

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

*December 2021
& January 2022*

DEDHAM CHURCH IN WINTER

Justin Minns Photography Justinminns.co.uk

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1876

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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or Ruth Higginson ☎322 598

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

please contact: Ann Shaw ☎322 192 or Sue Browne ☎07778 198118

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 ☎323 770



Services & Events ~ DECEMBER 2021

Sunday 5th

9.30am	Rise n Shine	Dedham*
11am	Morning Prayer	Ardleigh
5pm	Evensong	Dedham*

Sunday 12th

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh*
11am	Holy Communion	Dedham*
6pm	Carol Service, all ages	Dedham*

Sunday 19th

9.30am	Matins	Dedham*
4pm	Carol Service, all ages	Ardleigh

Friday 24th, Christmas Eve

4pm	Christingle Service	Ardleigh
3.30pm & 5pm	Crib Service	Dedham*
11pm	Midnight Mass	Dedham*

Saturday 25th, Christmas Day

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh*
10am	All age Communion	Dedham*

Sunday 26th, St Stephens Day

9.30am	Morning Praise Joint Service	Dedham*
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Our services are on Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes
* = services which are live-streamed

Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday, 10.30am at Dedham Church

Online Prayer - Monday Morning at 7am and Friday Evening at 6pm

Men's Breakfast - Come & enjoy bacon rolls, Saturday 4th December, 9am at Dedham Vicarage

Monday Lunch Club - CHRISTMAS LUNCH, Monday 6th December at 12.30pm at the Essex Rose Tea Rooms.

Bookings essential, phone 01206 323101 to reserve a place

Walk 10am & Talk 11am - 9th December

Meet for both Dedham Arts Centre

Welcome to our Christmas Services for 2021

At the heart of Christmas



Sunday 12th December

Advent 3

6pm, Carol Service at *Dedham*

Sunday 19th December

Advent 4

4pm, Carol Service for all ages at *Ardleigh*

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December

4pm, Christingle at *Ardleigh*

3.30 & 5pm, Crib Service at *Dedham*

11pm, Midnight Communion at *Dedham*

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December

8am, Holy Communion BCP at *Ardleigh*

10am, All-Age Communion at *Dedham*

St Stephens Day Sunday 26th December

9.30am, Morning Praise

Joint Service at *Dedham*

Services & Events ~ JANUARY 2022

Sunday 2nd

9.30am	Rise n Shine	Dedham*
11am	Morning Prayer	Ardleigh

Sunday 9th

8am	Holy Communion BCP	Ardleigh*
11am	Holy Communion	Dedham*

Sunday 16th

9.30am	Matins	Dedham*
11am	Eucharist	Ardleigh

Sunday 23rd

8am	Holy Communion, BCP	Ardleigh*
9.30am	Morning Praise	Dedham*
5pm	Revive @ 5	Dedham*

Sunday 30th

11am	Benefice Holy Communion	Dedham*
5pm	Deanery Confirmation	All Saints Dovercourt



Our services are on Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes
* = services which are live-streamed

Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday, 10.30am at Dedham Church

Online Prayer - Monday Morning at 7am and Friday Evening at 6pm

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, 9th January, 9am, for bacon butties, tea, coffee & chat

Walk 10am & Talk 11am - 13th January

Meet for both Dedham Arts Centre



us are having to learn to live our lives in a new way as we come to terms with the death of loved family members and friends.

A “New Normal”

December! It’s almost Christmas! Where has the year gone? I don’t suppose many of us expected our lives to still be interrupted by Covid 19 and yet many of us have had a close encounter with the virus this year; many have had work disrupted, holiday plans cancelled, visits to relatives across the world delayed yet again because of the virus. We thought that having our vaccines and the lifting of the restrictions would quickly bring life back to normal, didn’t we? It’s a kind of normal, but it’s not normal as we took for granted pre-pandemic.

I don’t believe we can go back, but only move forward. As we experienced the lockdowns and restrictions of Covid and that became the “new normal”, many have changed in ways they never thought possible. Some have changed the way they work; some have made a complete change in what they do for a living; some have learned to appreciate nature and the countryside for the first time; some decided to stop work all together and sadly some have been so stressed by the pressures on them that they are now suffering mental ill-health and their lives are in disarray. Many of

As I write this the UN COP 26 Climate Change Conference is in progress; and the cost of our current lifestyle is brought home to us. Not only have our lives been turned upside down by the pandemic, the whole world has been disturbed by changes in the climate. The climate crisis is changing the world and our lives also. We are being faced with difficult truths and leaders have to make hard decisions which will affect all of us. Those of us who have more than enough will be faced with accepting less for the good of all. We have seen through the pandemic, how closely linked nations are in every way, and with the effects of climate change how dependent we are on each other.

So we are yet again facing a “new normal”, which sounds ominous, but we can make it a better normal, not only for ourselves, but for the whole world. Many of us, during the lockdowns, discovered how fulfilling and life enriching it can be to reach out to others with help and friendship. If we live our lives looking out for our neighbours, not just locally but globally we will create a “good new normal” and a better world. We may be surprised how positive our lives can become when we look outwards.



As we look towards Christmas and maybe a little less on the table and under the tree, we will be able to receive God's gift to the world of the baby in the manger, who had nothing but has given us the hope of new life, and a peace which nothing can destroy. He came to give his life so that we may have life in all its fullness and be able to see the true value of our lives, our relationships, our community and our environment.

If you would like to explore this please join one of the Alpha courses in the New Year.

In your "new normal" this Christmas I pray you will know peace, wonder and abundant life.

