardleigh on Saturday October 25th 3pm, for a special service to celebrate the work of Guide Dogs. Come and hear our Guide Dog owners talk on the difference their guide dog has made to their life.

Thanks for your support, we're waiting for Guide Dog pup number 34 to arrive.

*Marjorie Culham BEM*

### THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD BY BEAR GRYLLS



This book is the story of Jesus's life, written as a thriller. It is told from the perspective of five different people that knew him well. Grylls is one of the most famous adventurers in the world and has written over 100 books, but this one was different, he said "I literally woke up one morning and knew I was going to write this thing, with utter conviction" and "I couldn't have not written it". Although he is a high profile character, he has a quiet but real faith and admits he hasn't got all the answers.

Despite being told by my family that it was hardly holiday reading, I really enjoyed it. It was pacy, easy reading with very short chapters.

Grylls wanted the book to be faithful to the Gospel stories and there's no

dialogue from Jesus that is made up, it is all in the New Testament. However, the words were not that familiar to me as they were from versions of the Bible using everyday language, but sometimes different translations bring a fresh perspective.

The way the book was written, chronologically and in the cultural setting of the time really brings the story to life.

The thing I didn't like was the use of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic names for people and places, it wasn't really necessary- for instance Jesus is referred to as Yeshua. They can be figured out though, and there is information at the end of the book.

Grylls wrote the last words on the back cover before he'd even started the book, 'May the light and love of the Almighty fill your life with truth, peace and strength. Nothing can ever steal Christ's presence from you...'

I'm not surprised it's a No.1 Sunday Times bestseller. It will appeal to believers and non-believers alike and would make a great present.

*Sally Churchus,  
Chair of the Association of Church  
Editors*



### STAINED GLASS WINDOWS APPEAL.

Please make donations to:

**A/c Name - Dedham Parochial  
Church Council:  
S/Code - 20 22 67:  
A/c no. 00297879:  
Reference - Windows**



## High Flight

By John Gillespie Magee Jr.

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;

Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
of sun-split clouds,—and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air ...

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew—  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

A 1941 sonnet written by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee Jr., a 19-year-old American serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. Inspired by a high-altitude solo flight—Magee began composing it while soaring at around 30,000 feet in his Spitfire, and finished it shortly after landing.

In September 1941, Magee joined No. 412 Squadron, one of the RCAF squadrons formed under the auspices of Article XV of the BCATP agreement, at RAF Station Digby. His time with the unit was short. On December 11, while on a routine flight, Magee's Spitfire collided with a training aircraft whilst in a cloud. A witness on the ground reported that he had climbed out onto the wing of the stricken Spitfire, but his parachute failed to deploy properly and he was killed. Nineteen-year old John Gillespie Magee is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Scopwick, Lincolnshire. Most appropriately, the first and last lines of his poem are included on his headstone.

*"Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth. Put out my hand and touched the face of God."*

If you have a favourite poem that you would like printed, just send it through to the editor on [dedham.editor@gmail.com](mailto:dedham.editor@gmail.com)



## **Dedham Parish Council Meeting Report – Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

### **Councillor Resignation**

Cllr Chris Martlew has resigned, and a vacancy notice has been issued. Following his resignation, clarification was sought on whether the Council retains its Power of Competence. The Monitoring Officer at Colchester City Council has confirmed that this remains in place.

### **River, Use of the Meadows, Parking and Anti-Social Behaviour**

Cllr Bourn gave a general update on activities regarding the river, use of the meadows, parking by the river and anti-social behaviour. Two meetings were held over the summer period, one with police and Stratford St Mary council, and a larger one, online, with 35 people representing all relevant bodies including Babergh Council, 3 different departments, Suffolk County Council, Environment Agency, River Stour Trust, Dedham Vale national Landscapes and other relevant bodies. Also in attendance at both meetings was a representative from the Boat Yard who reported on the impact of the activity by the river on their business and the anti-social behaviour of visitors. The following items are being considered by relevant bodies:

Extending double yellow lines so that there can be no parking on the side of the road. There has been agreement with Suffolk County Council to have continuous double yellow lines down Stratford Road from the bridge. A budget has been allocated for this work and there will be consultation soon on moving the 30mph sign further down the road.

