

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2020



Dedham in lockdown

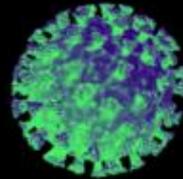
Online and available from Church porches, Dedham Co-op
or by post, contact stmaryda@gmail.com



HM Government

NHS

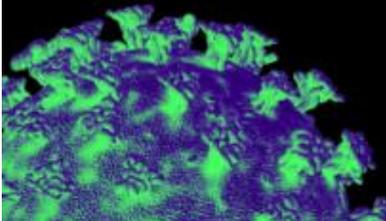
CORONAVIRUS **STAY AT HOME** **SAVE LIVES**



Anyone can spread Coronavirus.

The only reasons to leave home are:

- ✔ To shop for basic necessities or pick up medicine
- ✔ To travel to work when you absolutely cannot work from home
- ✔ To exercise once a day, alone or with members of your household
- ✘ Do not meet others, even friends or family



CORONAVIRUS

**STAY HOME
PROTECT
THE NHS
SAVE LIVES**



Dedham and Ardleigh



during the Coronavirus pandemic

01206 322025

Please leave a message with your name, phone number and what you would like help with and someone will get back to you the same day. *For example you may like help to get shopping, or a prescription, or just to have a friendly chat with someone!*

Can we pray for you?

Please send your prayer requests to
stmarydaprayer@gmail.com



DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT
ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERY
SITUATION, BY PRAYER AND
PETITION, WITH
THANKSGIVING, PRESENT
YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD.

Philippians 4:6

CrossCards



DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1876

MAY 2020

The deadline for magazine entries is the 10th of the month

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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From the register: Daniel Blyth WRIGHT, burial 8 April 2020



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Dedham and Ardleigh parishes

If you would like a lift to church contact Ann Shaw ☎322 192
or Ruth Higginson ☎322 598

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: 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

First Steps: Want to get back involved with church but don't know where to start?

Contact Liz and John Reed ☎323770



**VE DAY 75th Anniversary
Celebrations**

**DEDHAM
STAY AT HOME
STREET PARTY
Friday 8th May 2020**

Commemorate the end of WW2
by celebrating with your family
& neighbours & enjoy a picnic
in your front garden...

*Toast the nation at 3pm with a glass of
whatever you have*



Feeling overwhelmed?



It was Harold Wilson who allegedly said that ‘a week is a long time in politics’. In these recent momentous days, it looks as if that should be reduced to one day.

In the space of a very short time, life has been turned upside-down. Some of us are experiencing the death of loved ones, and are grieving without the physical presence of our family and friends. Work, business life, school, daily routines, leisure activities, shopping – have changed for all of us, almost overnight. It’s easy to see why our nation – nay,

our world – is uneasy. You may feel it yourself, identify it in friends and colleagues, or your adult children who are back living with you.

We’re experiencing what theologian David Ford has called ‘multiple overwhelmings’. Whether personally, professionally, or politically, it’s one thing to have a single event that knocks us off our feet. But what if the knocks continue to come thick and fast? Is it any wonder we’re confused, anxious, distrustful, and fearful?

In all this, though, shafts of light manage to break through – our care for our neighbours, the great support for our villages Helpline (01206 322025), the sacrifice of our NHS and care workers, the efforts of those businesses who are still able to trade to keep us fed and provided for, the rainbows in our windows saying more than words could ever express, the conversations and concern expressed for each other as we queue patiently outside the Coop.

and crush us, others are life-giving and transformative. As David Ford says, the wisest way to cope is ‘not to expect to be in control of everything’, but ‘to live amidst the overwhelmings’ in a way that lets one of them shape the others.

For Christians we have just had a season of remembering that Jesus himself embodied ‘multiple overwhelmings’ – baptised in the Jordan, driven into the wilderness, tempted by the devil. Then, at the climax of his life he was betrayed, deserted, tortured and crucified. But, as Ford writes, ‘then came the resurrection, the most disorienting and transformative overwhelming of all’. This is biggest hope that Christianity offers our world – in the midst of death there is life *(to misquote the Book of Common Prayer*

which reminds us its true the other way round too)

What might it feel like at this time to be overwhelmed with an assurance of God’s love? Many of us who wouldn’t call ourselves regular Christians nevertheless speak about experiencing that love and peace when we come into our churches. While sadly we don’t have access to them at this time there’s nothing stopping us from centring ourselves right now and asking for an experience of God’s love. *Go on, give it a go right now.* In a New Testament letter we read - *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.* | John 4 verse 18

In my experience people who are overwhelmed by love are empowered to be generous, grateful, prayerful, and desiring to see others thrive, even if it comes at their expense. As Boris Johnson reminded us so recently, its love that powers our NHS.