Carol Mitson



Following a meeting with the Bishop and Archdeacon to discuss the interregnum, the PCC considered the future organ project and decided that they would put this decision on hold until a new

incumbent is appointed. This project would be a major expense for the church and it was felt that for it to be successful we needed the support and commitment of the new clergy person appointed.

The recent **Big Breakfast** event was a great success and allowed people to meet once again in a relaxed environment; approximately 120 people attended and **over £1000** was raised for church funds. Our thanks to the organisers and team of helpers who made it so successful: it was a great example of everyone working well together as a team.

We delivered **69kg of food to the food bank** during the month; this was much appreciated and we encourage everyone to continue to leave their donations in the baskets provided in the church porch.

Thank you to all the people who completed the questionnaire on the future outlook and needs of our church. WE are now analysing the replies and these will be used to help us compile the parish profile which is needed as part of the appointment process for a new vicar.

As Christmas approaches a reminder of the various Christmas services planned, details of which can be found in the magazine and on the Church Chimes.

Peter Wilson & Vee Drutt

**Meet
Up
Mondays™
Tuesdays**

THE SUN INN

High Street, Dedham,
Colchester CO7 6DF

01206 323351

www.thesuninndedham.com

Don't Be On Your Own

www.MeetUpMondays.org.uk



Could you do with some company?

Feeling a bit fed up?

Maybe you are new to the area or would just like to make some new friends?

RESUMING

16th November 2021

Now on TUESDAYS

10.30am - 12pm

You are invited to come along and enjoy a **FREE cuppa** and some friendly chat.

 @MeetUpMondays  @MeetUpMondays
 @MeetUpMondays_network

Network developed by:



Monday Lunch Club



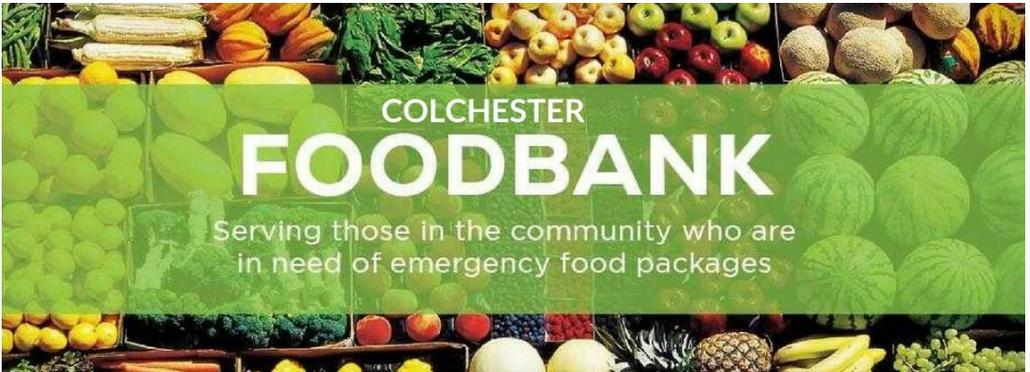
First Monday of the month **12.30** at **The Essex Rose**
Phone **323101** to reserve a place,
indicating it is for the Lunch Club.

WALK & TALK



THURSDAY 9TH DECEMBER, 10AM
& THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY, 10AM
MEET OUTSIDE DEDHAM ARTS CENTRE
OR JOIN US AT THE ARTS CENTRE CAFÉ AT 11AM

We are collecting in the porches of our churches



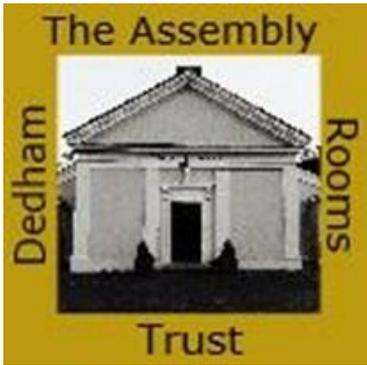
Please do support the Foodbank



RiSe N SHiNe

all-together worship
1st Sunday each month
Dedham Church, 9.30 to 10.15am

hymns-songs-bible stories-refreshments
Dedham-and-Ardleigh-parishes.org.uk



To make a booking please see our booking link on the website

www.dedhamassemblyrooms.essexonline.net

dedhamassemblyroom@gmail.com
01206 323921

WHAT'S ON

Victoria Baker Pilates

Monday & Tuesday, weekly am & pm

Bridge in Dedham

Wednesday, Weekly, 1.45-4.45pm

Thursday, Weekly, 7pm-10pm

DECEMBER

Dedham Horticultural Society,

Wednesday 1st, 7pm

Antiques Fair, Sunday 5th, 9am-4pm

Dedham Art, Thursday 9th, 2.30pm

JANUARY

Dedham Art Society, Thursday

13th & 27th, 2.30pm

Antiques Fair, Sunday 2nd, 9am-4pm

Seniors Afternoon Tea, Saturday 8th

By appointment

Village Quiz, Saturday 29th, 7pm



St. Mary's Church, Dedham,

is very grateful to

The Hunnaball Family Funeral Group

who have very kindly sponsored

our Christmas tree this year.

The tree will be up for the duration of the Christmas period and will be enjoyed by the congregation and visitors alike.

TWAM Stamps & Coins

Thank you very much for all the donations of stamps and foreign currency that I have received. I have been able to send off one large envelope of stamps and I have two 3.5 kg box of currency ready to go. When I know how much money these have raised I will let you know. PLEASE continue to save all your stamps with at least 1cm of paper round them and put them into the box in the church and your currency in the red safe.

