



Dedham

PARISH MAGAZINE

July 2018

Dedham Church Music & Art Weekend

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th July

See page 11 www.dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk



DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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JULY 2018

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

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High Street	Tuesday 9-11am
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If you have an urgent query please contact
Rev Antony Wilson ☎323 919

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 anyone who would, please contact:

Ann Shaw ☎322 192

or Christine Mingay ☎230 723

If you have been bereaved or know of anyone who has, please contact

Vee Druit ☎322 000

or Ruth Higginson ☎322 598

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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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There's power in love

The wedding season is in full swing. We are privileged to be hosting twenty-one in our beautiful benefice churches this year. They are joyful occasions that bring much delight to our villages whether you stop to watch while passing or take part as a member of the choir, steward or bell ringer.

And there has been a Royal Wedding to celebrate too! Aside from Meghan Markle's dress, perhaps the most talked about feature of that Wedding was the sermon by Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church in the US. I am sure that you will remember memorable phrases from his sermon:

There's power in love. There's power in love to help and heal when nothing else can. There's power in love to lift up and liberate when nothing else will. There's power in love to show us the way to live.

So it makes me think about the bible passage that most of our wedding couples choose to have read: *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

Take a moment with me to think about these words : *love keeps no record of wrongs*. Some years ago there was a slogan in an advert for a wildly popular film *Love Story* which said Love means never having to say you're sorry. And wouldn't it be great if love and life really were like that? Never having to say you're sorry. If only. For us frail human beings, love is rarely like that. Rather than Love is never having to say you're sorry , I suggest *Love is saying you are sorry and hearing you are forgiven*. True love deals with the past.

But also, true love equips us for the present. One bride I heard about was so nervous as she arrived at church that the vicar decided to tell her just to concentrate on three things at the start of the service - walk down the aisle, look at the altar and sing the first hymn. So that's what she kept repeating as she walked up the aisle - aisle, altar, hymn, which is very close to *I'll...alter.....him*

That is the problem with many relationships. People find it difficult to accept each other as they are, and they try to make their partners change to fit the image of the TV or magazine ideal. Perhaps a better way to live is to try to think more about your partner's needs and your own faults: *love is patient and love is kind*. These are two sides of the way that love responds. Patience is translated in old versions of the bible as long suffering – literally it means that we are willing to accept our partner's weaknesses as well as their strengths. Kindness is an active word. It means thinking of practical things that we can do to help or please others– and then actually doing them!

There's power in love!

Services for JULY

Sunday 1 July

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Dedham
9.30am	Rise n' Shine	Dedham
11am	Morning Prayer	Ardleigh
5pm	Evensong <i>BCP</i>	Dedham

Sunday 8 July

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Ardleigh
9.30am	Holy Communion <i>CW</i>	Dedham

Sunday 15 July

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Dedham
9.30am	Matins <i>BCP</i>	Dedham
11am	Parish Eucharist	Ardleigh
3pm	Sunday@3	Ardleigh

Sunday 22 July

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Ardleigh
9.30am	Morning Praise with Sue and Richard Van de Ruit	Dedham
5pm	Revive at 5 with Sue and Richard Van de Ruit	Dedham

Sunday 29 July

11am	Joint Service	Ardleigh
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Sunday 5 August

8am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	Dedham
9.30am	Rise n' Shine	Dedham
11am	Morning Prayer	Ardleigh

BCP – Book of Common Prayer
CW – Common Worship

CHURCH TOWER FLAG DAYS



Saturday 28th July
Beginning of WWI

FROM THE REGISTER

WEDDINGS:

12th May

Andrew John Cammarano
& Anna Katherine Brown

25th May

Charles Stanley Cowling
& Natalie Jayne Daly

26th May

Harvey Clarke Margetson
& Hannah Bethan Jones

2nd June

Ross James Griffiths
& Laura Margaret Manser

BAPTISMS:

25th March

Arthur Jarvis Tring

22nd April

Fred George Haynes

FUNERALS:

6th June

Petronnell Eleanor Bullett
(died 1st May 2018)

12th June

Rita Olive Nunn
(died 12th May 2018)

EVENTS

Strawberry Tea

Sunday, 1 July 2.30pm
Ardleigh Church

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, 14 July, 9am
The Vicarage, Dedham

Friendship Group

Tuesday, 31 July, 10am
The Vicarage, Dedham

Weekly Midweek Services :

Tuesday Morning Prayer **Dedham at 10.30am**
Thursday Evening Prayer **Ardleigh at 5pm**

A photograph of Dedham Church, a tall stone tower with a crenellated top, set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there is a well-manicured vicarage garden with green hedges, a blue trampoline, and various trees and bushes. On the left, a large bush of white flowers is in bloom.

