



DEDHAM

Parish Magazine

October 2026



Dedham Parish Magazine

First Published in 1876

150 years

October 2026

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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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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: Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598.**

If you would like a lift to church contact Sharon Sarson Tel: 07876 114418

If you have been bereaved or know of anyone who has, please contact Vee Druitt **Tel: 322 000** or Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598**

If you need any further support, please contact the Parishes Office Tel: 322 136 and your call will be returned.

Throughout the magazine local telephone numbers omit the 01206 area code unless otherwise stated.

Opinions expressed in contributed articles are those of the contributor and do not necessarily represent the position or opinions of the PCC or the Editorial team.



Member Editor 2026
Association for Church Editors

The deadline for the November 2026 Magazine entries.

12th October 2026.

Contents/Editorial

CONTENTS

2.	Contacts.
3.	Contents/Editorial.
4.	Services & Events.
5.	Rural Missioner.
6-8.	Church News and Events.
9.	Organ Recital.
10.	Duchy Barn Cinema.
11.	Parish Magazine 1876.
12.	Duntons Almshouse.
13.	Dedham Educational Foundation.
14-15.	Dedham Parish Council.
16-17.	Remembering the fallen.
18-20.	Gardening Notes.
21-24.	News and Events.
25.	Ardleigh Surgery Update.
26-27	News and Events.
28.	Dedham Films.
29.	Events Calendar.
30.	Kingsleigh.
31-48.	Advertising.

Cover: Horse Chestnut tree in front of the church.

IN YOUR MAGAZINE

We have introduced a new item, called Newspaper Clippings, this month. You will find the clippings throughout the magazine. They have been created to fill those awkward spaces when articles don't quite fill the page. They are extracted from the British Newspaper Archive which now includes more than 107 million scanned pages. Their website has also been updated to include a much improved search procedure as well as the ability to store clippings.

As the new website of the Parish Council doesn't include much of the Dedham specific information that has been built up over the years, I have created a website which includes the Dedham village items. Please check it out on e-voice.org.uk/dedham and let me know what you think.

John Goldsbrough

Sunday, 4th October

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Ardleigh
 9.30am Cafe Church Ardleigh
 9.30am Rise n Shine Dedham*
 5pm Evensong Dedham*

Sunday, 11th October

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh
 11am Holy Communion Dedham*

Sunday, 18th October

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh
 9.30am Matins Dedham*
 5pm Revive@5 Dedham*

Sunday, 25th October

9.30am Harvest Morning Praise Ardleigh
 3pm Guide Dog Service Ardleigh
 9.30am Holy Communion Dedham*

* = Services which may be live streamed.

Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday
 10.30am at Dedham Church

Ardleigh Friendship Group: every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: 10am to 12pm - **Ardleigh Church.**

Ardleigh Craft Group: every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month: Meeting at **Ardleigh Church** from 10am to 12pm. Please contact Ardleigh Churchwarden if you are interested in joining the group.

Little Steps Pre-School Group: every 4th Friday of the month: 9.30am in **Ardleigh Church.**

Men's Breakfast - Saturday 3rd October - Breakfast, Bacon, Buns and Bible.

Monday Lunch Club – Monday 5th October 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms. Phone 322192 to reserve a place.

Walk and Talk - Thursday 8th October 10am or 11am, Dedham Church and The Marlborough. 10am for a walk, or at 11am for just a chat. Phone 0771 244 6198 for more details.

FROM THE REGISTERS

September Baptism

Ivy Mumford

September Weddings

Anna Buttery and Edwin Poon

Maddison Austin and Max Wright

Cara Evans and Alexander Smith

Annabel Wellington and Dominic Hill



Our services are on YouTube.
Search Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes.



Follow us on Facebook,
search - Dedham and
Ardleigh Parishes.

Dedham and Ardleigh
parishes website -
QR code



Dear friends,

A popular TV programme at the moment in our household is Long Lost Family, particularly the series where babies left to be found by others, as grown up adults, are seeking to find their birth families.

The stories are very moving but often with good intentions for the flourishing of the infant and a deep longing from the person to find out their root identity

In a world that constantly tells us who we should be, not knowing birth origins puts huge emotional toll on people who know they are adopted. We often define ourselves by our jobs, our relationships, our successes, or even our failures but our birth origins are intrinsically important to us all.