Thank you. Sue McKinney



Dedham Films is pleased to announce monthly screenings will be resumed commencing on Wednesday 15 December at 7.30 pm with the critically acclaimed 2019 comedy/drama **The Personal History of David Copperfield** starring Dev Patel, a wonderful cast including Hugh Lawrie, Tilda Swinton, Peter Capaldi, Ben Whishaw and Paul Whitehouse. The film puts a fresh, funny, and charming spin on Dickens' classic.



The Personal History of David Copperfield PG
 Wednesday 15 December
 7.30pm, Doors open 7.00 pm



The Call of The Wild PG
 Directed by Chris Sanders
 Wednesday 19 January 2022
 7.30pm, Doors open 7.00 pm

Adapted from the Jack London novel, Call of the Wild is the story of Buck, a big, kind-hearted dog. Stolen from his comfortable home in California, he is taken north and sold in Skagway, Alaska, then further north to the Yukon where sled dogs were needed for the gold rush. He had been spoiled, suffered, but survived, becoming a mail delivery sled dog, then finding his last owner and finally responding to the "call of the wild". Starring Harrison Ford and, of course, Buck the dog.

Tickets £5 from www.dedhamfilms.co.uk

We are aware of the ongoing issues with Covid and mindful of the need for our audience to feel comfortable. With this in mind ticket numbers will be limited to 60 and only available from our website www.dedhamfilms.co.uk, Refreshments will not be served and there will be no interval. We will keep all these things under review as time goes on. Rising costs affect us all and the ticket price will increase to £5, having remained unchanged since January 2014.

2022 VILLAGE QUIZ



We very much hope that the annual Village Quiz for organisations or groups based in Dedham will be able to be held once again and the date for your diaries is:

Saturday 29TH January 2022
in the Assembly Rooms, 7:00 for 7:30 start

With SIX people per team and a maximum of 20 teams
Tickets will cost £12.50 per person & will include a light supper
There will be a bar and a raffle

All proceeds will be donated to
the **Colchester Korban Project** www.korban.org.uk
a Charity founded to provide supported housing
for 16 to 25 year olds

As this event is run to raise money for a very worthwhile charity we respectfully request that only drink purchased at the bar is consumed on the night

To enter a team please contact **David Druitt 01206 322000**
or Jill Strangward 01206 322006
daviddruitt@gmail.com / jillstrangward@gmail.com

Autumn mornings...

NATTER & CHATTER CAFES

930 to 1130, Langham Community Centre
Every Thursday (*except the last of the month*)
Hot drinks, delicious cakes & bakes

Just come along & pull up a seat, everyone welcome,
come on your own, meet with friends, invite your neighbour
**Our aim is to kickstart conversations, get people chatting
& reduce loneliness along the way**



2nd December
Colchester KORBAN
Information & fundraising day



9th December
Mini Christmas Shopping
16th December
Mulled punch & mince pies





What Christmas Means to Me

Simplicity is the word which comes to mind when I think of Christmas. The simplicity of the stable where Jesus Christ was born, the simplicity of Mary and Joseph trusting in God for his provision and the simplicity of the first worshippers and the animals.

Throughout my life I have been able to keep Christmas in the same spirit. Born in wartime our small family remembered and celebrated quietly. Later we would be joined by a few family members but always our numbers were small. We would also go to church.

After joining the Order of the Holy Paraclete I took part in the full liturgical cycle of all the feasts throughout the forty days of Christmas. We had our Christmas dinner and Boxing Day supper and parties too. We placed small gifts and cards for one another into bags hung behind each chair for Christmas morning.

This year I again plan to keep Christ at the centre of Christmas. I will let some of the events spill over into Advent as well as spending time in spiritual preparation.

I will look for opportunities by speaking and by post to share the wonder of the real Christmas. I will remember with others in person or on zoom, "He is what He was and forever shall be: He became what He was not for you and for me." I will say and sing giving thanks to God for his gift of Himself. May we love Him more and be ready when He comes again.

Christine Mingay

We moved from Kent to Essex in the October of 1973 with our two young daughters.

The vicar at the time was the Reverend. Johnny Johnson who was delighted to have four new choristers.

That Christmas the service was broadcast by the BBC world service and one of our daughters sang the first verse of Once in Royal David's City, a truly memorable occasion to mark our first Christmas in Dedham.

For me December brings a sense of excitement and anticipation . Each year school productions start to take shape and children rehearse, whilst their parents look forward to seeing them taking part in local Christmas concerts and shows.

Decorating our churches during festive occasions is a master art and the flower ladies pull out all the stops at Christmas.

For many years our group in Dedham has been responsible for the crib. We have re- roofed it several times, and for me it never ceases to re-enforce the Christmas message. (although carrying it from the shed in a gale demands extra muscle !)

So this Christmas I will particularly look forward to hearing the joyous sound of choirs; whether it be from Kings College or our parish church in Dedham. After all we only get one chance a year to celebrate the joyous Christmas message in our services.

Despite pandemic restrictions music will ring out and I for one will be smiling behind my mask !

Jean Flewin



DEDHAMS LOST PUBS: The Marlborough Head and the Sun Inn

Dedham was a prosperous industrial town in the late middle ages, when the High Street was lined with substantial timber-framed houses and the business premises of affluent clothiers. Two of these buildings later became our surviving pubs (at times called hotels) the Marlborough Head and the Sun Inn.