***God bless and take care
Reverend Antony Wilson***



Christian Aid & Coronavirus

In the space of just a few months, the coronavirus pandemic has caused a seismic shift in society.

The outbreak has affected all spheres of life. It has brought suffering and uncertainty for so many, both here and overseas, taking centre stage in thoughts, conversations and prayers.

As individuals, families, communities and organisations, the crisis continues to have a significant impact on how we go about our daily business. We have all had to adapt to new ways of living.

In these challenging times many churches, including our own in Dedham, have already made bold steps, putting services online and harnessing technology and social media to reach out to the community.

In the same way, Christian Aid has also been thinking creatively how best to ensure it can continue standing together with the most vulnerable and marginalised people – like those I

recently visited in Ethiopia - during this time of global crisis. This is particularly important as Christian Aid Week 2020 approaches in May.

In January, I visited communities in rural South Omo, southern Ethiopia, where the help of Christian Aid and its local partner organisations is a vital lifeline. Recurring exposure to intense droughts, floods, landslides and wild fires have devastated this part of the country and poses the greatest threat to local populations. With climate change having a grave impact on crop production, water availability and cattle, without interventions many are facing a very uncertain future.

Thankfully, communities are learning to adapt, with the support of Christian Aid. Many are growing crops that can better withstand the harsher conditions, and community ponds are providing much-needed water sources for cattle and farming when the rains fail to arrive.

Each year, Christian Aid Week brings together tens of thousands of

committed volunteers across Britain and Ireland to raise funds in support of people living in poverty, injustice and inequality across the world.

Now, more so than ever, Christian Aid Week provides an important opportunity to celebrate and share the life-saving work that brings hope to people the world over.

In 2019 Christian Aid Week raised over £7.5m through a combination of church collections, house-to-house, delivery-only fundraising and events such as Big Brekkies.

This year, many Christian Aid supporters will have already dedicated a significant amount of their time and energy planning these initiatives.

Not surprisingly, the Covid-19 situation has meant that much of this usual fundraising cannot go ahead for Christian Aid Week 2020 (10-16 May). Christian Aid values its volunteers enormously and wants to ensure people's safety when fundraising.

With this in mind, the charity is building a vibrant, virtual Christian Aid Week to help people in Britain and Ireland show love for neighbours near and far, as a global family, in these challenging times. Christian Aid has developed a suite of creative new ideas, guides and resources, to inspire people to fundraise and connect with their community, creatively and virtually, while respecting social distancing measures.

people run their own virtual event or fundraiser, organise a virtual quiz evening, and even hold a virtual church service using a range of specially prepared worship resources.

Individuals will be able to sign up for unique events during Christian Aid Week itself from 10-16 May, such as a daily quiz and live stream worship events. Christian Aid will also be offering an 'e-envelope', offering a digital way for people to share the Christian Aid Week story with family and friends, and ask for a donation.

In this way Christian Aid hopes that its dedicated supporters will be able to continue their support, prayer, engagement and fundraising.

Christian Aid is inviting people to unite in prayer at this time: a collection of prayers for the current coronavirus situation are available online. These include: prayers of thanksgiving and intercession; a prayer for times of isolation; a prayer for medical workers everywhere; a prayer for the global pandemic; a prayer for the church.

Please keep an eye on caweek.org/virtualresources for up-to-the minute information and resources as they launch. Christian Aid prayers are online: christianaid.org.uk/pray/churches/coronavirus-prayers

Melanie Hargreaves

The resources include guides to help

**CORONAVIRUS
PANDEMIC
DEDHAM & ARDLEIGH
HELPLINE
01206 322025**

The Dedham & Ardleigh Helpline is a Community initiative inspired by the Rev'd Antony Wilson to provide a vital service for the people of our two villages during the very difficult and challenging times of the Coronavirus pandemic.

All Volunteers need to have appropriate Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) clearance and there are currently 28 people from the two villages working as Volunteers and this number is increasing as many others go through the clearance process.

Volunteers are split into two groups, a "Phone" team of 7 people monitoring the calls that have been left on the answerphone with the rest working as "Responders" who carry out the task requested in the message.

The "Phone" team work on a 3 day rota basis and they check the number 3 times a day taking down the message and then allocating the task requested, whatever it may be, to one of the "Responders" who will action it as required.

Callers to the Helpline are contacted soon after the answerphone is checked and if a caller lives outside of our villages, every effort is made to pass their message on to a Responder from a similar service in another village/area.