As Christians, though, there is more to our identity than our birth origins and what we do with our lives. We are children of God through our belief and faith in Jesus (John 1 v12). We are always loved by God (Romans 8 v38-39), and our purpose can be found in God too: serving Him and others to grow a kingdom of love, justice and peace (1 Peter 2 v9).

To have our identity in Christ means that our worth is no longer up for public debate. It is not defined by what we do, nor where we are from. It does not arise from our gifts and talents nor by our personalities. We are all children of God, chosen and dearly loved.

When we root our lives in this truth, everything changes. The pressure to prove ourselves fades away, replaced by a quiet confidence. We no longer need to look to the world for validation because the Creator of the universe has already called us His own.

This identity doesn't make us perfect, but it does make us secure. It gives us a firm foundation to face life's challenges with hope and grace.

Finding our roots is important and for most of us it is a known thing. But there is a deeper, unshakeable truth available to every one of us: our true identity is found in Christ.

Whatever our roots and our past, it is the future to which we move towards. Having our identity in Christ is a firm foundation to face the future in confidence, knowing we have the gracious love of God always with us and for us. I pray we may all know something of this truth with whatever our family tree looks like.

Best wishes

Rev'd John Saxon

Newspaper Clipping

Cheltenham Chronicle 04 November
1899

HEREDITARY CHORISTERS.

There has just died at Dedham a notable villager, named William Sherman, at the ripe old age of 82. Sherman was born of a well-known local family, some of whom emigrated to America in the seventeenth century, and the famous General Sherman was a descendant of the American branch. A member of the Sherman family has served in the choir of Dedham Church for the last 300 years, and William Sherman has been a chorister for 68 years.

HORSE CHESTNUT TREE



The large horse chestnut standing in front of Dedham Church is a beautiful and much loved tree which needs to be maintained in a good condition.

All the trees in the churchyard are inspected on a regular basis and we have been advised by two independent experts that this tree is outgrowing its strength and needs to be cut back to ensure its survival. This will also lessen the chances of old branches falling off and possibly causing damage or injury.

The work is scheduled to take place in the first week of November and will take approximately 3 days to complete.

During this time the footpath and part of the road will need to be closed; permission for this has been given by Colchester City Council.

DEDHAM PCC

LUMOS CANDLELIT CONCERT

Some of you may have purchased tickets to the Lumos Candlelit concert at Dedham Church on the 31 July, which sadly had some issues.

We want to assure you this was a 3rd party event, and not organised by the church.

Please direct any complaints to Lumos at customerservice@lumos-experiences.com

Lumos have assured us they will make things right with all customers affected

In support of



St. Mary the Virgin Ardleigh
CO7 7LD

A Special Service to celebrate the
95th Anniversary
of Guide Dogs for the Blind

Sunday October 25th at 3pm.

Guide dogs, Pups in training

Come and meet these wonderful
Life Changing Dogs
and hear the difference
they make to their
owners lives

light refreshments after
the service



 Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a company limited by
guarantee and a registered charity in England and Wales (209617)
and Scotland (SC038979) GD0640 05/22



CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH

THE DEANERY CHOIR

and Revd Canon Stephen Carter

OCTOBER 18th 2026

6.30pm Start

Organist - Peter Clayton Conductor - Sally Pudney

Ferial - Stanford - Walford Davies - Balfour Gardiner

St Edmund King and Martyr

Tendring CO16 0BN



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

OCTOBER

October 11th.

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS** at the 11am communion service.

The anthem will be 'The Call' by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Ralph Vaughan Williams was an English composer. His works include operas, ballets, chamber music, secular and religious vocal pieces and orchestral compositions including nine symphonies, written over sixty years. Strongly influenced by Tudor music and English folk-song, his output marked a decisive break in British music

from its German-dominated style of the 19th century.

October 18th.

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Edmund Church, Tendring CO16 0BN** at the **6.30pm Choral evensong service.**

The anthem will be 'Evening Hymn' by Balfour Gardiner. Henry Balfour Gardiner was a British musician, composer, and teacher. He was the son of Henry John Gardiner, a successful entrepreneur who made a considerable fortune in the drapery wholesale business in Bristol and London.

The choir will also sing a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in C by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford who was an Anglo-Irish composer, music teacher, and conductor of the late Romantic era. Born to a well-off and highly musical family in Dublin, Stanford was educated at the University of Cambridge before studying music in Leipzig and Berlin.