The Marlborough Head

Looking at the Marlborough from the High Street it is clear from its majestic roof that the pub together with Loom (formerly Cheese, then Church) House formed a single L-shaped building, which had a complex plan made up of at least three units. Writing in 1937 Dedham's historian Canon Rendall describes tenterhooks surviving in the ceiling of a room on the top floor as an indication of the building's connection with the wool trade. He speculates that a long storage chamber ran along the Mill Lane frontage, while the spacious cellars would previously have housed the woad-vats used for dyeing.

There is internal evidence that the upper storey facing Mill Lane was jettied (overhanging). The carved wall plate (horizontal beam) which supported it

was hidden from view when the jetties were later under-built but was partly reinstated in 1922, copying a well-preserved fragment found over the front door. The diagonal "*dragon beam*" in the dining room at the south-west corner suggests that there was also a jetty facing Royal Square. It is believed that this part of the building, which has ceiling beams carved with vine-trails and quatrefoiled cusping, may have been used as a Wool Hall. A diamond-shaped lead ventilator set in an internal window pane is a curious survival to be seen in the same room.

The earliest documentary record of the house dates from 1663, when it was sold as "*a capital messuage called Tastours, with curtilage, garden and orchard*". It seems likely that it had belonged to Oliver Taster who was steward of the nearby Netherhall and Overhall Manor in 1688. A dyer called Edmund Gibson lived there from 1663 to 1686 and an apothecary, Daniel Sherman, used part of it as his shop. Church House was in separate ownership by 1740, when it was bought by a Puke (wig) maker, Samuel Cutter, who was there until his death in 1771. Its eighteenth century front may date from 1784, when it was described as "*lately rebuilt*". The rest of the building had various occupants until it was turned into an inn.

This must have been in the very early eighteenth century because the new tavern was named after the first Duke of Marlborough, who rose to fame in 1704 after his great victory at Blenheim in the Netherlands during the War of the Spanish Succession. His success made him a popular hero and the church bells were rung in Dedham to celebrate his subsequent taking of Oudenard, Lille, Ghent and Bruges. In 1708 the Churchwardens' Accounts note the expenditure of £1.0.0 "*for ringing at the Victory of Audernard.*"

The tavern became an important centre for the social life of the town and those holding meetings held there ranged from the Dedham Society for Brotherly Love (1761-1912), the former pupils of the Writing School at Sherman's (1771) and the True Blue Club (1810). During one of the Annual Fairs in the eighteenth century it is recorded that the landlord of the Marlborough hired the Assembly Hall "*for the publick diversion of dancing for two days.*"

The inn had space at the back for a yard and the outbuildings needed for horses, carts and carriages. Its key position at the very centre of the village near the church, the market and the road to the river crossing was ideal for both local and passing trade. In 1768 two London

coaches travelled to Ipswich through Dedham and around 1793 a wagon from Stowmarket to London called at the Marlborough Head once a week. In the twentieth century guests began to arrive in cars and by 1921 they could make use of a "*lock-up motor house*". The portrait on the inn sign with its wrought-iron frame must have changed many times over the years.

In June 1809 John Constable's mother wrote to him describing a version painted for the pub by his friend, the impecunious East Bergholt artist John Dunthorne (1798-1832): "*Dunthorne took home his noble Duke this day. It is astonishing what a capital Picture he made of it - too good I greatly fear for the gain - compleat armour, truncheon and peruke to boot.*"

Photographs taken by the National Monuments Record in 1921 show the walls of the inn plastered and painted with a framed inscription describing it as "*The Leading Hotel for Visitors*". This vanished soon afterwards when the plaster was stripped off to leave the structural timbers exposed on the upper storey, as reported in the Parish Magazine of September 1922.



A late 19th-century view of Royal Square showing the Marlborough Head Inn on the left with its massive roof shared with Church (now Loom) House next door. Note the bay windows on the house, which were replaced by shop windows in the 1890s but reinstated in the mid twentieth century.



The Marlborough Head in the late nineteenth century with three doors on the Mill Lane frontage. The entrance door at the corner was blocked up in the mid twentieth century.



A pieced-together photograph of the Marlborough (on the left) at the dedication of the war memorial in 1921, showing the shop windows at Church (now Loom) House installed by Henry Gammer c.1894. The sign painted on the wall of the pub reads: THE LEADING HOTEL FOR VISITORS LUNCHEONS, TEAS ETC. PARTIES CATERED FOR LOCK-UP MOTOR HOUSE. The hanging inn sign reads: MARLBOROUGH HEAD HOTEL WINES SPIRITS.



The Marlborough in the 1930s after the plaster had been removed from the upper storey.

The Sun

The Sun Inn was originally an early sixteenth-century house called Wards. When it became an inn in the following century a wing was added to the back, which had a covered outside staircase with a dovecot above it leading to a gallery on two sides of the rear courtyard. Behind that was a meadow which produced enough grass for the inn to supply its own "hayroom". The east side of the yard was occupied by stables, lofts and barns, which survived until they were demolished in 1932.