Dedham Church
Music and Art
Weekend
13-15 July 2018

*raising money for.....
Dedham Church, Dedham Primary School
Singing for Syrians*

Friday 13th Kingsland Community Gospel Choir

at 7.30pm in church *an uplifting evening of contemporary and classic gospel music from this talented local choir, refreshments available*

Saturday 14th in the Vicarage Garden

3.30-5pm Local band **Duvet** bring music to make a perfect afternoon tea for all ages including a Family Fun Afternoon with activities and Bouncy Castle

7pm **Music for a Summers evening** , with local bands *In Firm and Soul Collective*. Bring your own food or enjoy a BBQ provided by Evans the Butchers. Donations on the gate £5, children free

Sunday 15th Local Artist **Gerda Newsham** will be exhibiting her paintings in church from 2-5pm and at 3pm will speak about how her Christian faith has inspired her work.

Then to round off the weekend **Film Night in the Vicarage Garden**

Sing along to The Greatest Showman gate opens at 7.30pm, film starts at 8pm, donations on gate £4 with BBQ run by Dedham Primary School Fundraising Group

www.dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

Cherishing Churchyards

Throughout July Dedham Church will be running a series of events and activities all based around the theme of Cherishing Churchyards. At our Rise N Shine Service on the 1st July we will host a special service of celebration to recognise the value of this important space to our community.

The school holidays are coming up and those with children know how tricky it can be to keep them entertained for 6 long weeks. Both the church and the churchyard, right at the heart of village life, offer endless possibilities for creative and imaginative play. To help we have put together some fun ideas to get you started:

Signs and Symbols Scavenger Hunt

Walking around the churchyard you will see many symbols on headstones that represent a person's beliefs. We have created a scavenger hunt where you can cross them off and learn a bit about what they tell us about that person.

Making Sense of Life and Death

The churchyard is also full of words that celebrate and honour the people who have lived in our village. A worksheet to help children make sense of life and death is available from the church, as are materials to help sketch and/or make careful rubbings of any interesting finds.

Wildlife Safari

Burial grounds can be an important haven for wildlife. They are a great place to explore and have a mini-beast hunt. This is something which Class R at Dedham Primary have been focussing on over the summer term. Drop in to the church and collect some worksheets to help them identify mini-beasts in the churchyard.

Pew End Quiz

For a rainy-day activity why not pop into church and pick up a quiz. Our pew ends have the most intricate carvings and stories to tell. You will come away having learned all sorts of interesting facts about Dedham and the people who shaped its history.

It takes careful management and a lot of time to maintain and preserve both the church and churchyard for the enjoyment of everyone. We are fortunate to have a dedicated caretaker in Andrew Hodson who has looked after the churchyard for 20 years. However, to truly cherish our churchyard, we must rely on volunteer support.

Church Tower Tours and Guides

Did you know you can have a guided tour of the church, climbing to the top of the tower for breathtaking views across the Dedham countryside and beyond? A ticket for a family of 5 costs £10 and can be booked through the Parish Office on 322136.



DEDHAM CHURCH & TOWER TOUR

Visit the 16th century tower with our experienced guides and enjoy breath-taking views across Dedham Vale

From £3 per person Family ticket (up to 5 people) from £10

Cherishing Churchyards Month

In July Dedham Church will be running a series of events to celebrate all our churchyard has to offer. Your feedback can help shape our care for the churchyard.

You can find out all about the exciting churchyard events planned for July on our Facebook page ...



Shine at Dedham Church

If you do not have access to social media or have a question or suggestion about the churchyard please drop your comments in the jar.

Please leave contact details if you would like a response.



Our churchyard is at the very heart of our community and is a shared place that we all cherish. The churchyard is where:

- *people come to remember their loved ones;*
- *people can learn about the social history of our village;*
- *wildlife and biodiversity thrive among the natural landscape;*

If you are someone who cherishes our churchyard come along to the **Rise N Shine Service, 1st July at 9.30am** for a special service of celebration.



If you would like to volunteer some time and get more involved please contact Sally Buchanan, Children and Families Worker (Dedham Parish) at sal.buchanan@me.com or visit our Facebook page Rise N Shine at Dedham Church.

July updates

Parking

DPC is continuing to explore ways to improve the parking situation in the village, especially on Bank Holiday weekends when there are very many people visiting Dedham. One of our greatest concerns is the unsafe parking on the access roads to the village, particularly on the Suffolk side of the Mill Lane bridge. Unfortunately there is little we can do to control this although we continue to try to engage with relevant authorities. In Essex, parking control has been delegated to the North Essex Parking Partnership, but in Suffolk, the responsibility remains with the police. It would be very helpful if residents who are concerned about safety on days when cars are parked on both sides of the road leading to Stratford St Mary would take the time to report this to Suffolk police, either on 01473 613500 or phone 101 and ask to be put through to Suffolk Police. DPC is of the view that the problem will only be taken seriously if reported every time it occurs.