Anyone can ring the Helpline about anything, but most calls are from people who cannot leave their home and do not have a family member or neighbour who can do things for them. Some callers are struggling with isolation and would just like a friendly phone chat.

So far we have made over 100 deliveries of prescriptions and food and a number of opportunities to have a friendly chat.

The Helpline is a very valuable facility and is yet another wonderful example of how our two Communities work together to help those who need extra support at this unique time for all of us. It is hoped that friendships formed in this way will continue for many years to come.

David Druitt

Dedham Primary School

“Courage. Kindness. Friendship. Character. *These are the qualities that define us as human beings, and propel us, on occasion, to greatness.”* Rj Palacio (author of Wonder)

Today we have five children and three members of staff in the school building. The children and staff are currently doing their best to keep up with Joe Wicks’ online PE lesson and aside from a few giggles and some exhausted panting (from the staff!) it is eerily quiet. On March 20th, we closed our doors to the majority of our families but our staff are all happily and proudly standing together to ensure that our school continues to be open for those who need us.

During this time of lockdown, the online world has become more important than ever before. For many of our children, using online platforms to communicate with friends and family has been a part of their lives for some time, but now they are using them to keep in touch with their teachers and to share and receive home-based learning. Teachers have admirably embraced the challenge of supporting our families from afar, and via online staff meetings they have been able to support each other by sharing advice and ideas, for example how to use embedded webcams to explain tasks and how best to read and share stories with classes.

Children and families have also embraced the new norm and many are taking the opportunity to learn new skills and to spend time together. For some, this has included learning to cook, helping with DIY and growing vegetables. We’ve also seen children being immensely creative with their time. Teachers have received photos and videos of dance routines, garden football challenges and a number of children in one class have tried to make a protective cage for an egg so it doesn’t break when you drop it!

When times are tough, children are so often able to raise spirits and to shed light on the positives. Some of our children, including some former pupils, would like to share their thoughts and their rainbows with you all. We are incredibly proud of how our whole school community – children, staff, governors, parents and friends – have come together to support each other at this time. When we come through this, we will no doubt be a stronger school family for the experience.

**Mr David Larner
& Miss Laura Valentine**

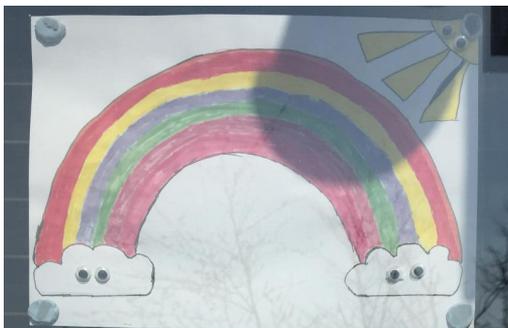


What are you looking forward to most when schools reopen?

I can't wait to see my friends in person and my teacher. I really want to say goodbye to everyone before I go to secondary school and maybe have a party. *Ben, age 11*

Seeing my friends again and being able to be in a talkative and energetic environment. *Amy, age 13*

Seeing and catching up with friends who I have missed. Seeing my teachers and getting back to a routine of learning. *Logan, age 8*



Seeing my friends again and doing my favourite subjects, English and Art. *Evie, age 9*



Play with Teddy again. *Lennon, age 4*



What do you enjoy most about being at home more?

Getting to play more. *Ellie, age 7*

Learning how to cook (soups, flapjack, bread and banana loaf) and spending time in the garden with my family. I have also loved learning Spanish online and chatting to my Nan via Zoom. *Ben, age 11*

Playing football on the big field with my friends. *Fergus, age 5*

Sharing time with our family playing games. *Reuben, age 6*

Spending more time with my family and still being able to communicate with other family and my friends. *Farrah, age 10*



Going outside and going on walks. Learning about lots of things. *Ayla, age 7*

Being at home with mummy and daddy, wearing my own clothes and not being nagged to get ready in the morning. *Elsie, age 7*

Going into the garden more. *Emma, age 11*

If you could give a message to the world, what would it be?

Have courage and be kind because this will end. *Ben*

Look after nature. *Fergus*
Stay calm and stop buying lots of stuff from the shops. *Ellie*

Stay safe and help the NHS. *Amy*

Stay home and then all of this will be over more quickly. *Emma*

Look after everyone. *Lennon*

You can be a superhero just by staying at home. It will save lives. *Logan*

Even though it's sunny outside, stay at home to save lives. *Reuben*

Be strong! Be confident! Be kind! *Elsie*



Don't panic, stay home, stay safe and just remember that soon enough, life will be normal once again. *Farrah*

Stay safe, stay home, stay two metres away. *Ayla*

If we all stick together, we can turn sad faces into happy ones. *Evie*



Easter competition pictures...