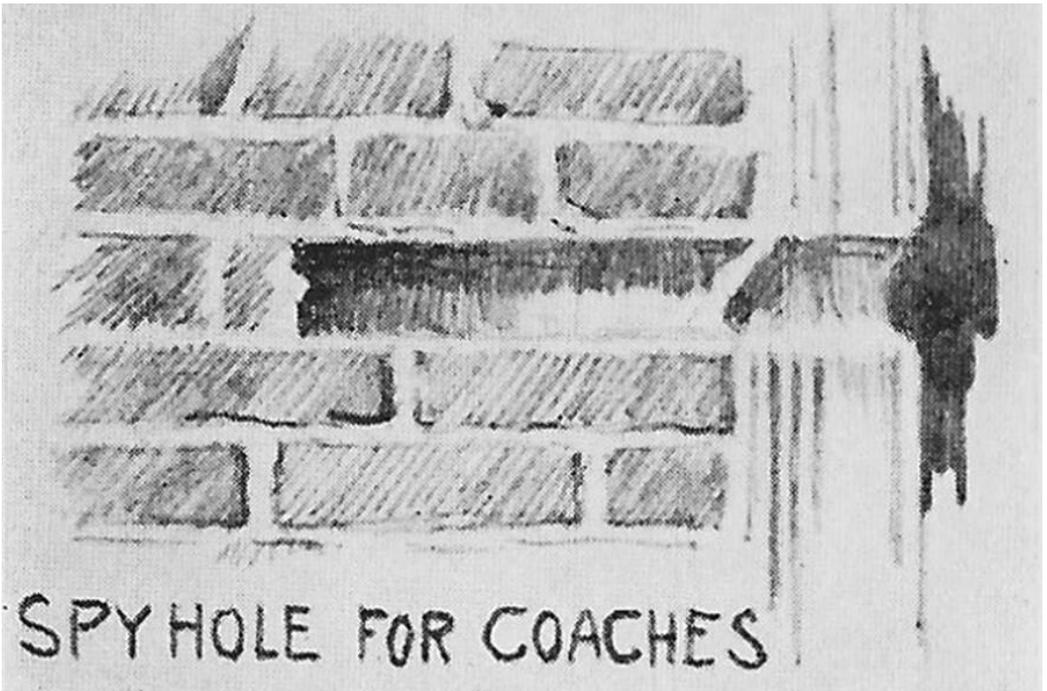
The inn's name dates only from around 1762 and we do not know why it was chosen. Canon Rendall suggests that it could have been intended to associate the inn with royalty, since the rising sun had been a heraldic charge (emblem) on the coat of arms of both Edward II and Edward IV. As long as I can remember, the pub's sign has show the *Sun in Splendour* with a human face on one side and on the other Apollo, the Greek sun god, racing his horse-drawn chariot across the sky. The particularly fine wrought-ironwork of its frame has been beautifully restored by the present owner. The Sun was evidently a very prosperous business. An advertisement in the *Ipswich Journal* on 20th March 1766 tells us that at that time it had "good Bed Chambers and lower Rooms, a

good Kitchen, with Bar and proper Conveniences, a Brew-Office, good Cellars and Wine Vaults; stabling for about 50 or 60 horses, Coach and Chaise-Houses; Room for stocking a Quantity of Hay in the same Yard, with an orchard and garden; and on the same Premises, a Malting and a Barber's Shop, with some rooms belonging". There was a barber in residence and the small ground-floor room to the east of the carriage archway was a wig as well as a barber's shop. Ted Eley remembered this being used in the early twentieth century by the Relieving Officer, who came to Dedham to distribute money and loaves of bread to the needy poor.

Like the Marlborough, the Sun was a busy coaching inn. In 1768 two four-horse stage coaches travelled from London to Ipswich via Dedham. In order that grooms could be ready to take charge of the horses the moment they arrived from either direction there were spy holes in the brickwork on either side of the window in the bar parlour, which allowed an oblique view up and down the High Street. These were removed when Cobbolds, the brewers who owned the inn, installed a large up-to-date front window in the early twentieth century. It survived until it fell out of fashion and was replaced by the present sash window in the 1960s.



A photographer outside the Sun Inn in the 1890s. Note the squints on either side of the window to the left of the arch, which allowed grooms waiting in the bar to look out for approaching coaches.



John Foster's sketch of a squint in the bar wall which allowed a view of the coaches as they arrived.

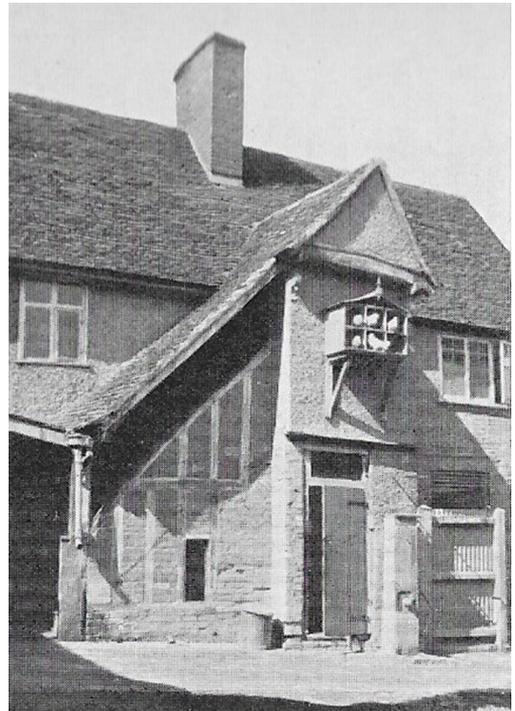
The earlier squints can clearly be seen in a photograph of the front of the building taken in the 1890s and in his Christmas card for 1939, which gives a short history of the pub, Canon Rendall included an explanatory sketch by Dedham artist John Foster.