Public Space Protection Orders and whether or not this is feasible. It is being considered but will need support of all councils on both sides of the river.

Closer monitoring of behaviour by the river. PC Johnson from Suffolk Police gave a report of his findings when he had visited the area over the past few weeks. A police member from the Rural Enforcement Team had also visited. PC Johnson reported he had spoken to and stopped some youths who were going to jump off the bridge. There will be police interaction with the local High School regarding this issue over the next few weeks.

A major issue was the level of trading by companies on the meadows and the evidence that it exceeded the 28 day rule. This is being pursued by Babergh District Council and a formal notice of investigation has been given to the landowner. Parking on the meadows and the road were discussed.

Peter Watson from Babergh Council safety team was present at the meeting and reported that the issues on the bridge is a behaviour problem and not the bridge itself. Signage will help and there needs to be discussion around this.

The question of water quality was discussed, there is the possibility of obtaining a QR code to display on the bridge, showing the water quality. Results from PACE show that Dedham always has the lowest and poorest quality when surveyed.

The river was the number one concern of residents from the initial survey from the parish Plan. The primary school are planning to include activity around the river as part of their curriculum for the new academic year.

The headteacher of the primary school has informed the council that the children in the village are now reluctant to go down to the river as they are frightened by what is going on. The

school will be following this up and working with the children on it.

## Parish Plan

The parish drop-in session held in July was well attended, and the submitted questions were posted publicly. Between 40 and 50 responses were received. The most significant complaint—after concerns about the river—was about the language used by the football teams. Suggestions for addressing this issue were also put forward. The results from the session have been circulated to the council, and it was proposed to seek the views of more people. Further consultation will take place later in the year.

## Dedham Sports Club

Several areas were discussed, these included the development of the Social Club on Friday evenings for which there was a request for funding. The initiative was welcomed but further material was needed regarding financial business plan before agreement.

It was also suggested that the fish and chip van could move from its current site, which was causing parking problems, to car park at the Sports Pavilion on Friday evenings.

There are issues concerning the insurance cover for the Sports Pavillion. This is being investigated.

## Tables and Chairs outside businesses in the High Street

The tables and chairs outside one of the businesses have been removed following request by City Council as the business did not have a licence for trading on the pavement. It was further noted that the business had anyway decided to remove the tables and chairs for the time being.

## Planning Group Report

There was concern that the proposed

telecommunications mast at Gun Hill was refused as it would have helped with improving mobile phone reception in the area. Further information was to be requested on the status of the planned developments at the Old School House. It was noted there are regular meetings with planning team from City Council.

## Christmas Fair

The Parish Council has agreed to support this and dialogue is taking place as how to make sure it was a traditional event.

## Infrastructure and Community areas

A meeting with NEPP is planned regarding maintenance of car park. Concern was expressed about the removal of the street lights in Mill Lane without consultation with the Parish Council. There are still conversations going on regarding parking in the High Street to make the parking an hour and not two

## Pylons Campaign

The Parish Council have received notice that the National Grid has submitted its application for a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate for its Norwich to Tilbury pylon project. Chair of the Council will liaise with relevant local bodies to ensure a common response is given to this.

## Communications

The work on the new website is currently ongoing and it is hoped to be up and running soon.

There had been some concern on the ability to access and use the new email system. It was agreed an audit of existing and future IT needs for council members would be valuable.

*Chair, Cllr Douglas Bourn*

### PUTTING THE GARDEN TO BED

It certainly feels like autumn now with morning temperatures dipping into single figures, September's equinox behind us and evenings shortening as we prepare to turn the clocks back at the end of this month.

In the garden, I've still got a few roses blooming but they'll fade before the middle of the month, and the foliage of *Fuchsia magellanica* var. *gracilis* 'Aurea' is a brilliant golden splash in the border with its small flowers like little red jewels.