Play equipment

We are committed to providing appropriate play and recreation equipment for all age groups and we would especially like to hear from young people who have outgrown the playground equipment and their parents. What would you like to see on the playing field? We will be working with Dedham Primary School and the Youth Club to gather ideas. Please let us know!

Planters

The War Memorial planters and the tubs along Brook Street have been replanted for summer and are being cared for by Parish Councillors. If anyone would like to help us with our watering we would be very grateful!

Digital Inclusion

A number of residents have indicated that they would be interested in one to one support from Michael Smith, CBC's Digital Access Officer to learn how to use their electronic device. We have arranged for Michael to be at the Parish Office in the Dedham Art & Craft Centre on Thursday 6 September 10am and 12 noon. If you could book a slot with him via the Clerk in advance that would be great. Otherwise, please feel free to drop in.

Annual Parish Assembly

This took place on 31 May when the Chair gave her annual report on Parish Council activities for the preceding year. We welcomed Josie Watson from Colchester Borough Council to talk about tourism in the local area and also a group of local First Responders who gave a demonstration of a typical response scenario. First Responders are based in the local community and are often first on the scene in the event of a 999 call. Their duties range from the critical – giving CPR and maintaining life until an ambulance and paramedics arrive on scene – to the important task of supporting loved ones in the event of a medical emergency. They are all volunteers who are trained for the role. The local team are actively looking for volunteers. If you would like to find out more please get in touch via the Clerk.

Next meetings

The July Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 2 July 7.30** in the Assembly Rooms (Reading Room). There is no meeting in August. The September meeting will be held on **Monday 3 September**.

The Parish Office, in the Art & Craft Centre is open every Tuesday & Thursday morning 10-12. Please call in!

Nicola Baker

www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Clerk *Emma Cansdale* ☎ **01255 871483**

✉ clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

July Jottings

'Chelsea' has come and gone and yes, I did watch it avidly, but I can't say 'conceptual' gardens with strange concrete structures appealed very much. Ponds, yes, and *I know* it's all rather unreal, but I do wonder if those interesting water features if relocated elsewhere, will ever succumb to the dreaded blanket weed (see *below*) that always arrives from nowhere? Red lupins were certainly the 'in plant' - no slugs there to defoliate them like they have done with my yellow ones!

For me, this is the best time to enjoy the garden; not too much work but I do have a few garden *snippets* for you. If, after forays to plant sales/nurseries etc, you return with your booty, and like me, you don't really know where these 'must have' plants are going to reside, I often sink new plants (in their pots) directly in the ground and leave them there for a while to see if they look right etc. But of course, I never make the right decision first time! Would it/they look better a little to one side/further back or even somewhere else altogether? You can of course do this indefinitely, but it does save you digging up something new (not a good idea) if you have initially made the wrong decision.

Yes, I do have blanket weed in the pond so I've been using my **plastic** long-handled leaf rake to drag it out – this prevents any damage to the pond liner. Floating weed has also arrived!! Not having a child's fishing net to hand, an OLD kitchen sieve works well to scoop it out; don't forget, all this unwanted stuff is good fodder for the compost bin/heap

Does your shed need brightening up inside? If so, save seed packets and plant labels (the

ones with pictures attached to the pot) and pin them up. Not only is this colourful, but you have a reminder of what you have sown or planted.

Excess grass cuttings? Use them to mulch the *back* of the border; they won't show there but will stop annual weeds from sprouting. Floppy plants? I *always* plant too close to the lawn so my *natural* solution is to use spare logs (about brick size) as a prop. Just push them in front of the offending plant to make it more 'upright'.

Remember the tale of the Turkish urns last year? Well, a certain Mr and Mrs Blue tit took up residence in one that lies on its side with a small 2" neck not far off the ground – no tit boxes for this pair – more like a nice dry tit mansion. Along with the birdsong, it was a delight to see Mr Tit zooming across the garden, straight into the urn with something tasty for her indoors. That's garden magic for you!

Favourite plant this month? Without doubt, this nameless **double aquilegia** from a village plant sale; rest assured I will be on the look-out for seedlings for next year's DHS plant sale!



Elizabeth Ellis

Join Dedham Horticultural Society
www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com

Assembly Rooms



Antiques Fair

Sunday 1 July, All day

Parish Council Meeting

Monday 2 July @ 7pm

Little Squigglers

Thursdays 10.30 to 12 noon

Dedham Players Audition

Monday 16 July @ 7.30pm

WEA Study Day

Wednesday 18 July

Duchy Barn Community Centre

Mallett Room at Assembly Rooms

Coffee Mornings

Tuesdays and Thursdays

10.30 to 12.30 pm

Friday 29 July

Songbirds rehearsals

Tuesday 3 July 8pm to 10pm

Bridge in Dedham

Wednesdays, 2pm to 5pm

Thursdays, 7pm to 10pm

Youth Club

Fridays 7.30 to 9.15pm

Assembly Rooms, Dedham



Films Admission 7pm,
begin 7.30pm

Tickets £4 from Shakespeare House Gallery OR
www.dedhamfilms.co.uk

Wednesday 18th July The Post (2017)