The Sun was conveniently placed for the large congregation attending sermons at the church during the heyday of the Dedham Lectureship in the seventeenth century, when people travelled from as far away as Ipswich or Cambridge to hear inspiring sermons. It was also in a strategic position for the weekly market held in the centre of the village up to the 1920s, which was remembered long afterwards by the ringing of the Market Bell at 8 o'clock on Tuesday mornings until the 1950s. Numerous societies and organisations held meetings at the inn, which even acted as the Bowlers' Club House and all kinds of convivial occasions took place. In 1843 the *Essex Standard* reported that "*The Invitation Ball at the Sun Inn ... was very well attended, there being about fifty persons of the middle class present ... who vied with each other in infusing hilarity through the company*".

Twentieth-century tourism brought motorists, as evidenced by the AA and RAC signs which appear in photographs of the Sun. Its lofty archway leading into

the yard had been designed to admit the high-hooded wagons and tall loads of earlier times but was not suitable for motor buses. It narrowly escaped destruction in 1937, when visitor numbers were increasing and the owners wanted to demolish it, so that charabancs could drive through into the yard. This caused such an outcry locally that planning permission was refused and the Dedham Vale Society was subsequently set up by concerned residents anxious to guard against future threats to its historic buildings and countryside.

© Lucy Archer



The covered outside staircase in the Sun yard in 1922. Note the pigeon loft, still in use at that time.



The Sun Inn, Dedham.

A postcard of The Sun Hotel before 1912, showing (on the right) the large modern bar window installed by Cobbolds at the beginning of the twentieth century.



"In Constable's Country" The old Sun Inn, Dedham.

An early nineteenth-century postcard showing the Sun Inn yard with, on the left, the stables and outbuildings demolished in 1932.

WWI Essex soldier's bugle used in Remembrance Last Post



Tom Stapleton delivered The Last Post on a bugle at Dedham's remembrance service a century after it was last used at the event

Pte Henry Howard was in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and played his bugle in the army band, his great grandson said.

The bugle hung proudly on the family's walls for generations but has now been played again to mark the 100th anniversary of the war memorial in Pvt Howard's home village of Dedham, Essex.

Pte Howard played The Last Post when the memorial was unveiled in 1921. His great grandson, Mark Manning, 63, was at the ceremony in Dedham earlier to remember the fallen, including Pte Howard's son-in-law - Mr Manning's grandfather.

Pte Howard survived the war and lived until 1954, but Mr Manning's

grandfather, Harry Polson, was killed in World War Two, and his name is inscribed on the Dedham memorial.



Mark Manning's great grandfather, Pte Henry Howard, holds the bugle in front of a horse-drawn ambulance in France during WWI

The village first unveiled its memorial in 1921 and ex-army bugler Henry Howard stood in Royal Square in Dedham, as people fell silent to listen to the melancholy tones of The Last Post, played on his wartime bugle.



The Last Post was played on the bugle in 1921 in Dedham's Royal Square by Henry Howard, after he left the army

"He'd have had no idea that 20 years or so later, his own son-in-law's name would be on that memorial," said Mr Manning.

"He was involved in holding the Germans back by blowing up bridges on the River Seine to stop them getting to the evacuation in Dunkirk," Mr Manning said.



Mr Manning's grandfather Harry Polson was killed in World War Two & has his name inscribed on Dedham's memorial



Mr Stapleton said the bugle played "beautifully" and it's hoped it will be played at future memorials from now on

One hundred years after his great grandfather stood in front of the village's memorial, Mr Manning and his wife were there, again, to remember the family's history.

His great grandfather Pte Howard had been a farm worker before he joined the army and "about 40, like many other older men, he was conscripted into the medical corps", Mr Manning said.

"He had a secondary job and he played the bugle - the Reveille, the call to charge - and things like that."

The bugle, now looking somewhat battered, has been passed down through the generations.

Tom Stapleton, who has played the trumpet at the Remembrance service for the last seven years, was entrusted to deliver The Last Post on Pte Howard's faithful bugle.

"It felt like things have come full circle,"

"I feel very privileged to have been able to do it.

"It was quite overwhelming - I can't quite get my head around it."

The bugle has been part of Mr Manning's life since he was a child and it is now hoped the instrument will be played at future memorials.

"We'd try to blow it when we were kids, but our lungs weren't big enough," he recalled.

"But it was always hung on the wall - my grandmother's, and then my mother's wall - it's an important part of our history."

*Article taken from BBC News Essex
With kind permission from Mark Manning*

Interesting facts from Mark Manning:

The Bugle was used during WWI by my Great Grandfather, Henry Howard. His daughter, (Emily Polson, my Grandmother) last address was Forge Street, and is right opposite Tom Stapleton, who played the bugle at the ceremony.

Emily's Husband Harry is recorded on the memorial, he was killed in France, June 1940, during WW2. He was among a group that had stayed behind, blowing up bridges across the river Seine, to hold the Germans back while the main force escaped from Dunkirk. 'Southfields Dedham' is written on his original cross, behind the later official CWGC cross - this is because he was buried by the villagers in the village where he was killed - Criquebuef Sur Seine. For years afterwards the grave was looked after by the schoolchildren.

Harry's Brother Ken, was killed at Monte Cassino, Christmas 1943, but is not recorded on the memorial because he lived at Bromley.

Councillor Update

"Since my last update, work by myself, the Parish Council and Borough Cllr Nigel Chapman to improve road safety and traffic management continues to make progress. The Parish Council has worked tirelessly to prepare a plan to tackle road safety and traffic in the village. I commend and thank them for this work. I am pleased to have submitted this plan to Essex's Local Highway Panel for consideration.