*Fuchsia magellanica*

There are the flat, deep pink heads of sedum (now called the almost unpronounceable hylotelephium) attracting my bees and other pollinators, plus salvias – the deep purple and black 'Amistad' and the brilliant pink 'Cerro Potosi' – cosmos, chrysanthemums and asters all doing their best before winter settles in.



*Salvias*

Dedham's Horticultural Society also began its new season last month with our Autumn Show which was another great success. We welcomed several people exhibiting for the first time (we hope you all enjoyed the experience and that we might see you again) – and what seemed like more visitors on a sunny day in the village.

Autumn brings an opportunity to think ahead for our Spring Show (21<sup>st</sup> March) by ordering bulbs for classes from daffodils and tulips to hyacinths and more. If you're puzzled by the different classes, search 'daffodil' on our website for some help.

It's not all sitting about shopping of course, there's still plenty to do in the garden as the soil is warm and workable (even if the days are shorter and – knowing Britain – probably wetter too). October is all about tidying up and preparation, protection and planting for the year (and years) to come.

Here in my gardening, I'm cutting down most of my herbaceous perennials as the foliage dies back, though I leave some of the sturdier seedheads that might provide food for birds or shelter for over-wintering beneficial insects, like pollinating bees or the ladybirds and lacewings that eat aphids.



I've enjoyed growing strawflowers from seed for the first time this year and I'll take some of the seeds from this year's flowers to sow in spring. However, it's possible to sow hardy annual seeds – cornflowers, larkspur, Ammi umbellifers and some poppies – at this time of year as most will make it through winter and actually welcome a period of cold to germinate. You can sow them outdoors where they are to flower or in pots and trays and keep them in a sheltered spot.

As I go through the beds and borders, I'm also checking to see if any of my summer perennials can be divided and planted elsewhere in the garden or used to bulk up existing displays. This works well with daylilies, hostas and geraniums and has the added benefit of making the original plant healthier. Just make sure to replant the divisions as soon as you can and water them in well.



Dahlias

I'll protect tender plants by moving my pelargoniums into a frost-free space. Last year I tried removing them from the soil and storing them 'bare root' but I

think the frost still got to them as none made it through, so this year I'll leave them potted up as they enter dormancy. I also decide which of my dahlias to lift and store over winter. Frost and continually wet soil (clay is the worst) can turn the tubers to mush so I usually lift my favourites. I cut down the stems, wash off as much soil as possible and let them dry thoroughly before storing them in cardboard boxes with crumpled newspaper. Sometimes I give them a dust with sulphur powder which helps keep them dry and prevent fungal infections and mould.

If you don't want to lift your dahlias, you can leave them in the ground. If it's free-draining and not in a frost pocket, you can give them a helping hand by dumping a bucket of compost on top of them which can prevent frost from reaching the tubers. I leave some of the dahlias that I grow at my allotment in the ground – the fertile soil is very free-draining and most have made it through several winters.

Finally, I'll turn the compost heaps (there's three in the garden and four on the allotment, but my sister loves helping with the latter). I add anything I've cut back and add some water if the mix is too dry, before turning older green and brown material to aerate the heaps and speed up decomposition. Some of the older compost is now ready to use so I've been using it as mulch on the borders where it will suppress weeds and help insulate plants from the worst of winter.

So make some time this month to get outside and burn a few calories in your garden everyone. Enjoy.

*Elliott Frisby*

[dedhamgardening.wordpress.com](http://dedhamgardening.wordpress.com) - QR code



In 1937 Gerald Rendall published a book entitled 'Dedham in History' which had three parts, Feudal Dedham, Industrial Dedham and Puritan Dedham. As it is more than 75 years since the author died, the book is out of copyright, we can now use it for articles in the magazine.

The section on Industrial Dedham has been scanned and the text extracted from the scanned images to form articles. The second one, (which includes an original drawing) appears this month.