(PG13) Directed by Steven Spielberg



When American military analyst, Daniel Ellsberg, realizes to his disgust the depths of the US government's deceptions about the futility of the Vietnam War, he takes action by copying top-secret documents that would become the Pentagon

Papers. Later, Washington Post owner, Kay Graham, is still adjusting to taking over her late husband's business when editor Ben Bradlee discovers the New York Times has scooped them with an explosive expose on those papers. Determined to compete, Post reporters find Ellsberg himself and a complete copy of those papers. However, the Post's plans to publish their findings are put in jeopardy with a Federal restraining order that could get them all indicted for Contempt. Now, Kay Graham must decide whether to back down for the safety of her paper or publish and fight for the Freedom of the Press. In doing so, Graham and her staff join a fight that would have America's democratic ideals in the balance.

For information and to make a booking for the

Assembly Rooms please contact:

Tracy Woods 📞 323921

✉ info@dedham-assemblyrooms.info

Dedham Primary School

...And before you know it, it's the end of the school year already!

The second half of the summer term is always extremely busy and exhausting but for many of the children, it's their favourite time of the school year. School exams are all over, sport features heavily on the weekly timetable and key stage two can begin work on the annual school production. This year, the production is Peter Pan and as always, the story will be told through acting and singing. Songs to watch out for this year are songs by Madness, Duran Duran and the Spice Girls!

This year's Sports Day was a competitive event as always, with the two houses, Constable and Munnings, competing against each other. The winners were Munnings who won both the relay and house cups. Following Sports Day, we enjoyed a truly inspiring talk from Paralympian John Willis who has never let having no hands and feet stop him in life. He shared with us details about his 'Road to Rio' challenge when he successfully tried all 34 Paralympic sports and taught us that we are all capable of much more than we believe.

At the end of this term, the school will be wishing farewell and good luck to Mr Aylott. He has worked at the school as deputy and then head teacher for a total of ten years, playing a key role in helping to shape the school into the outstanding school that it is today. The school community wishes him every happiness and success in his future educational ventures.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer.



Calling all Superheroes!

Dedham Church are proud to support the Summer Fair at Dedham Primary on the 6th July from 3-6pm. Come along to our craft tent and have some fun trying out all sorts of fun activities. Sally will be on hand to chat about all the upcoming church events, services and summer holiday activities for children. We will also be taking bookings for our Summer Holiday Club which takes place the last week in August. The theme this year is Bible Superheroes ... and we look forward to welcoming lots of little superheroes to Dedham Church!

***Sally Buchanan
Children and Families Worker, Dedham Parish***

The only way is the Essex Way: A nine day trek

Mike and Sue Cannon decided that as a retirement project this would be the year they walked the Essex Way backwards. So last summer they chose the “wrong” direction for the 82 mile hike, partly because their Dedham house is much nearer to Harwich High Lighthouse, the



traditional finishing point, than to the start at Epping Station. They already knew part of the walk because it goes down Dedham High Street.

For the first stage they took the train from Wrabness to Harwich Town station - only a step away from their start. Reaching their next stage was also relatively easy, as the path goes from Wrabness to Manningtree, both on the Mayflower rail line.

At home in Coggeshall Road, Mike had the air of a seasoned Essex Wayman, with a pile of Ordnance Survey maps and an even higher pile of instructions downloaded from the internet ([Google: Essex Way](#)). These provide free maps, photographs and detailed directions for each of the nine stages - including helpful tips about pubs.

“Each section was lovely in its own way,” Mike says. “The path winds through the Essex countryside with very pretty churches (including the world’s oldest wooden church at Greensted), lovely cottages, gardens and beautiful scenery”. His favourite (just) was the eight miles from Harwich to Wrabness along the North Sea coast then cutting across a nature reserve to the south bank of the river Stour.



Sue says the walks seemed quite exhausting at first, particularly along the edge of a ploughed field; but they soon became fitter. Now they are thinking of tackling a larger project, even talking of the 268-mile Pennine Way.



Sue and Mike spread their walks from June to October, choosing good weather for each leg. Their average speed, allowing for stops – perhaps a sandwich in a churchyard – was about two miles an hour.

Each walk would be four hours or more, not counting the journey time to and from the stages, some by car, some by public transport plus one long taxi ride.

Mike says one of the pleasures was the kindness of strangers, including one who came out of a church while they were having lunch to show them the way to the facilities. Their greatest



anxiety occurred near Dedham when a threatening bull blocked their way. Emerging from the tranquillity of Epping Forest onto a footbridge over the M11 was a shock of a different kind.

What next? The winter gave Mike more time to practice calligraphy and this year they are planning to move away from Dedham for family reasons. But one day no doubt another walking adventure will beckon.