As a member of the Local Highway Panel, and your County Councillor, I will do everything possible to secure the support and resources of Essex County Council (ECC) to improve road safety and traffic in and around the village. All proposals will be fully consulted on with the community and I look forward to hearing your views on proposals in due course. This is an issue I care passionately about and I have spoken at County Hall on how important Essex's Net Zero vision for no deaths and serious injuries on our roads is. I am looking forward to some positive changes in policies to help us improve road safety and traffic management.

The impact of tourism on Dedham and the wider AONB is another challenge I have been and will continue to work on. I want to ensure Dedham is well positioned to benefit from tourism while making sure any negative impacts of tourism on the community are managed. To this end, I have arranged a key meeting with the Councillors in charge of tourism at ECC and Colchester Borough Council, as well as

the Parish Council and Cllr Nigel Chapman to discuss a strategy going forward.

On Highways matters, this continues to always be an uphill battle. I was pleased to secure the money for repairs to Long Road West and I am working to get a good deal for Dedham's other roads and pavements, such as Mill Lane. If you know of any issue, please do get in touch.

ECC is also working on a new strategy to increase bus usage throughout the county. I'd welcome any views on the local bus service and how this could be improved so I can feed this into the work on the new strategy. I am keen to improve rural public transport and this is an ideal opportunity to do so.

Finally, I was disappointed to receive news from Suffolk County Council (SCC) that it has been unable to bring forward plans to remove and replace Fen Bridge. At the time of writing, SCC had confirmed that it would commence works on 22nd November for 4 weeks to remove the bridge. SCC is planning to install a replacement bridge in Spring/Summer 2022. Fen Bridge is the responsibility of SCC so I will continue to work with neighbouring colleagues elected to that local authority to resolve this issue.

Contact details: 078767237137;
cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk

Please like Cllr Lewis Barber on Facebook. You can subscribe to our email newsletter by emailing subscribe to the above."

*Lewis Barber, Councillor,
Constable Division*



Dedham Parish Council won Gold in the
2021 Annual Essex Playing Fields Association awards

The playing fields were voted best in their category,
there was also a Gold award for the children's playground
and Silver for the football pitch.

Thank You, *Gill Neville*
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It's Christmaaass!

Yes, I know you're as excited as I am at the prospect – though I expect there are some of you planning on hunkering down with the fire on and forgetting you've got a garden to care for. Just remember that if the dark mornings and nights seem interminable now, then rejoice that December also brings the shortest day of the year and a couple of minutes of extra light, day by day, as we slide back into a new spring.

Until then, I'm afraid there's still jobs to do as we prepare for the new season to come. That means clearing any weeds unveiled as you cut back herbaceous plants or revealed through the bare branches of trees and shrubs that have shed their leaves.



Prune apples for more blossom & fruit

Prune apples and pears while dormant to control their size and encourage

fruiting. It's most important for trees as the cordon and stepover forms I've got growing in my mini-orchard are best controlled in summer. Just cut back last year's growth on each main branch by about a third – find a bud pointing in the direction you want it to grow next season, which will help shape your tree. Don't prune the side shoots growing off these main branches and they should develop fruit buds.

Somehow I've managed to plant three grape vines (surely one's enough) and it's worth pruning them now as they can bleed sap if done later than December. I grow these using the rod and spur system, which means cutting back the side branches of each main stem to one or two buds.

Surprisingly – but utterly dependent on the weather – you can still divide herbaceous perennials such as campanulas, Japanese anemones, oriental poppies, peonies, lupins and hellebores. Don't hang about though: dig 'em up, split 'em and replant 'em straight away. But if the soil is waterlogged or frozen, it's best to leave division for now.

Another way of making more plants is through cuttings and even in winter you can propagate this way. Good 'victims' for root cuttings include phlox, verbascums, echinops and oriental poppies again (if you've ever moved a poppy from good soil to somewhere else, you'll know they're like bindweed). The plants you're choosing tend to be large and vigorous anyway,



Winter garden

and root cuttings need no special aftercare.

Choose a good, strong plant and lift it carefully. Wash the roots and cut off several that are young and about the thickness of a pencil; cut close to the crown of the plant. Only take about a third of the roots from the parent, so you don't kill it, and replant it as soon as you can.

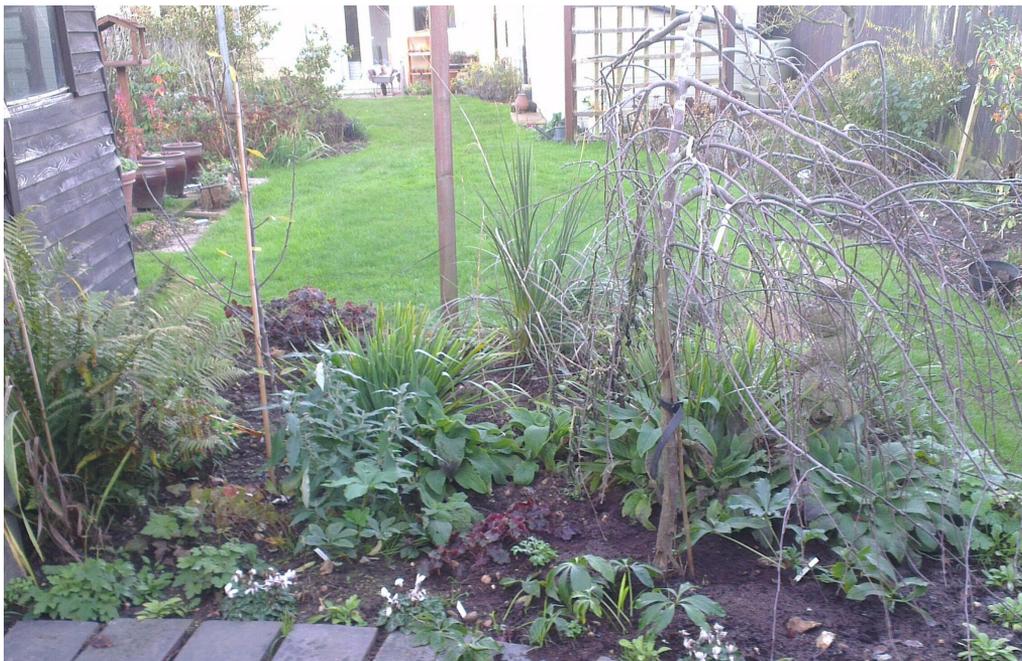
Discard the thinnest end of each cutting and remove any fibrous lateral roots before cutting each into lengths of between 5 and 10 cms. Cut horizontally at the top (nearest the crown) and angled at the lower end – this is so you plant them the right way up.