Graham Bell, Deanery Choir
grahambell493@gmail.com

MISSIONS BAKE SALES



The remaining date for the 2026 Mission Stall outside the church is as follows:

Saturday 31st October 10am-12pm.

Ruth Higginso



Revive@5

**unchanging faith
in a changing world**

20 September
Faith in the storms of life

18 October
Faith in a technological world

15 November David Campanale
Faith in the Public Square

*Come and encounter God through contemporary worship, prayer and
timeless truths applied to our world today*

Refreshments from 4.30pm, service at 5pm

St. Mary's, Dedham CO7 6DE

Organ Recital

Saturday, 3rd October 2026, 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Dedham



**An organ recital to be given by the
Organist, Christopher Moore.**

Christopher is a highly accomplished organist based in Suffolk, who has enjoyed an extensive local and international career. The recital will last approximately 1 hour.

*Free admission, retiring collection in aid of the Organ Fund.
Refreshments will be available afterwards.*



CHRISTOPHER MOORE was born in Sussex and educated in Hertfordshire and at Durham University, where he graduated BA (with Honours) in Music. After a year's further

study at the College of St Nicolas, Addington Palace (Royal School of Church Music) he worked in schools and churches in Dorset (St Stephen's, Bournemouth), London (St Augustine's, Kilburn) and Sussex (All Saints, Hove) before moving to Cambridge in 1986 to take up the post of Director of Music at Great St Mary's (the University Church), later moving to the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs.

In 1998 he moved to Sudbury, Suffolk, and then to London where he was Acting Organist to the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. In 2004 he moved to South Africa to be Director of Music at the Cathedral of St Michael and St George, Grahamstown, but later returned to the UK to take up the post of Director of Music at St Michael and All Angels, Croydon.

For thirty years he was an examiner for the ABRSM and for twenty years a director of the English Hymnal Company. For two years he was Assistant Director of Music at St Mary-le-Tower in Ipswich and for five the conductor of the Bury Friendly Orchestra and the Tudor Rose Singers.

Christopher now lives in Clare, Suffolk, and is busy as pianist, organist, harpsichordist, accompanist and teacher as well as being involved in many aspects of musical life both in Suffolk and further afield.

His last church post was Choir Director at St Mary's church in Bury St Edmunds. He is Assistant Conductor and Organist of Peterborough Chamber Choir and regularly accompanies the Blythburgh Singers and Laus Deo choirs in cathedrals.

He is pianist of the Sokolowski Trio, the Linnet Ensemble and the Asadi Quintet. He studied the organ with Martin Neary at St Margaret's Westminster, Conrad Eden at Durham Cathedral and Timothy Farrell at Addington Palace, and the piano with Joyce Goldie and Carlina Carr.

He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and of Trinity College London, and a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music. He is also an honorary Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians and holds the Archbishop of Canterbury's Diploma in Church Music, presented by Archbishop Robert Runcie in 1985.

DUCHY BARN CINEMA 2026-2027 SEASON



The Duchy Barn Cinema will resume this October with the screening of an “all-time great” by Billy Wilder, followed a selection of some of the greatest movies ever made. Films are normally scheduled on the last Wednesday of every month, starting at 10am. The season lasts from October to April inclusive with 2 additional children’s films scheduled during the June half term and summer holidays. Please put the following dates in your diaries for our first 3 films:

- Wednesday 28 October at 10am
- Wednesday 25 November at 10am
- Wednesday 09 December at 10am

For a list and details of the different films we shall be showing, please pick up a leaflet from the back of St. Mary’s Church or the Duchy Barn or call the parish office on 01206 322136.

Entrance is free and a selection of drinks and cakes are served during the interval, half way through the film. ALL are welcome!

Please note that places are limited to 34 and we operate on a “first come first served” basis. Any children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our 2026-2027 season!



Dedham Parish
Magazine - October
1876

LECTURE.-A Lecture entitled "A Fortnight in Scotland in 1876," and illustrated by Dissolving Views of the places visited will be given by the Rev. J. G. Mills, on Tuesday Evening, October 17th, in the National Schoolroom. The chair will be taken by W. H. Penrose, Esq., at half-past seven o'clock. Syllabus of Lecture: Introduction-Hay Fever-Start from Dedham-The Journey-Edinburgh-Lions of Edinburgh-Start for the Highlands-Dumbarton Castle -The Clyde-Balloch Pier-Loch Lomond- Rowerdennan-Ascent of Ben Lomond, Inverarnan-Rob Roy's Cavern-Tarbet-Ardlui-Killin-Callander-Ben Ledi-Loch Vennachar-The Trossachs-Loch Katrine-Ellen's Isle-Ben Venue and Loch Achray-Stirling Castle-Edinburgh-Second sight-Sir Walter Scott-Return to England-Conclusion.



