

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Letter of Welcome

My name is Sheila Beeton and I am Chairman of Dedham Parish Council. On their behalf, may I welcome you to the village of Dedham. We hope you will be very happy here. A list of Councillors and their roles is enclosed. Your details have been forwarded to us from Colchester Borough Council who maintain the electoral roll, their records show you have just been added to the electoral roll.

The object of this letter is not only to welcome you but to give you some information which we hope you will find useful. We believe that Dedham is a good place to live. We have an excellent primary school, a mother and toddler group, a youth club, a caring church community, societies for the elderly and many village clubs and organisations which you can join and which will help you to make friends. Please take time to read about all the organisations and activities in the Dedham Parish Magazine and on our website at: www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk.

Dedham is made up of three hamlets and a central village community. There are 850 households in total. The village is set in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The controlling authorities are Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council and Dedham Parish Council (DPC) also has a number of statutory responsibilities which impact on village life.

DPC meets mainly on the first Monday of the month in the Duchy Barn. We also hold village meetings when we wish to consult on important issues. You are very welcome to come along to any of these meetings to share your views and concerns. Information about these is available on DPC village noticeboards and on our website.

There is a useful range of shops in the centre of the village including the East of England Co-op, a pharmacy and post office, and a butcher. In the village centre there are cafes, and pubs serving food namely, the Essex Rose Tea Rooms, The Sun, the Marlborough Head and a recently opened café The Old Bakery There are several quality gift shops including the Craft Centre, which also has a café and the Shakespeare Art Gallery.

On the outskirts of the village there is a petrol station, useful shops and other service providers, Le Talbooth and Milsoms restaurants/hotels, Hall Farm

shop/restaurant with a 'farm trail' and The Boathouse restaurant/ café with rowing boats for hire.

The Dedham C.E. Primary School can be found in Parsons Field and the Dedham Youth Club meets on Fridays in the Duchy Barn 7:30pm – 9:15pm. A mother and toddler group meet in the Sports Pavilion, on the Drift, on Tuesday mornings 10-12am during term time. There is a children's play area, for primary age children, with picnic tables for family use, also on the Drift.

Information on the sports clubs can be found on their noticeboards on the Sports Pavilion, on the Drift. Tennis, football and cricket are the main activities, there is also carpet bowls and table tennis. Running events are held during the year. Information on the sports activities can be found on the DPC website.

Being in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty the village has many attractive walks. Maps of these can be found on the DPC Website. The Dedham Footpath Group meets on the first Sunday of the month.

The Dedham and District Horticultural Society has regular meetings and Spring and Summer Shows. There is a National Trust Allotment group in the village.

The Dedham Vale Society and the Stour Valley Trust provide valuable information on conservation of the environment and also offer volunteering opportunities.

The village has a recognised art heritage as it sits in Constable country. We are very proud of the Munnings Art Museum which is open for visitors from Spring to Autumn. It houses a wonderful collection of the work of Sir Alfred Munnings. In April, there is an open weekend for Dedham residents. There is a café in the grounds.

Art classes meet in the Assembly Rooms, the Duchy Barn and the Littlegarth Studios. The range of art classes cater for all levels of ability. The Dedham Art Group exhibits twice a year in the village. Dedham Hall hosts residential art courses throughout the year.

The Dedham Film Society adds to the cultural life in the village. There are regular films and live performances. Also, The Dedham Players perform each year in the Assembly Room.

The local GP practice at Ardleigh has a surgery in Dedham in Manningtree Road on most weekday mornings.

Neighbourhood Watch is active in Dedham and a note is included with details should you wish to join.

For further information on any of the above activities or services please contact the organisation direct.

We hope you will enjoy living or working in Dedham and I look forward to meeting you at one of the numerous activities we have in the village.

With best wishes,

Cllr. Sheila Beeton.