Harry, age 11



Isabelle, age 5



Olly, age 4



Harry, age 3



Rebecca age 11



Thomas, age 5



Poppy, age 6
Katia, age 7



Dan, age 9

Hollie, age 9



Sitting in the garden, no clouds adorn the sky
the birds are singing joyfully
BUT
the day is just a lie

The sun spreads out its warmth, the grass is moist and green
leaves prepare to dress the trees
BUT
the evil cannot be seen

The field beyond is full of lambs, their mothers standing by
watch them gambol, suckle, whimper
BUT
realise not that danger is nigh

Daffodils waiver softly, hyacinths release their perfume
doves embrace on the garage roof
BUT
sadly the world has much gloom

Peace seems all around us, nothing will break the spell
and make us broken hearted
BUT
alas too many are not well

Only time will be the healer, only time will make us care
to love and bless each other
till we lose our deep despair
and see the world with eyes anew
when the virus is not there

Jill Strangward



Thank you

Dedham Parish Magazine would like to take this opportunity to thank all our advertisers for their support at this difficult time.

We hope to see you all fully back in business soon



Dedham Co-Op would like to thank customers for their patience at busy periods

They are staying open 7am to 7pm seven days a week, 3 customers in at a time



*Thank you
to the amazing Dedham Co-Op Team*

Dedham's food suppliers adapt to lockdown

Food suppliers in the village have made some big changes to provide Dedham villagers with all the food they need. This has been helped by an important initiative from the Rev Antony Wilson, the vicar, who quickly set up a network of volunteers, mainly to collect prescriptions and food orders for those who are unable to leave their homes. For the details of this, see David Druitt's article on page 8.

In the High Street, Evans, the butcher, and the Co-op settled down to new routines after a flurry of activity at the beginning of the crisis. One big change at Evans is that Tony Clark, aged 81 has had to stand down for the time being. His son, Richard, said: "He keeps ringing to ask if there is anything he can do, but we tell him he's got to stay at home." The number of customers visiting the butcher has fallen away, but deliveries have been much increased. Only one customer is allowed in the shop at once and this has caused some queues in the High Street, as outside the Co-op. Richard says they have increased deliveries to up to 60 a day and have extended their range to new customers in Colchester, Ardleigh, Bentley, Great Benham and other surrounding areas.

"Hopefully, we will keep some of these new customers when this is all

over," he says. All the deliveries are done by Andy, who previously worked mainly in the shop.

Meat supplies have been holding up well, as nearly all suppliers are local. Evans has increased supply of bread and eggs and continues to sell a range of cheeses as well as its own produce including its pork pies. The increase in sales from deliveries has more than compensated for the decline in shop turnover.

Down the road at the Co-op supplies of fresh and frozen food, bread and eggs have been adequate, and the shop is not imposing any limit on purchases of these items. However, at the time of going to press, Diane Roper, the manager, said tins, packets, soups and paper towels were in short supply. Generally, the Co-op allows three customers into the shop at a time, though sometimes a few more, if staff are available. The Co-op has lost about a quarter of its staff as a result of illness or because they need to stay at home for various reasons

Queues are varied. Diane says sometimes half a dozen people may be waiting in the street, but at others, mainly in the evening the shop may be quite empty.

Two farm shops, Birchwood Farm Shop, Birchwood Road and Hall Farm Shop, Church Rd, Stratford St Mary, have both been doing a brisk trade.



Sign of the times, empty High street and a queue outside the co-op of volunteers.

Birchwood decided to close at the start of the lockdown, mainly because of a shortage of staff. Instead they have concentrated on deliveries, with an offering of four standard vegetable boxes priced at £20 and £25. In addition they deliver bread, eggs, milk and potatoes as additions to the box orders.

Demand has settled down after a flurry of activity. Ellie Steele says that in the five days before the shut-down sales were equal to those in a normal six weeks. She has been filling the order boxes almost single-handed, with the help of a few friends while Jim Lane, the proprietor, was away with a burned hand and Chelsea Wallis, her colleague, put her back out. Chelsea has been dealing with the paperwork and the deliveries are made by a group

of volunteers. Ellie says: “When the lockdown started people just came up to me, gave their numbers and said they were happy to help.” They have been delivering to Langham, Stratford, Flatford, Dedham, Ardleigh and Lawford. At the time of going to press, they have been able to meet demand, with about 30 to 40 deliveries per day. The shop has had no difficulty obtaining supplies of vegetables, though they have not restocked the other items sold in the shop including biscuits and frozen food.