Dedham Parish
Magazine - November
1876

A FORTNIGHT IN SCOTLAND IN 1876.-This was the title of a lecture, illustrated by dissolving views, which was delivered by the Rev. J. G. Mills, in the National Schoolroom (which was very crowded) on Tuesday October 17th. The chair was kindly taken by Mr. Penrose, who in introducing the lecturer, expressed the great happiness which he himself had derived from

Scotland. In his opening remarks, Mr. Mills deprecated the fashion of going abroad for scenery until the scenery of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland had been exhausted. After referring to the cause, viz., hay-fever, which led him to seek the lake scenery of Scotland, as the sea and lakes are the only cure for that disorder, he proceeded to describe the various places of interest which were visited by him in Scotland, views of which were exhibited under the superintendence of Messrs G. Clarke and G. Barber, who in two or three instances mystified both lecturer and audience by presenting the views upside down. We must give our special thanks to Miss Hancocks and Miss Alice Hancocks, who presided at the piano during the evening and played appropriate airs, and last, not least, we thank Mrs. Clarke and her choir of school children who sang the pretty and effective way in which they sang the songs "Far away," "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon," "My Highland Laddie," and "Auld lang Syne." We have rarely heard children sing so sweetly and effectively, and we feel quite sure that Mrs. Clarke must have expended a great deal of time and labour to have produced such a result. At the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks was proposed to the lecturer by the Rev. Dr. Ashwin, and a similar compliment was proposed to the chairman by the Rev. J. G. Mills. The proceeds of the lecture amounted to £5 18s. 6d., of which, after expenses had been deducted, £4 will be devoted to the Dedham East Window Fund.

Note:

Using the Bank of England inflation calculator, the £4 devoted to the window fund would be equivalent to around £800 today.



Duntons Almshouses Charity

Charity registration No: 207264

Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for a new resident in one of our properties in Crown Street, Dedham. The property is likely to be available from 1st December after some refurbishment.

Under the terms of the charity relating to these particular properties applicants must be in need of housing, aged over 60 years, currently living in the parish of Dedham or specific neighbouring villages, including Ardleigh, Stratford St Mary, Langham and Lawford. (See website for further information).

The vacant property has an upstairs bedroom, with all other facilities downstairs.

Residents must be capable of independent living, caring for themselves without assistance.

For further details and an application form please contact the clerk to the Charity by emailing:

Clerk.duntons@gmail.com

www.duntonsalmshouse.com

Closing date for applications is Friday 23rd October 2026

THE DEDHAM EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Charity number 310831

The Dedham Education Foundation provide grants to young people for educational purposes.

The Trustees invite applications from residents in the Parishes of Ardleigh, Bradfield, Dedham, Great Bromley and Stratford St. Mary for financial grants that are available in the following categories:

Secondary Schools & Sixth Form Colleges

Applicants must be **at least 12 years old on the 1st August** in the year of application.

Universities & Colleges of Further Education

Applicants must have lived in one, or more, of the five Parishes for **at least 2 years** prior to the application date.

Closing date for applications: 15 October 2026

How to apply for a Grant

Please read and complete our online application form:

→ <https://forms.gle/rRTXW3adWAQXNgYP7>

For a paper application form, or further details, please contact the Clerk to the Foundation:

➡ dedhamefclerk@gmail.com

☎ 07989 579227

 Dedham Educational Foundation

DEDHAM PARISH



COUNCIL

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT – MONDAY, 7th September 2026

Public Open Forum

Wildlife: A resident reported that kingfishers are still being seen along the River Stour, which was welcomed as positive news.

Mobile Phone Coverage: An update was provided regarding ongoing mobile phone issues. The lack of reliable coverage is now affecting utility companies' ability to access meters remotely.

Parking: Problems associated with football-related parking continue to be an issue.

Highways and Traffic: Ongoing concerns were raised regarding highway conditions and the speed of traffic through the village, which are considered a safety risk.

Castle Hill: It was noted that significant expenditure may be required to address the highway issues at Castle Hill.

River Safety: The need to improve public awareness regarding potential dangers associated with the river was raised.