Max Wilkinson

Dedham Neighbourhood Watch

With his Inspector Poirot - like moustache, Raymond Medler looks the part for someone intent on reporting crime.

In addition, he is half French – although Poirot of course was Belgian:”Ray is short for Raymond, pronounced the French way without the ‘d.’”

In 2007 Ray Medler and a local retired police inspector Brian Hindley saw, as Ray put it , the need to do something about minor crime and damage in Dedham which people were well aware of but nothing was being done about.

“We decided that a village the size of Dedham needed some kind of record and protection from minor crime.”

They established the Dedham Neighbourhood Watch which establishes a list of Dedham Watch volunteers who pass on warnings and police advice in their special area – particularly to vulnerable people (the elderly and less able-bodied) whom they have identified.

“We pass on our crime reports to the police but the reaction we get from them is not as good as it was. And we’re paying more for it.”

The April issue of this magazine confirmed this fact. Out of 94 reported and recorded crimes in Dedham last year, only one resulted in a prosecution.

The largest category of crime was burglary , most cases in Long Road East or near and at the Co-op which is still out of action after being ram-raided.

Ray has arranged police visits to advise householders on how to make their properties more secure: “By more rigorous

locking, of course, and by lighting and recording devices to warn of intended break-ins. And in the village there is the problem of workmen or residents leaving increasingly valuable and specialised equipment in their vans overnight which are then broken into. Burglars are after anything they can easily sell – like electronic equipment.

“I am amazed these crimes continue to happen, despite my warnings. And even since the Co-op ram-raid, it has happened again, in nearby Clare in Suffolk, by raiders after cash machines.”

Ray’s latest initiative is to have established a local speed watch.

“Yes, it’s like in ‘The Archers’ on Radio 4 who have the same problem as we have – not enough volunteers.

“If people break the speed limit we may report them to the police – make of vehicle, registration, drivers’ description, time and location . If it’s severe the police will contact them and have words and if they offend three times the police will suggest they attend a correction course.

“We have signage and day-glo high visibility vests yet, for example, a woman driving a smart, new Range Rover at 55 mph in a 30mph limit, just sped past us without taking the slightest notice. It was on the Long Road, which I heard from an old resident, used to be used as a mile long speed test.”

More information is available on the Dedham Neighbourhood Watch section of the parish council website:

www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk and, Ray says if you want advice, he is your link with the police: raymedler@gmail.com

Anthea Hill

Kingsleigh Residential

When Peter King is not selling houses from his new estate agent business, Kingsleigh Residential, in Dedham, he is likely to be thinking of elephants.

A few months before he opened the shop next to the vicarage last summer, he was working as a volunteer in a sanctuary for 79 elephants in Chiang Mai, Thailand.



They had been rescued from cruel treatment in temples or circuses. “One 52-year-old had been chained in one room for 45 years in a temple,” he says. **There are 200 animals on the “waiting list” to be rescued.**



After getting the Dedham business off to a good start last year, Peter had hoped to return to Chiang Mai on Boxing Day, leaving his sister Sarah, who joined him as the office manager to look after the agency. However the business took off so rapidly that he had to stay in Dedham and recently he has hired an extra member of staff to help his other two assistants, Eve and Siobhan.

As a younger man, Peter, now 45, had owned a boarding kennels and cattery in Marks Tey. The sale of that business involved taking on a property in Braintree in part-exchange. Peter fully renovated the house, with help from his parents, in order to sell it on; he was ‘overwhelmed with the pitch, but underwhelmed with the service’ of the estate agent involved.

He resolved to do better himself taking a break abroad. After a couple of years travelling the world, he joined Abbotts (the property business that formerly leased the Dedham shop). Within six months, he was running the Colchester branch.

Buying and selling houses runs in the family, he says. His parents moved house 14 times as their mother did up their homes for profit. "Sometimes Sarah and I would come home from school to find walls had been knocked down or ceilings had gone. That has really helped me to visualise what might be achieved with a house."

He also finds the job exciting "because of being involved in someone's journey to the next stage of their life." But as that journey is not always upwards, he believes agents should make a stressful process as easy as possible.

Why Dedham? When Abbotts withdrew from the village more than a year ago, he said: "it was the perfect opportunity for me, because I wanted to play a big part in the community and to get to know clients in a way that is not possible in larger firms."

How do you get from a turnover of zero to a viable business? "That's where Dedham people have been wonderful. At first, I just knocked on doors and introduced myself and people, I guess, just took a chance." He was also helped by being a member of the Guild of Professional Estate Agents, with an associate office in Park Lane, London, and a network of over 800 independent agents which can refer people interested in properties in the village and financial cushion from his own property rental business, specialising in houses of multiple occupancy.

However, the property market in Dedham is notoriously "discreet". Over the years, many houses in the village have changed hands without ever appearing on the open market. Peter sold two properties in this way in one month. "Some people just don't want it to be known that their house is for sale. So if I can put them in touch with the right buyer, they can avoid a great deal of hassle."