Hall Farm has been in a good position, both for staff and supplies, partly because its restaurant has been shut down and the staff redeployed. Matt Barrie, the youngest of the Barrie family, which runs a business, says that although fewer people are coming to the shop, they are spending more.

At some times there were long queues, "all round the car park". However, on a sunny afternoon in mid April there was no queue at all. Despite increased demand, the shop has been able to keep its shelves full.

"We are getting busier every week, but suppliers have been amazing. They are mostly independent and that helps a lot." There have been some changes however. The shop is now selling 2 kg cans of chopped tomatoes, which they never did before and 3 kg bags of pasta. They have also adapted to the national shortage of 1 kg bags of flour. There is no shortage of flour in large quantities, but suppliers have been unable to increase packaging of smaller amounts because of an explosion in demand. Hall Farm, however, has been able to buy 25 kg bags of flour and use the restaurant staff and space to repackage it in smaller amounts.

Anything from Spain suffers from disrupted supply chains. Asparagus became cheaper than broccoli for a time. Hall farm does not do deliveries itself, but it has been cooperating with volunteer groups such as that in Dedham.

Sheila Beaton, chair of Dedham Parish Council, says she is impressed by the way the volunteer delivery system was set up.

"We are in an elderly community. Many people have been encouraged to

self-isolate. Obtaining a delivery slot from one of the supermarkets is almost impossible, and standing in line to enter one of the supermarkets can be difficult for some."

The main effect on the council's business so far has been that the controversial project to introduce street lighting in Dedham is in abeyance. Meanwhile the council's income from the car park near the river has fallen away dramatically. However, this will not affect the council's day-to-day finances, as the car park income goes mainly into reserves.

Max Wilkinson



Dedham's Maypole 1948. The children include Gillian Southgate, Billy Reason, Jane Coe , Richard Wilding

Mayday Celebrations

Many older people will still remember the excitement of May Day in Dedham when they were young. Every year the Primary School children (and sometimes others at Littlegarth School in the village) would dance round a Maypole put up on the Recreation Ground. Maureen Floyd (née Stiff) has a clear memory of the whole day. She recalls the path behind the school teacher's house (now the Old School House) which led round the side of the school building in School Lane through to the playing field. The classes took it in turns to learn the dances and many practice sessions in the school yard were needed to get them right. There were severe reprimands for children who failed to pay attention and made mistakes, causing tangles in the elaborate patterns woven by the bright ribbons they held in their hands. Having completed an intricate

multicoloured web, the children then had to reverse their steps and systematically undo it all again.



The Maypole near the Duchy Barn in the 1950s. Headmistress Miss Hooker is on the left.

In the afternoon the crowning of a new May Queen took place on the playing field near the apple trees which grew behind the Vicarage garden or in the garden itself. If their parents had any lilac out in time or other flowers to

decorate the May Queen's throne the children would take them to school in the morning and there was great excitement preparing for the afternoon's ceremony. The previous year's May Queen would be the one to crown her successor, who was seated on a floral throne attended by her maids of honour with a small boy bearing the crown on a ceremonial cushion.

all May Day ceremonies. A revival took place on the Restoration of Charles II but it is possible that the tradition here dated only from the great renewal of interest in local traditions and folk dancing in the late nineteenth century.



Yemisi Opebiyi , Nigerian foster-daughter of Mrs Eagle, was Dedham's first non-English May Queen. Here she is being crowned by Louise Edwards in the Vicarage garden, probably 1950s



The previous year's May Queen crowns her successor in the 1950s. On the right are her attendants and the pageboy carrying the cushion used for bearing the floral crown.

Britain's May Day celebrations are believed to have their origins in Roman times with dancing around decorated trees to celebrate the arrival of spring fertility. In folk tradition the Maypole can symbolise a tree and the May Queen may represent Flora, the Roman goddess of flowering or blossoming plants. If Dedham had a Maypole earlier it would have been banished in the seventeenth century when the Puritans suppressed

The May Day celebrations here were well established by 1936 when regular correspondence began to be exchanged between the teachers and pupils of our National School and the Dedham County Day School in the USA. Each letter from our children was addressed to a certain American child, who read it aloud to the class and among other accounts of English activities, the pupils in Massachusetts loved the descriptions of their English May festival and the birds and flowers they saw on their way to school. The Parish Magazine for June 1941 records that each child at the US

school gave up a week's pocket money to pay for sending a box containing eighteen and a half pounds of milk chocolate, a huge treat in food-rated Britain, to be distributed among the pupils of our Junior School. The Dedham, Mass. Gardening Club sent them flower and vegetable seeds for their gardens. Dedham schoolmistress Miss Mabel Nye formed a friendship with Miss Grace Hine her opposite number in Dedham, Mass., who paid at least two visits to our village after the War. The ever-popular roundabout next to the present play area is the last surviving piece of a splendid set of robust playground equipment generously donated to the

children of Dedham, Essex by the people of Dedham, Massachusetts after the war.