East Lane Road Surface: The poor condition of the road surface in East Lane was highlighted. The issue will be formally reported via the appropriate Highways reporting system

Drainage/Flooding: A blocked ditch and drainage tunnels along the Essex Way, down East Lane towards the bottom corner, were reported.

Local Government Reform

It was noted that the Local Government Reform planned for Essex and Suffolk has been withdrawn

Legal update - Playing Fields

The Parish Council is the registered proprietor of the land with title absolute and holds the playing field subject only to the restrictive covenants set out in the conveyance.

The Council does have the authority to regulate the timing, frequency and extent of football use on the playing field subject to certain reasonable conditions.

Establishment of the Dedham Sports Club Working Party

The terms of reference for the group to review and outline proposals for usage of the playing fields was agreed.

Update on river and meadows issues including cost to address jumping off the bridge

The Parish Council had received notification of the landowner's appeal to Babergh Council's ruling on breach of 28 day trading on the meadows. The Parish Council will be submitting their response and encourages all residents to do so. Further information will be circulated via relevant social media channels.

The Chair reported on Suffolk Highways costings for deterrents for young people jumping off the bridge. This matter will be discussed further at the Multi-Agency Group meeting on 30th September.

River Safety Signage

The Council discussed proposed signage highlighting river safety, pollution risks and licensing requirements for river craft. It was agreed in principle to purchase and position the signs at a suitable location near the river to ensure public visibility.

Padel tennis

The Council agreed to establish a working group to establish the feasibility of creating padel courts in Dedham

Finance, standards and Procedures report

The Council agreed to the report and minor changes to standing orders.

Planning report

The Council agreed to the report noting the observation to be made on the planned alterations to Hallfields Cottage

Infrastructure

Trading Bay Policy

The policy was agreed. Details of which will be made available on website and signage installed on wall in Royal Square outlining permitted usage of the bay and timings.

Village Signs

Council would welcome offers to repair the signage

Speed cameras

It was agreed to purchase 2 speed cameras with potential sites being currently considered, including mobile locations.

Clerk's Report

There is a public meeting regarding the Langham 900 update at Langham Community Centre 29th September 2026 7pm if anyone wishes to attend.

The next Council meeting is on Monday 5th October.

Correction:

The September Parish Magazine summary of extraordinary Council meetings on July 20th was in one place incorrect regarding the following:

Under the heading "Football Club Developments" the comment from a resident that changes were progressing ahead of formal community consultation".

The Council apologises for this error as the resident stated the following: 'I clearly quoted Parish Council minutes and draft minutes from May 11th up to July 6th which always used the words "wish", "aim" or "proposal" for Sunday football when the Football Club had announced on April 14th and May 9th that action had been taken to play Sunday football. I stated that the Parish Council had therefore misled residents'.

Ellr Douglas Bourn

Newspaper Clipping

Walton Gazette and Harwich and
Dovercourt Advertiser 02 January 1895

One knotty point which the Local Government Board is expected to settle has reference to the Dedham Parish Council Election. It is stated that Mrs. Harry Raison, who was awarded the lowest place on the poll, has written to the Local Government Board to know why her agent in the person of her husband was ordered out of the polling booth at the Dedham Parish Council election, while a Conservative agent was allowed to remain. She is also said to have a grievance against a justice of the peace, who, it is alleged, refused to take "a declaration of secrecy as laid down by the Ballot Act, thereby denying to her equal rights with other candidates."

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

At this time of year we remember the fallen. Below is the list of the three servicemen registered with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, whose graves are in the church graveyard. A map (also reproduced below) can be found on the noticeboard in the Church porch showing the location of each grave. Should anyone have any further information they can add to the below, please contact James Shaw email: jscshaw@sky.com

Alfred James Bird Royal Army Medical Corps. Service number 91355

Died in hospital at Colchester 6th October 1919 aged 42yrs

Pilot Officer Frederick Albert Dines. Service number 148893

He received his commission on 15th June 1943 and died on a night training mission while flying Avro Lancaster W4953 from RAF Lindholme in Yorkshire during the early hours of 24th of November 1943. The aircraft crashed shortly after take off. He was 32yrs old. Son of Elizabeth Dines of Gun Hill, Dedham.

Leonard Bertram Beard. 2nd County of London Yeomanry (Westminster Dragoons) Royal Armoured Corps. Service number 14250452.