Peter says that after an excellent start, they feel welcome in Dedham. "I have no intention of getting another shop.

This is where I will remain." Except, of course, for his travels; and for anyone tempted to follow his example to visit the elephants he has this advice:

"Remember, European tourists who visit temples with elephants in them may be encouraging prolonged torture."

Max Wilkinson



The elephant sanctuary's website is:
www.elephantnaturepark.org

Spearings, a Dedham Institution

The kind of shops that flourish in a place tend to reflect its character. And for most of the 20th century Dedham had its very own Fortnum and Masons, in the form of Spearings.

F Spearing and Son began life soon after the first world war, when Fred Spearing moved out from London, with his wife and three children. He had fought in the war, earning a Distinguished Conduct Medal, and perhaps that widened his horizons, or decided him, now in his early fifties, on a change of life.



Standing: Fred Junior, daughter May, Jack Spearing

Seated: Fred Spearing & wife Nellie (Geraldine Eleanor)

He had previously run a market stall in London, selling all sorts of household necessities, and the shop that he opened was a general store to begin with. Gradually, however, it became a high class food shop, catering to the needs and whims of families in the village's big houses, and further afield.

The premises, one of Dedham's oldest buildings once known as The Tudor House, and now occupied by the chemist, has a wonderful panelled room and several

bedrooms above the shop, where the family lived. They also owned the range of useful outbuildings behind – since converted to housing. One was made into a cheese store, with great wheels of Stilton and other cheeses, which had to be turned every day.



The shop cooked its own gammon and hams, which were then carved off the bone for customers on the cold meat counter. And there was an extensive wine cellar. Long before the days of self conscious coffee connoisseurs, they invested in a big red machine for grinding coffee beans, giving a wonderful aroma to the shop.

Fred Spearing must have been an astute businessman, realising that quality food delivered to the door was a lucrative market waiting to be tapped. He employed delivery boys on bicycles, and later three vans to deliver items, and customers could just ring, put in an order, have it added to their account, and receive the goods not long after.

All those in the area who considered themselves well-to-do had accounts, including Sir Alfred Munnings and Randolph Churchill when he lived at East Bergholt. Paperwork was therefore an important part of the business. In the early days the shop had one of those vacuum tube systems speeding money and information to the back office.

A former member of staff commented that although customers were thought of as comparatively well off, ladies would come in and buy one egg and a slice of bacon because their favourite nephew was coming for tea, or 2oz of cheese to go with their husband's glass of port at night. And not all those who considered themselves socially superior actually paid their bills promptly when presented. Bailiffs had to be called in on at least one occasion.



Son Jack went into the army, then came out and was the mainstay of the shop in due course. His brother Fred also went into the army, then joined Ind Coope and Grants of St James's, so oversaw the wine side of the business. In the fifties, Jack Spearing engaged Dedham architect Raymond Erith to build him a house at Lamb Corner. He also bought a cottage at the top of Grove Hill, and had Erith build two more, as tied houses for staff.

In a more snobbish age, there was a definite divide between villagers who shopped at the Co-op, and those who wouldn't dream of setting foot in it. But also, in a time when the Co-op was fairly limited in its stock, the good and sophisticated food on offer at Spearings was simply unavailable elsewhere in the locality. Fred Spearing's daunting wife, seemingly known as Nellie, had a tyrannical reputation, and ensured that strict social priorities were observed in the shop itself. One villager (Avril Biggins) recalls that when sent by the school headmistress to buy two slices of ham off the bone, she had to wait while anyone

considered more important, or simply older, was served first.

The business was valued by non customers as a source of jobs, employing some 25 people in its heyday, down to about eight towards the end. Christmas time was tremendously busy, with the shop window elaborately dressed, and orders crowding in. It gave an opportunity for local youngsters to earn some money. Not a lot. The son of David Whybrow, Provisions Manager, recalls receiving sixpence a day for helping to sort out the Christmas orders for delivery and collection.

By the late 1980's supermarkets were a growing threat and the business declined, as Jack Spearing reached old age. He died in 1985 and Spearings was sold twice in quick succession, the second owner creating houses and flats from the various buildings, before selling to Martin Hogg's China from Lavenham. Resentful at losing a cherished shop, no villagers darkened its door, and it quickly closed. In due course, Jack and Phyllis Phillips moved their pharmacy from Royal Square into the premises, and it has been a chemist ever since.

Businesses flourish when their time is ripe. Spearings suited Dedham, and Dedham suited Spearings. The shop was an institution, at the heart of the village for nearly seventy years. It's rather sad that the only trace now of the Spearing name is the gravestone in Dedham churchyard of founder Fred and his formidable wife. His tribute reads, *'Life's work well done'*, and hers, possibly with a touch of humour, *'Now cometh rest'*.