### **INDUSTRIAL DEDHAM - WOOL AND WEAVING INDUSTRY. REBUILDING OF CHURCH.**

At Dedham the trade never fell into the hands of wealthy monopolists, such as the Paycocks at Coggeshall, the Springs of Lavenham, or the far-famed 'Jack of Newbury' commemorated in Deloney's rhymes, which picture so brightly the departmental grades and processes of manufacture.

*Within one room being large and long  
There stood two hundred Looms full strong.  
Two hundred men the truth is so  
Wrought in those Looms all in a row.  
By everyone a pretty boy  
Sate making quills with mickle joy. (Sat  
making quills with great joy)  
And in another place hard by,  
An hundred women merrily  
Were carding hard with joyful cheer*

and on the same scale through the several grades of pickers, spinners, shearmen, rowers, dyers and the rest.

At Dedham production remained always on domestic lines, organised by clothiers, great and small, who catered for the distributing centre at Colchester. Hence local work concentrated on the Bays and Says, on which the reputation of Colchester was built, The manual work

was done in cottage homes, which multiplied in Pig Lane, Cooper's Lane and along the whole course of the Black Brook to its passage under Colchester Road. The popular description of Southfields as a the Bay and Say Mill is misleading. It was never a factory but the business residence, storehouse and offices of a leading clothier, of the Sherman family. It is of unique interest, designed on the quadrangular plan of a Tudor mansion: and restoration has not obliterated the main features. It is admirably adapted to site and purpose. The handsome corner fronting South and West, was the owner's dwelling-house; the East front, facing towards the King's Highway, for convenience of cartage, was the storage warehouse for finished goods; the Ground Floor housed cartsheds and equipment, while the upper Floor, approached by exterior flights of steps, was devoted to storage, and (as at the Marlborough Head and Castle House) ventilated by mullioned windows, fitted with adjustable shutter-flaps, to meet changes of wind. Roomy basements provided household cellarage, and accommodation for the dyeing vats, with convenient access to the Black Brook, and also to the tenter-frames on the meadowland adjoining. The Gate House was on the North front, flanked on either side by the counting-house, and offices. The remainder was assigned to the necessary household accessories and serving staff. When trade declined, it was among the last to hold its own, and from 1742 to 1820 was occupied by representatives of the Blomfield family, who had long enjoyed a position second to none among Dedham clothiers. There is no trace of weaver windows, and it is unlikely that there was ever a loom in the establishment.

The function of the Clothier was that of the organising middleman, who



SOUTHFIELDS - North Gate House (Original Form).

unified the successive stages of the manifold processes which led up to the finished article, beginning with the breeding and shepherding of stock, shearing and cleansing of the wool, and passing on through the lighter tasks of sorting, spinning, carding and later of teaseling and burling, mostly committed to services of women, and culminating in the heavier and more responsible operations of the weaver, the fuller, the shearman, the dyer, and finally of the packer and carter. Transport and delivery of finished goods rested with the clothier, in bales labelled with his trademark.

The Tuesday market extending from the Marlboro' to the Sun Inn became a busy scene, largely of clothiers bargaining and handling the successive stages of manufacture, but also for the distribution

of agricultural products.

For the development of the weaving trade did much to improve the position of the farmer, through the increase of sheep-farming, and the demands of an industrial population. In the conduct of local affairs the farmer shared honours with the tradesman and manufacturer. At

Dedham clothiers became very numerous, and represent great variety of standing. This is shown by the local Wills, scores of which are cited in *Waters' Genealogical Gleanings*, the majority drawn by clothiers. Those at the top of the scale had residences on the outskirts, represented by Southfields, Knights, and Castle House.

*To be continued*





Southfield - North Gate House. Photograph by E.C. Ray - 1910



Southfield - North Gate House - Photograph by John Goldsbrough - 2025





## THE PENGUIN LESSONS (12A) directed by Peter Cattaneo 2025

**Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 2025,  
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM**

This poignant dramedy follows an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history. Based on the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who goes to work in a school in a divided Argentina in 1976 who finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin from the beach. Starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce.