Insert into pots of cuttings compost so the top is just below the surface, then cover with about 1 cm of grit. Water lightly and store in a cold frame over winter. In spring, look for signs of top growth, while roots growing out of the base are the best indication that you can pot them on ready to plant out in another year. Campanula, phlox and Japanese anemones have thinner roots so use longer cuttings (about 8-12 cm) and lay them horizontally, cover with 1cm compost and them 1 cm grit.

Finally, take the time when there's not much to grow to get on top of the tidying up. Admittedly I should follow my own advice, as I'm hopeless at this – but this year, this year, is the one I'm actually going to do it.

I'm never entirely sure if I'm using a whetstone right and that I'm stroking the blade across it properly – also I buy oil every year and have lost it in the depths of the shed before I need to use it. So, careful storing of the kit and careful watching of educational videos online is called for. Sharp secateurs are the key tool for me as I'm always cutting at something with them and sharper cuts means healthier plants at less risk of disease.

You can also put some sand and oil in a bucket and plunge larger tools (hand



Tidy and clear

tools too I suppose) in and out of the sand, cleaning them and applying protective oil in one go. This sounds like one of those brilliant old tips that make one sound like a proper gardener, but actually just means I've got a bucket of sloppy sand in a bucket that I've got to find shed space for.

If that seems like a lot, don't worry I've better (and probably more realistic)

advice while the days are short and bound to be rainy, windy, snowy or foggy (maybe all at once). There's plenty of time to sit back, put the heat on, and write that Christmas list of all the garden goodies you'd like Santa to bring you.

Merry Christmas and happy new year everyone from the Dedham Horticultural Society committee.

Elliott Frisby

Village Warden for Dedham

Applications are sought for a Village Warden for Dedham.

This is a part time role for 10 hours per week.

The purpose of the role is to support the Parish Council in ensuring that the village is well maintained.

A full job specification can be obtained on application.

Please apply to clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk with a brief resume. *Closing date 31st December 2021*

Dedham WEA

Dedham Branch of the WEA (Worker's Educational Association) is holding its next course in January in the Sports Pavilion. The course title is "Religion and Art" and the tutor David Sharp's brief description of the course is as follows:

'The history of art is entwined with the history of religion but in modern times some tensions have emerged. Art is no longer merely the handmaid of religion but free to question and often mocks and shocks but may not necessarily reject. Today artists continue to engage constructively with spiritual themes and perhaps Sister Wendy Beckett's idea that 'all art that draws us to look deeply at it, is spiritual', is worthy of consideration. Paintings, sculptures, buildings, installations and video art will illustrate key themes, religions and periods as art and religion are seen to inspire and interrogate each other.'

The course is spread over ten weekly sessions of 1.5 hours from 10.30 - 12 noon, starting on Wednesday 12th January 2022 and finishing on 23rd March 2022 with a half-term break on 16th February. The full cost is £59.25 which may be discounted if you are in receipt of certain benefits.

Enrolment is either done on line at wea.org.uk or by telephone on 0300 303 3464 quoting course reference C2228264.

Further information from Colin on 01206 322565 or Ruth on 01206 322598

*Many thanks
Colin
(Chairman Dedham branch WEA)*

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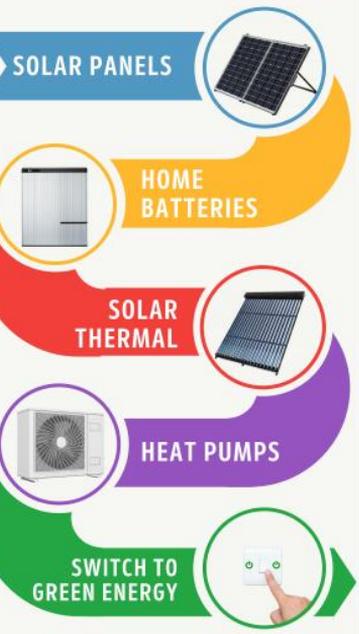
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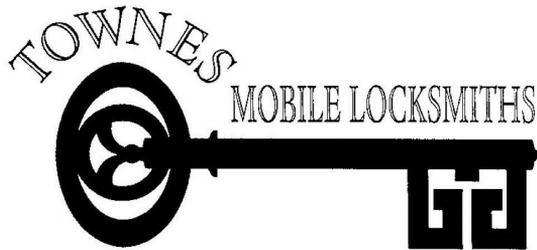


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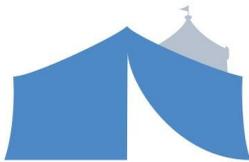


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