Does any reader remember when the May Day celebrations here came to an end? Did they continue until 1973 when the Primary School moved to Parson's Field?

For illustrations I am indebted to both Maureen Floyd and the Eley family. If any other readers have memories or photographs they would be prepared to share, I should be delighted to hear from them.

© Lucy Archer



Miss Grace Hine from Dedham, Massachusetts with headmistress Miss Wenda Hooker and pupils on a visit to Dedham School in September 1969.

Get out and enjoy the garden's delights

As I write this in April, it's difficult to see whether coronavirus restrictions will have started to ease or if movement will still be restricted by the time you read it. Assuming the latter, our gardens will by now be an even greater escape, so don't forget to take some time to



look around and appreciate the view. Looking around my garden I see herbaceous peonies – the deep red single *Paeonia* 'Illini Warrior', blousy pink 'Reine Hortense' and tree peonies *Paeonia rockii* 'Zi Ban Bai', which lives up to its translated name of purple speckled white, and the deep pink *Paeonia suffruticosa* 'Wu Long Peng Sheng'. Elsewhere, the blue spires of *Camassia*

leichtlinii, *Aquilegia vulgaris* (granny's bonnet or columbine) in white and dark purple, *Papaver orientalis* 'Patty's Plum', and the points of several unnamed *Hosta* leaves have been pushing their way through the soil.

Towards the end of the month, there should be little chance of frost so it's time to plant out any seedlings you've been raising. Make sure you harden them off first by putting them outside in the day and bringing them back under cover at night over a seven- to ten-day period. I've got some *Catananche caerulea*, *Zinnia elegans*, sweetcorn and tomatoes. Warmer weather and soil also mean I can plant out tender plants such as dahlia tubers and gladioli corms, while I'm having a go at raising chrysanthemums and the cuttings can be put into the ground now too. You do have to watch for late frosts, but we should be OK here in Dedham, though have a ready eye on your favourite weather app and some horticultural fleece to hand in case.

Once the spring flowers have faded, deadhead tulips and daffodils, but leave stems and leaves to die back naturally and feed the bulbs for next year. I'll also divide my wild primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) and spread them around the garden. Once flowered, I'll roughly trim back the *Aubrieta* that cascades over the low wall of one of my flower beds – they've been a riot of deep purple flowers since March – which will encourage fresh new growth and hopefully more colour later in the year.

You've probably heard of the 'Chelsea Chop', which traditionally takes place this month after the famous flower show when plants have put on some good growth. It's basically just lightly pruning perennial plants to make them bushier and flower a little later. Aim to cut back about a third: either individual stems, a whole plant or selected plants in a wider group.

I have a large *Clematis montana* and May is the ideal time to prune it. It's a monstrous thing designed to quickly fill a space I want covered by *Rosa 'Claire Austin'* and now I rather regret planting it. Prune this early-flowering clematis now, immediately after it has finished flowering, usually at the end of the month. Next year's flowers are formed on all the new growth made this year, so if you prune them much later than mid to late June you will be removing the potential flowers for next spring.

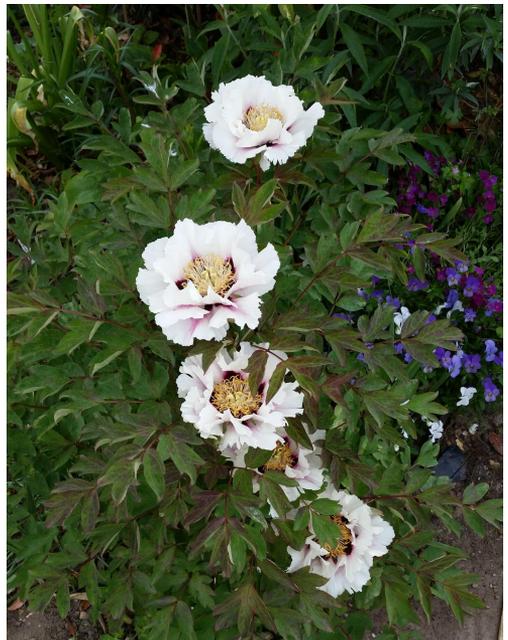
The RHS reckons *C. montana* can grow to 8-12 metres high and spread by 4 metres, so it's handy for covering large bare areas. It will also come back if pruned hard, so feel free to hack it back to a more manageable state. Although you don't need to worry about individual stems, I want to be a bit more careful so I can prune it around the rose I really want to grow in its place. Sorry *montana*. With any significant prune, give the plant some feed and water right after (reinvigorating, like a refreshing G&T after a sunny day in the garden).