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 or our Box Office on 0333 666 4466

<https://www.dedhamfilms.co.uk/>



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As we approach the end of another fantastic season for Dedham Cricket Club, it occurs to the club's Committee that the rush by celebrity owner/ investors and documentary film makers to Hoover up anything to do with a sport apparently known as 'foot-ball' means they're actually missing a trick, and the next big thing.

If we were to pitch the idea we would sell the underdog story (of a club entering its one and only XI into the Saturday league system for the first time in many, many years), themes of identity and of hope, borne out of a new and first ever female section in 2025 and a growing, competitive junior section, as well as an interesting insight into the Business of village cricket, with at least three episodes dedicated to the purchase of two new mowers in the last twelve months (you know how TV series get stretched out unnecessarily nowadays).

Just in case that prospective investor or film maker is in fact reading this very article, we've even been so bold as to suggest some episode ideas...

## **'From under-the-table to mid-table':**

Episode begins with footage of players, full of hope and expectation (and already a little too much alcohol), each drinking a large glass of an un-defined 'blue drink' at the end of the pre-season curry night, before a montage of what may be the most haunting selection of selfies viewers will have ever seen, submitted by players as part of

registering to join Division 9 East for the 2025 season. Cue footage of the highs – including a new record partnership for Dedham CC between Freddie (135) and Nick H (107) in a victory against Boxted,



victory against Saxmundham thanks to an explosive century from Stu, and each of Nick A's 31 wickets in 2025 – culminating in 6th place and comfortable mediocrity in the debut league season.

## **'Freddie Philpott's Yield of Teens?'**

(Had another name for it but apparently it's been taken?): An episode dedicated to the amazing Henry, Will, Ava, Martha S, Finlee, Martha W, Isaac, Oscar, Jacob, Archie, Freddie, Layton, Max, Felix and Rupert, our under 15's, who together in 2025 were the Davids to the far more established, Goliath-like junior teams of Gt. Bromley and Mistley in their first ever competitive fixtures.



## 'Happiness is a WAG in the tail':

Episode follows Eva, Kristie, Sarah, Jo J, Martha W, Tilly, Ava, Kay, Jo W and Fraya on their tour of north Essex in 2025, from their first ever competitive matches in the Essex Women's Softball Series throughout the Summer, to their first ever full T20 match against the ladies at Gt. Bromley.



## 'Wake me up before you mow Pt 1 and 2':

Episodes narrated by 'Little Barrie', Dedham Cricket Club's new robot mower (kindly supplied by Stiga Mowers in 2025, and programmed to cut the outfield checkerboard-style throughout the Summer), telling the heartwarming story of two brand new mowers from different sides of the tracks, one robotic and one electric (purchased this year thanks to support from Dedham Parish Council), as they compete in 2025 for the affection of the Club Groundsman. Episode ends with Little Barrie uttering ominously 'I'm sorry Dedham, I'm afraid I can't do that' when asked to return to it's docking station.

We've not even covered our latest end-of-season tour to Kent this year, our fantastic, first ever end-of-season Funday in 2025, the incredible work, as ever, of our Groundsman Barrie and his helpers, Pete, Wilf and Matt to ensure a cracking

pitch each week - so a 26 episode, first series it is! And don't worry, with grand plans for 2026 there will be plenty to fill season 2 and beyond!