Died 5th Sept. 1944 aged 20yrs. On the date of his death the regiment was situated in Northern France, near Amiens. Son of Mrs J.E. Beard of Dedham.





Alfred James Bird



Frederick Albert Dines



Leonard Bertam Beard

Hi everyone,

I'm Arin Andrews, your **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Organizer** for Dedham. I just wanted to reach out personally and say how proud I was of our village last year. Together, we raised just over **£10,000** — an incredible achievement that was only possible because of our wonderful volunteers, local businesses, Dedham Primary School, and Dedham Church. I'm genuinely grateful to every single person who played a part.

This year's Poppy Appeal runs from **Thursday 22nd October through to Remembrance Day, Wednesday 11th November**. We'll once again have our stall on the Royal Square, and our brilliant volunteers will be out doing house-to-house collections. If you'd like to join us — whether for a couple of hours or a day — we'd love to have you. It's a lovely way to meet people in the village and be part of something meaningful.

Our knitted poppies were a real highlight last year, thanks to the talented volunteers who gave their time to make them. They looked beautiful and were incredibly popular. If anyone would like to knit some more this year, just let me know and I'll happily send you the pattern.

Local businesses: if you'd like to support the Appeal by having a collecting tin, please do get in touch. Your help makes a huge difference.

And finally, if you need Poppies or any Remembrance items but can't make it to the stall, I'm more than happy to deliver them anywhere in the village. You can reach me on **07941 952125**.

Arin Andrews

REPEAT YOURSELF

As we begin our journey through the tricks of garden design, I confess that some of them are not ones I use in my own garden.

Take this month's tip: although repeating plants is one of the easiest ways to make a garden look more coherent, I completely admit I only do it half-heartedly. My garden has always been 'designed' as a mass of utterly unconnected planting and I will absolutely buy something on a whim just because I like the colour.

Having said that, I am trying to put more thought into the layout of my garden as many of the plants I've put in over the last decade are now maturing. Some are overgrowing their space motivating me to think about what to do with entire borders.

You only need to look at garden designs at any of the big flower shows to know that repetition is one of the techniques professionals use constantly.

The Thomas Gainsborough Garden at the RHS Sandringham show this year repeated its square pools in the shape of its flower borders. Within those borders, we saw the colour scheme of pale blue repeated in agapanthus and Russian sage, in pink roses and achillea. Repetition was a feature of other gardens too.

It works because our eyes and brains are lazy and look for patterns to process information more easily, and predictable elements reduce visual noise.

Repetition is particularly useful in an established garden because you probably already have plenty of plants to work with. Although it's tempting (so tempting) to shop for something new, try this before you do.



RHS Sandringham Flower Show - Thomas Gainsborough garden

Walk around your garden and identify three plants that you particularly like. For me, it's an ornamental grass – *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Malepartus' – with plumes reaching more than two meters tall that I put into a border at the bottom of the garden several years back. It was intended to draw my eye down the garden from the house windows, but the clump spread to become too obtrusive and it was all I could focus on when I looked into the garden from the house.

This spring I dug it up, divided it into several good-sized clumps and put one about halfway between the existing clump and the house. Now my eyes are drawn to the nearest clump and other planting in that border, before moving to the one further down.

Another element of repetition is to think in groups. I expect we've all heard someone talking about planting in groups of odd numbers; 3, 5 and so on depending on the size of our border. It's especially important with bulbs – one daffodil looks sad and lost in a border, but a generous drift is a feature.

October is an ideal month for planting bulbs like narcissus, crocus, alliums, camassia and many more (although save tulip bulbs until temperatures are colder in November or December).

You can repeat colour and shape too - you don't have to repeat the exact plant. I do this in summer with the dark-leaved Bishop series of dahlias, putting a clump at regular intervals along one of my longer beds. I've also repeated a series of (almost) ball-shaped, evergreen *Lonicera nitida* (the box-leaved honeysuckle) which takes clipping well, doesn't have the problems of box and provides winter interest. You might also echo the rounded shape of a box ball in the globed flowerheads of alliums.

Be careful not to overdo it as too much repetition becomes boring. Instead, a useful approach is to choose two or three plants or characteristics that become recurring themes in your garden.

So this month, have a look at your garden, pick one plant that's worked really well for you and consider a couple of other places where you might repeat it.

After the summer we've had, October is a great time to think about this and plant any perennials you move, divide or buy. The soil is still warm but there should be more moisture (rain) so everything will settle in better.