Finally, plant growth means weed growth (sigh), so continue to weed beds

and borders. Keep on top of watering any of your plants in pots and maybe start giving them a balanced liquid feed every 2-4 weeks as they really get into growth.

Event update: with the continuing coronavirus restrictions, Dedham Horticultural Society has cancelled its AGM (and planned speaker) scheduled for 6 May.

We will be in touch with existing members soon about renewing and if you would like to join, please visit our website www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com for details and latest news.



Elliott Frisby
Dedham Horticultural Society

Dedham Parish Council

Neighbourhood Watch: Colleagues from Neighbourhood Watch remind us to be extra-vigilant during the Covid-19 'lockdown' period. Sadly there are a number of new scams coming to the attention of the police. If you are unsure about an e-mail, do not be tempted to click on the link. Do not accept offers of help from anyone who knocks on your door if you are not expecting them and do not know them.

Parish Council: As reported last month, there will be no Parish Council elections in May due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This means that the current Councillors will remain in post until May 2021. Emergency legislation has just been announced which allows local councils to hold 'remote' meetings using Zoom or other video technology. Dedham Parish Council will consider use of this technology in the coming months. Please continue to check our website where all current updates will be posted. In the meantime, the basic work of the Parish Council continues. Although the Parish Clerk is not available in the office she is contactable at home by phone or e-mail (see below).

Please note, the children's playground is closed, in line with government advice. The playing fields remain accessible for exercise, though not for sports. Please continue to observe social distancing guidelines.

Nicola Baker

Parish Clerk, Emma Cansdale

01255 871483

clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

John Goldsbrough

for any updates for the website
webmaster@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Ardleigh Surgery

Thank you to all the lovely people that continue to pay tribute to the NHS staff on Thursday evenings; it really is a humbling and emotional moment.

Here at Ardleigh surgery we are continuing to offer the best service possible to our patients under challenging circumstances.

There are a few important points I would like to share with you:

Prescription requests are taking up to 5 days to process; just like the supermarkets we are seeing an unprecedented demand. The team are working extremely hard and many of us are working long hours and weekends to try and catch up, but the requests keep coming. Please let me assure you there is no need to panic about your medication, there are enough supplies to provide normal prescriptions as and when needed. You do not need to order more than one month at a time and you do not need to order more than 7 - 10 days ahead.

Many people are requesting inhalers that they have not been prescribed for several years. If you haven't needed an inhaler in the past year you will need to discuss your request with one of the asthma nurses. Prescribing unnecessary medication will put pressure on supplies and may result in national shortages (just like the supermarkets). If you become unwell and breathless contact 111. Or in severe cases 999

MEDICAL MATTERS

You may have seen on social media people advising to contact your GP for a 'rescue pack'. Rescue packs are only prescribed for people with severe COPD. If you feel your asthma or mild/moderate COPD has suddenly got worse please telephone the surgery or contact III

We are trying our best to avoid bringing people into the surgery unnecessarily; if you have an appointment booked we will probably be contacting you to change your appointment to a telephone consultation.

We will continue to provide nursing care at our Dedham branch in the mornings, please do not go to Dedham unless you have a pre booked appointment.

All patients who come to Ardleigh surgery will be met at the door and if possible we will help you without you having to come into the building. If you do need to come in to be seen we will take your temperature before you enter Dedham and Ardleigh helpline is a voluntary group organised by Dedham and Ardleigh Parish council and the local church.

If you are self-isolating and need help collecting you medication, or getting shopping they can be contacted on 01206 322025

Please be kind to our staff, we are trying very hard to help and although we understand your concerns and frustrations we are doing our best and must comply with the latest guidelines and advice. Like most of you we have families at home too and share your concerns and worries but we are all committed to keeping things running

here as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

At the surgery we have been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown by so many local people and business. Bacon rolls, hot chocolate, bath bombs, hand creams, cakes, protective clothing and masks are just a few of the things that have been donated.

As most of the staff at the surgery are now wearing scrubs, one inventive group has made laundry bags for the staff to put their 'dirty' scrubs in before they leave the surgery each day. The bag with the clothes inside is put straight into the washing machine, thus helping with infection control



We truly are grateful for all your support at such a difficult time, to receive a gift or a kind word is a huge boost to staff morale

***Thank you from all the team
at Ardleigh Surgery***
Stay home and stay safe

**As of 27th April prescriptions
can only be collected
Monday-Friday 10am-12
and 3-5pm only**

An impressive range of online events has become available during the shutdown, mostly FREE and much of it via YouTube. The daily showing from the [Metropolitan Opera New York](#) is an outstanding free offer. You can check details on my website which has clickable links to performances. If accessing this online click the link below:

www.eamaa.org

THEATRE

[WhatsOnStage](#), an excellent list of free online shows, including *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *What The Butler Saw*, *Pride and Prejudice* (musical), live readings of Shakespeare plays.