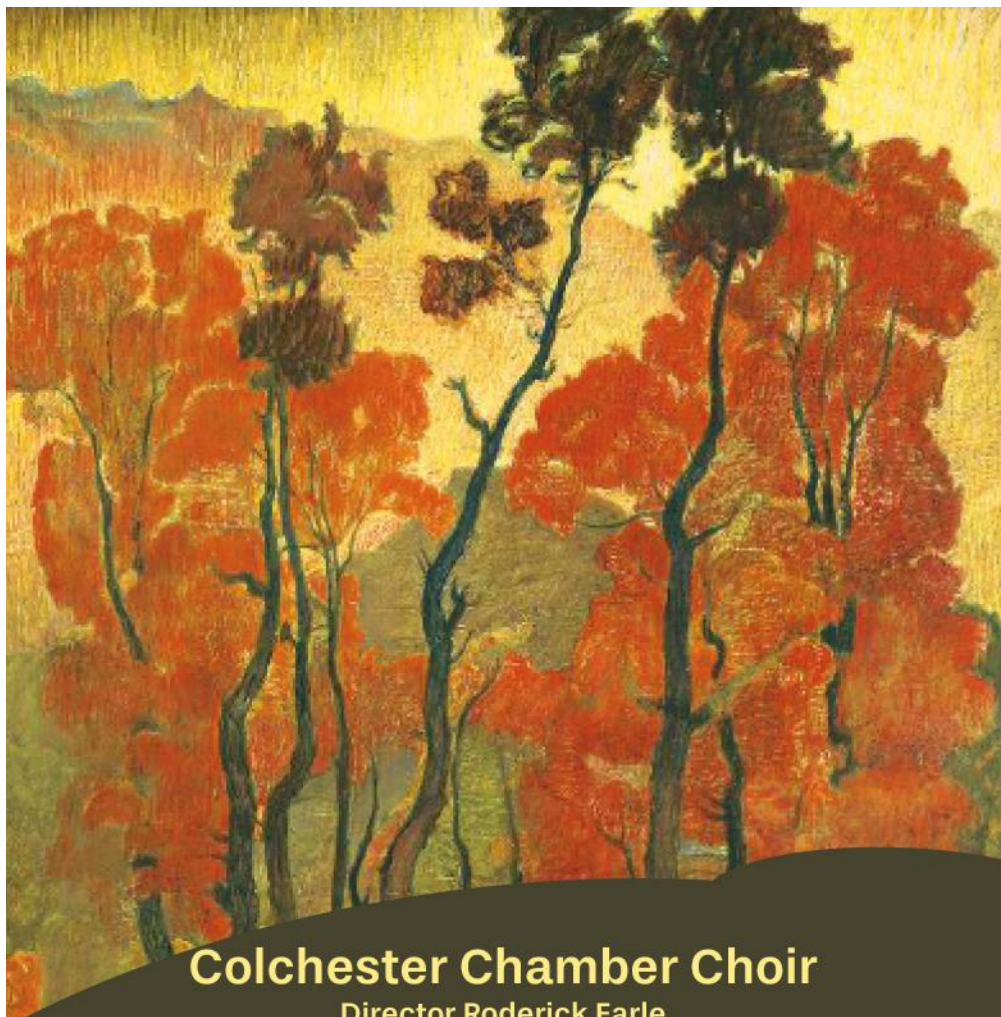
Thanks to everyone who has been a part of another successful season at Dedham Cricket Club!

*Jim Wilkinson*

<https://dedham.play-cricket.com/home>







**Colchester Chamber Choir**

Director Roderick Earle

# **THE LONG DAY CLOSES**

*heavenly music for an autumn evening*

**Sunday 12 October 6pm**

**St Mary's Church, Dedham CO7 6DE**

Supported by the Friends of Dedham Church  
in aid of the Windows Restoration and Repair Fund

Tickets £15 from [colchesterchamberchoir.org](http://colchesterchamberchoir.org) : 01206 820813/531360





My name is Arin Andrews, and I am the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Organizer for Dedham.

Last year was amazing, with Dedham raising well over eight thousand pounds. This would not have been possible without the help of an army of volunteers, local businesses, Dedham Primary School, and Dedham Church. Thank you all.

This year the Poppy Appeal runs from Thursday the 23rd of October to Remembrance Day, the 11th of November. We will once again have a stall on the Royal Square during this time and there will also be volunteers carrying out house to house collections.

We are also keen to recruit new volunteers to continue the invaluable work of the Royal British Legion and to help man our stall on the Royal Square. It is a fantastic way to meet new people in the village and can be a lot of fun.