Max Wilkinson

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MUSIC

Sunday 1 July

Concerts at Cratfield, **Leonore Piano Trio**, 3pm at Cratfield Church

Tuesday 3 July

Christopher Weston (piano), 1.10pm, St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich

Wednesday 4 July

Cello Favourites, 11.30am, at The Orwell Hotel, Felixstowe

Maxim Vengerov (violin), 7.30pm at Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Saturday 7 July

Phoenix Singers, **Brahms's Requiem and Poulenc's Gloria** for choir, soloists and two pianos, 7.30pm at Framlingham College

St Botolph's Music Society, **Hervey Benham Young Soloists**, 7.30pm at St Botolphs Colchester

Sunday 8 July

Kelvedon Singers **Summer concert**, 6.30pm at Coggeshall Church

Tuesday 10 July

Friends of the Moot Hall, Organ **Recital by James Davy**, 1pm at Moot Hall Colchester

Jacob Ewens (tenor), includes Beethoven: *An die ferne Geliebte* op.98, 1.10pm St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich

Saturday 14 July

Aquarius Singers Bury St Edmunds Music for a summer's evening, 7.30pm at Stanningfield Church

West Bergholt Concert Band **Open**

Rehearsal, 2pm at St Botolph's, Colchester

West Bergholt Concert Band **Celebration: 40 Years of Music**, 7.30pm at St Botolph's, Colchester

Sunday 15 July

Kingfisher Ensemble, **A Summer Serenade** with Strings, Flute & Oboe, 2.45pm at Lion Walk Church, Colchester

Tuesday 17 July

Oliver Pigram (clarinet), Andrew Leach (piano), 1.10pm, St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich

Tuesday 24 July

James Davy (organ), 1.10pm, St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich

Saturday 28 July

Triorca Orchestra- international youth orchestra, 7.30pm, Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Tuesday 31 July

Zephyr Baroque (wind trio), 1.10pm, St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich

Snape Proms

Throughout August, see full details in next months Parish Magazine events



Stour Valley Men's Probus Club

Recent Meetings

Dr John Knight spoke to us on 6 June on the life of "John Betjeman "The Man & His Poetry" and on 20 June Chris Parfitt presented "A Portrait of a Suffolk River". Both meetings were much enjoyed by members.

Future Meetings & Diary Dates

On 4th July John Field will introduce us to "The Treasures of Ipswich". We hold our Summer Buffet at The popular Haywain on 18th July when our spouses and Probos Widows join us for what is sure to be an enjoyable event and a tasty meal.

We don't meet in August and return in the autumn on Wednesday 5 September when Tracey Mackneww of the Giggly Pie Co will present her "Life Story". Then on Wednesday 19 September David Ablewhite will return to tell us about "The Other Prince William".

Meeting Venue: We meet at the convenient St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree CO11 1EB

New members are welcomed

Our Club endeavours to be simple in structure, be free of the constraints and obligations of service clubs, and involve members to a minimal cost. The club is directed primarily to providing fellowship between members who are compatible with each other, and provide the opportunity for development of acquaintances.

New members are welcomed by Stour Valley Men's Probos Club, we meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Manningtree at 10 for 10.30am. Please contact Speaker Secretary Dave Carman on 01255 880202 for further details.



Stour Valley U3A

Recent Meetings

On Wednesday 13 June Tony Diamond's subject was "Chocolate". He presented the history of the colourful discovery of chocolate and the spread of the hot drink in Europe, its astonishing aspects and an overview of its financial importance to UK.

Future Meetings & Diary Dates

"Around the World in a Container Ship" is the interesting talk by Peter Hesketh, a former Police Officer & Merchant Navy Purser, on Wednesday 11 July. As a lone passenger for around 4 months it positively was not a cruise. He explains the attraction of and comments on, life at sea when the ship spends so little time in port.

As suggested by Members we are introducing our first August meeting, on Wednesday 8th, when Tania Harrington MA, artist, art lover and researcher will talk on "Art Attack- A History of Vandalism In Art". She will look at works of art that have been vandalised over the years and the reasons behind these criminal attacks, divided into Political Motivations, Mad Attacks and Artist Attacks. It will be a serious, at times disturbing, but also humorous illustrated talk.

On 12 September Taff Gillingham, Historian, will present a very British view on "Remembrance And The Great War". Taff advises film makers emphasising the need for historical accuracy on the 1914/18 War.

Membership: Our main purpose is to encourage lifelong learning for those who are no longer in full time employment and emphasis is always placed on making learning active and fun as well as helping in developing friendships.

We have a wide range of groups including language study, country walking, computer studies and gardens, churches and historic buildings visits. In the main, membership is drawn from communities in the lower Stour Valley and adjacent areas including Brantham, Capel St Mary, Dedham, East Bergholt, Holbrook, Lawford, Manningtree, Raydon, & Stratford St Mary.

