

### **Parish office and tourist information point opens.**

Our new parish council office and Tourist Information Point in the Dedham Art and Craft Centre in Brook Street was formally opened on 14 February. Almost 40 invited guests heard a welcome from the parish council chair, Sheila Beeton, a talk from Tracey Brinkley about the work the Stour Valley Project and presentations from Jenny Hand, director of the Munnings Art Museum, and Michael Clark, co-owner of the Dedham Art and Craft Centre. The office was formally opened by Nigel Chapman, a Colchester borough councillor. The Parish Office will initially be open for two mornings each week, on Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 12noon. It will be staffed either by our Clerk, Emma Cansdale, or our Assistant Clerk, Brian Hindley. Appointments at different times can also be made.

The Tourist Information Point stocks leaflets for visitors and is available from 10am until 5pm every day. From April we hope to have volunteers staffing the office in partnership with Munnings.

If anyone has memories of the building before it became an Art and Craft Centre, we would love to hear from you.

### **John Hill.**

Parish Councillors were sad to hear of the sudden death of John Hill, Vice-Chair of Dedham Sports Club. John was instrumental in setting up the Bowls Club some 25 years ago and was a regular member of the team.

### **A day to make the litter disappear.**

The community litter pick is scheduled for Saturday 3 March. More details on the website or from the Clerk.

### **Footpath maintenance agreement.**

Footpath maintenance, which is the responsibility of Essex County Council, has been less than adequate over the past year. At its February meeting the Council reached a new agreement with the county council so that we once again have control of the contractor and the cutting schedule. The county will pay only 12 pence per metre, the rate for their county-wide contractors. However, the parish council has been unable to find a contractor to undertake the work for this sum. It has therefore agreed to fund extra cuts of our footpaths because of their importance to residents and visitors.

### **Parish Council meetings**

For the time being meetings are being held in the Assembly Rooms. Members of the public are welcome. Next meeting: Monday 5 March 7.30pm

Nicola Baker

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

[www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk)

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