If there are any local businesses that would like to help and have a collecting tin during the appeal, please let me know. Also, if anyone requires Poppies or other Remembrance items, and you cannot attend the stall, please feel free to make contact. I am more than happy to deliver items around the village. I can be contacted on 07941 952125.

*Many thanks, Arin*

## ARDLEIGH SURGERY

This is a summary of the Ardleigh Surgery September newsletter which arrived after the deadline for the September issue of the magazine.

### New Staff

We are pleased to welcome several new members to our team:

- Ellis, our new GP Assistant
- Mandy, our new Receptionist
- Angie, our new Care Coordinator
- Dr Divya, a new female GP Trainee,

who has joined us for her training placement at Ardleigh Surgery

All of them began their roles in August 2025, and we're excited to have them on board.

### Appointment System Update

We continue to use ANIMA as our patient access platform. Our contract with ANIMA runs until at least March 2026.

You may have noticed the shortened form has been in use for the past six weeks. Please make sure to clearly state the reason for your appointment rather than leaving the request box blank.

We recommend submitting your request via ANIMA first thing in the morning from 08:00. The system may close early if all available appointment slots are filled for the day.

Be sure to check your device regularly for updates or messages from the surgery.

If you are unable to use ANIMA yourself, our reception team is happy to help by filling in the form on your behalf.

# THE DEDHAM EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Trustees invite applications from residents in the Parishes of Ardleigh, Bradfield, Dedham, Great Bromley and Stratford St. Mary for financial grants that are available in the following categories:

## Secondary Schools & Sixth Form Colleges

Applicants must be **at least 12 years old on the 1<sup>st</sup> August** in the year of application.

## Universities & Colleges of Further Education

Applicants must have lived in one, or more, of the five Parishes for at least 2 years prior to the application date.

For an application form, or further details, please contact the Clerk to the Foundation, Mrs. Claire Arculus, at [dedhamefclerk@gmail.com](mailto:dedhamefclerk@gmail.com) or 07752201441.

Closing date for applications:- **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.**

## ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

for Dedham Parish magazine (self employed contractor)

Word and Excel experience essential, good organisation and communication skills and ability to work to a deadline. 60 hours per year (majority around invoicing time May/June and no magazine in January or August). Fully home working. Excellent hourly rate of pay. Full training will be given.

If you are interested in a small amount of part-time work supporting our Dedham Parish Magazine, please apply to Mrs Sara Marshall at [Stmarydafinance@gmail.com](mailto:Stmarydafinance@gmail.com)

Scan the QR code to send an email.



## Dedham Parish Councillor Vacancy



### YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

Dedham Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a member of the public to become a Parish Councillor. If you feel you would like to get involved in making decisions about your local community, local issues and make a significant contribution to the area in which you live or work, then this is the position for you

Do you have an interest in your local community, environment, transport, amenities, planning and housing issues, community events, antisocial behaviour and policing, as well as your local government finances and want to make a difference then please apply!

You must be aged 18 years and over, eligible to vote and have lived or worked in the parish of Dedham for 12 months or more, or within 3 miles of the parish boundary. For more information please e-mail

Carol Harbach, Clerk to Dedham Parish Council: Email:

[clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## GENEALOGY DISCOVERY DAY

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 10.30am – 2pm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Went Mews,  
Weeley CO16 9JP (adjacent to Weeley Crematorium)



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## Harmonies & High Notes

A celebration of women  
and song  
With guest singer Alice Pescott Frost

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
November 2025

7.30pm  
St Mary's Church,  
ARDLEIGH,  
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Tickets: £12  
(under 16's FREE)

<https://tinyurl.com/icharmonieshighnotes>



Hosted by The Friends of Ardleigh  
Church in aid of the Building Fund



### DEDHAM ART SOCIETY

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 the Dedham Art Society please contact us by email at [dedhamartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dedhamartsociety@gmail.com) or visit our website at <http://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk>

Here are the sessions for October, if you are interested in attending please call 07872334729.