We are affiliated to the Third Age Trust, have over 350 members and 40 groups. For further information please visit www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk where membership secretary Gillian Gibbs may be contacted.

Meeting Venue: We meet at The Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TP at 2 for 2.15pm. Annual membership costs £12 a year and this entitles members to attend the meetings that take place on the second Wednesday of each month, except August and December.

Remember It's never too late to learn! Join over 400,000 members across over 1,000 U3As throughout the UK today!

Clacton Choral do Lloyd Webber & Lionel Bart!

Crossing over from Classical music into the fun of family-friendly, West End musicals for this concert, **Clacton Choral's' Summer Show!** opens with Gilli Dulieu's new arrangement of five of the best-known songs from Lionel Bart's 'Oliver!' followed by a full concert performance of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'.

This was the first Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical to be performed publicly, and it is often chosen for schools to sing, because of its familiar themes and

catchy music. Clacton Choral will have a real band on hand to accompany the songs, with David Mitchell on piano, Phil Dulieu on guitar, Peter Thorne on bass and Jeremy Price on drums.

You are promised a summer's afternoon of pure, toe-tapping musical enjoyment.

The concert, on **Saturday 7th July at 5.00pm at St James' Church**, Tower Road, Clacton CO15 1DA, will also showcase the solo talents of members of the choir, in other well-known songs from the shows.

There will be tea and cakes to enjoy after the show; **tickets are £10 each** and are available from 01255 424568

johnkedge@tiscali.co.uk and on the door.

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JOSEPH
and the
Amazing **TECHNICOLOUR** Dreamcoat

plus other songs from the shows,
including a new medley from **Oliver!**

David Mitchell : Piano
Phil Dulieu : Guitar
Peter Thorne : Bass
Jerry Price : Drums

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Gilli Dulieu

SATURDAY 7 JULY 2018 at 5.00pm
St James' Church, Tower Road, Clacton on Sea CO15 1DA

Tickets £10 (includes programme) in aid of St Helena Hospice
from 01255 424568 or johnkedge@tiscali.co.uk and on the door
Tea and cakes will be available after the concert

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The Clacton Choral Society is a UK registered charity No 298426
www.clacton-choral-society.org.uk

Summer Lecture: Tiananmen 1989: China, the massacre and the terrible legacy

Dedham WEA is holding a day school in the Assembly Rooms on **July 18th** from 10 am - 3.30 pm. **Members and guests welcome.** The tutor for the day is author and historian Dr Mark Felton who will be giving an illustrated talk on 'Tiananmen 1989: China, the Massacre, and the Terrible Legacy'. The day will examine the events of the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989 and place into the context of modern Chinese history. Mark has lived and taught in China for many years and has written several books on various aspects of China's fascinating history.

The course is £12 which includes light refreshments. For further details or to reserve a place please contact Colin Biggins on 322565 or Ruth Huggins on 322598.

Dr. Felton, whose books on World War II and other historical subjects, including two currently being made into Hollywood movies, often hit the headlines in the UK and US, lectured in China for a decade, witnessing first hand many important changes and trends in Chinese society.

Lecturing at prominent universities in Shanghai, he recalls the almost complete ignorance about the Tiananmen Square Massacre among students born around the time of this pivotal event, signifying the success of the Chinese policy to gloss over this dark period in Communist Party and national history.

The day school will explain how China opened up after the death of Chairman Mao in 1976, following the chaos of the Cultural Revolution and the removal from power of

the infamous 'Gang of Four' led by Mao's last wife. Felton will explain how the new leader Deng Xiaoping encouraged some reform and debate in an otherwise highly authoritarian society, and how the student protest movement was created by tragic events as the government itself was driven by internal debate about whether to reform or regress, those peaceful protests grew into something the government feared. Just how close was China to anarchy and even revolution in the summer of 1989? The protests spread to over 400 cities across China, with widespread sympathy for the students' cause among ordinary citizens and academics.

The massacre itself will be examined, showing how extensive the killings were in Beijing and elsewhere, as well as the massive crackdown and repression that has followed up to the present day. The day school will bring Chinese history bang up to date by examining the authoritarian policies of the new leader of China, Xi Jinping, who has disturbingly had himself declared president of life, and the lasting impact of the Tiananmen Square Massacre on Chinese life, politics, media, the internet and university education into the 21st century.

As China continues its economic and military rise to superpower status, it has begun, under President Xi, to slide towards increasing authoritarianism rather than more liberalisation of politics and society, with potentially global consequences. The same political clique that unleashed the tanks on unarmed students in 1989 remains in total power today.

Understanding China's turbulent recent history will help us to understand modern China today, a society still profoundly effected by the dark events that occurred in Tiananmen Square almost three decades ago.

Mark Felton



The Children's Society

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Children's Society Boxes

A big thank you to all those people who diligently collect all their small change for the Children's Society.

This year we have raised **£384** which is slightly more than last year.

If anyone would like a box please ring Ruth on 322598