[National Theatre](#), a weekly free online play, from 7 pm every Thursday. Each play is available for 7 days. drama for

[Globe Theatre London](#), free **Shakespeare: six plays**: *Hamlet* (2018), *Romeo and Juliet* (2009), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2013) and *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (2018), *The Winter's Tale* (2018) and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (2019), all free, one on rotation every two weeks.

[Royal Shakespeare Company](#) - , **I, Cinna**, a one man take on Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, by Tim Crouch, via YouTube. Also **Shakespeare: Twelfth Night**. There are 17 other RSC productions available to stream on Marquee TV. 30 day free trial.

[The Wooster Group](#), **HAMLET – complete production**, In two parts. Reimagines Shakespeare's classic tragedy with film of Richard Burton's 1964 performance. Free

[Original Theatre Online](#), **The Croft**, by Ali Milles, , £4.17

MUSIC

[ClassicalMPR](#): schedule of online free musical events.

[London Philharmonic Online](#), series of free concerts

[Saffron Hall](#), **Chineke! Orchestra and Sheku Kanneh-Mason (cello)**, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Haydn, Fauré, Brahms.

[Wigmore Hall](#), video library, almost 50 concerts available to stream via YouTube

[Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra](#), Recital by Martin Chalifour (violin) from his home, Prokofiev, Bach, and Telemann.

[Melbourne Symphony Orchestra live](#), Six concerts currently available, including Rimsky Korsakov, Schumann, Beethoven Mendelssohn. , Free via YouTube, a Concert every Thursday at 7.30 pm (9.30 am UK time)

[BerlinerPhilharmoniker Orchestra](#), Some 600 concerts are in the archive. Free 30 day ticket available.

OPERA

[Metropolitan Opera New York](#), a free opera every day from 00.30am to 11.30 pm UK time, stream from the site or YouTube.

[Royal Opera House](#), **Handel: Acis and Galatea**, **Mozart: Così fan tutte**, **Benjamin Britten: Gloriana**, , Free from website via YouTube

[Opera North](#), **Wagner: the Ring Cycle**, in concert and **Britten: The Turn of The Screw** from the website or YouTube

[Garsington Opera](#), **Smetana: The Bartered Bride**, **Mozart: Le Nozze di Figaro** , via YouTube

[Latvian National Opera and Ballet](#), **Wagner: The Flying Dutchman**, in German, via YouTube

[Teatro Comunale Modena](#), **Puccini: La Bohème**, via YouTube

[Teatro Municipale di Piacenza](#), **Verdi: Falstaff**, via YouTube

[Polish National Opera](#), **Puccini: Tosca**, via YouTube

[Vienna State Opera](#), **Bizet: Carmen**, The Zefirelli production, via YouTube

[Bavarian State Opera](#), **Donizetti: L'Elisir d'Amore**; **Wagner: Parsifal**; **Donizetti: Lucia di Lammermoor**
[Komische Oper Berlin](#), **Puccini: La Bohème** , **Debussy: Pelléas et Mélisande**.

[La Fenice Opera House Venice](#), **Stay at home Opera**, Large selection of recently streamed operas available, including **Mozart: The Magic Flute** and **Gluck: Alceste** YouTube

[Vienna State Opera](#), Daily performances streamed free

MUSICALS

[Andrew Lloyd Webber](#), different shows streamed on Fridays, free via YouTube available for 48 hours

From London's West End, **Wind in the Willows** , Rent for £2.99

BALLET

[Royal Ballet](#), **Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf** and **The Metamorphosis**, and **The Winter's Tale**, (from 1 May) **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** , via Broadway HD, subscription. Free trial offered

[Sadlers Wells](#) - live link, with Ballet Lorent, **Rumpelstiltskin** , date to be announced

[Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra](#), **Swan Lake**, from the Hollywood Bowl.

ARTS

[BBC Culture in quarantine](#), Virtual Festival of the Arts, includes access to exhibitions, Shakespeare performances and New drama , Free fom BBC iPlayer and BBC Four

[Google Arts and Culture](#), virtual tours, of galleries and other sites, and many other features

[The British Museum](#), online access, including search of its collections, virtual tours and two virtual galleries

Max Wilkinson