#### Thursday 9th October

Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm  
Members' Painting Together Session – Pop art

#### Friday 10th October

Full day workshop. Assembly Rooms  
10am - 4pm. Visiting Professional Artist - Ian McManus. MEMBERS ONLY

#### Saturday 18th October

Pin Mill (Saturday morning plein air group)

#### Thursday 23rd October

Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm  
Members' painting together session – Still Life

---

### TABLE TENNIS

Are you free on a Monday morning?  
Do you fancy playing table tennis?

We have social table tennis in the Dedham Sports Club Pavilion on Monday mornings 10-30 to 12-30. All abilities welcome. All equipment provided, tea/coffee. £2

Phone: Maggie. 01206 323264 / Marjorie 01206 323944

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We have over 40 interest groups including walking (from strollers to 5+ milers), theatre trips, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, international dining, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel ..... there's something for everyone. If we don't have a group you are interested in, you are welcome to start one up. Membership costs only £15 a year.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, Gaston Street, East Bergholt. Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join.

Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday at 2.15pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt, CO7 6TP. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October Garrison Commander Ed Rankin will talk about the Colchester Garrison and on 12<sup>th</sup> November, award winning photographer Roger Hance, will return to talk and show his "Landscapes through the British Isles".

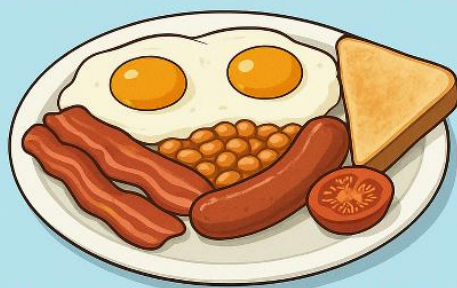
Please take a look at our website for more information and contact details.

[www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley)



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***Christmas Market***

**Saturday 29 November 2025**

**12.30-4.30pm**





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Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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## OCTOBER 2025

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> - 7.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms - Dedham Horticultural Society meeting.
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Rise N Shine.  
5.00pm, Dedham Church - Evensong.
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - 12.30pm, Essex Rose Tea Room - Monday Lunch Club, .
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - 6.30pm, Duchy Barn. - Dedham Parish Council Meeting.
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> - 2pm - 4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms - Dedham Art Society.
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> - 11am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> - 6pm, Dedham Church - Colchester Chamber Choir. Concert in aid of the Windows Restoration Fund.**
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - 7.30 - 10pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, THE PENGUIN LESSONS.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Matins.  
5.00pm, Dedham Church - Revive@5
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> - 10-12pm, Dedham Church - Mission Bake Sale.
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion

## 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.
- [Morning Prayer - Dedham Church, 10.30pm.](#)
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 09:00 to 11:00.
- [Dedham Baby and Toddler Group Dedham Sports Club, 10am to 12pm \(Term time\).](#)

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

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

### Friday

- Dedham Youth Club - The Duchy Barn, 7.30pm to 9.15pm.



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Peter Miller, Kings Seeds

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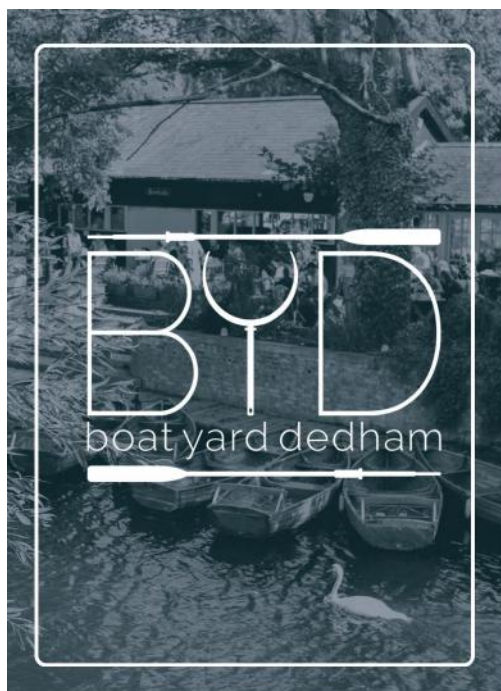
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