Plant any bulbs you buy generously rather than scattering them too thinly and, if you already have some that perform well, buy more of the same rather than automatically trying a new variety.

Finally, look out for the schedule for our Spring Show (20 March) on our website this month too. This is our daffodil and bulb show, so we're giving you plenty of time to decide which classes to enter and buy, plant and grow any bulbs you need.

Our new programme of evening talks kicks off on Wednesday 7 October when Helen Carey, Suffolk Master Composter will share tips on home composting. Trained and supported by Suffolk Waste Partnership and national organic growing charity Garden Organic, master composters help raise awareness of the benefits of composting to encourage more of us to compost at home. Join us at 7.30pm at the Assembly Rooms on Dedham's High Street.

Elliott Fisby

dedhamgardening@gmail.com.





RHS Sandringham Flower Show - 100 Sweet Summers Garden



RHS Sandringham Flower Show - Rhythm of Rainwater Garden (detail)

2025-26 SEASON STARTS ON 4 OCTOBER

Season tickets for the five concerts and one talk are available

OCTOBER CONCERTS

Sunday 4 October 3.30pm at St Mary's Church East Bergholt CO7 6TG

Alvor Trio (flute, harp, viola)

Sarah Newbold, flute – Martin Outram, viola – Imogen Barford, harp

Mozart – Ravel – Jongen – William Mathias

John Pickard – Vaughan Williams – Debussy



Sunday 18 October 3.30pm at St Mary's Church East Bergholt CO7 6TG

Sacconi Quartet

Ben Hancox, violin I – Hannah Dawson, violin II – Robin Ashwell, viola

Cara Berridge, cello

Caroline Shaw, Nimrod - Walton, Quartet in A minor

Beethoven, Quartet in A minor op 132

Generously supported by John and Carole Ashton



Tickets £18 (students half price and children free)

Tickets available from Grier and Partners, East Bergholt

Information and booking from: 01206 298426 – svamtickets@btinternet.com

Online credit card booking via our website www.svam.org.uk

November Concert - save the date

Sunday 1 November 3.30pm at St Mary's Church Mistley CO11 1ER

Mithras Piano Trio

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DUCHY BARN COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Duchy Barn Community Centre holds its community coffee mornings on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 10.30 am - 12 noon. The Barn is available to hire at very reasonable rates for small functions/celebrations/ group meetings etc.

Contact Anne Rowledge on 01206322394

ROMAN RIVER FESTIVAL 2026 ST. MARY'S CHURCH, DEDHAM. FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Alissa Firsova - Piano
Daniel Rowland - Violin
Sébastien van Kuijk - Cello

Three outstanding international musicians come together for an evening of powerful and atmospheric chamber music. Moving from the intensity of Rachmaninov and Prokofiev, to the stillness of Arvo Pärt and the contemporary voice of composer-pianist Alissa Firsova, before ending with Beethoven's dramatic and haunting Ghost Trio.

Rich in contrast and emotional depth, the programme brings together music that is intimate, expressive, and deeply absorbing.

Programme

Sergei Rachmaninov - Trio élégiaque No. 1 in G minor

Sergei Prokofiev - Violin Sonata No. 1 in F minor

Interval

Arvo Pärt - Spiegel im Spiegel

Alissa Firsova - In Spiritu

Ludwig van Beethoven - Piano Trio in D major "Ghost", Op. 70, No. 1

Tickets

Front Row £35, General Admission £30

Further Back £20

Under 30s (General Admission) £15

Doors open at 6.30pm. The concert begins at 7pm and will run for approximately two hours, finishing around 9pm. There will be a 20-minute interval. Drinks will be available before the performance and during the interval, and audience members are welcome to take drinks into the concert.

St Mary's Church in Dedham is a magnificent 15th-century Perpendicular Gothic church built during the height of the East Anglian wool trade. Famous for its striking 131-foot tower, the church is closely associated with the painter John Constable and houses his celebrated work *The Ascension*.

The church has a wheelchair-accessible main entrance providing step-free access into the nave, along with a fully adapted accessible toilet with baby-changing facilities.

The small parking area directly outside the church is prioritised for Blue Badge holders and visitors with limited mobility, subject to availability. Some parking may be available along the church wall or roadside in the village. Failing this, Dedham Riverside Car Park is a short walk away on Dedham Road (CO7 6DH).



Alissa Firsova

ARDLEIGH SURGERY UPDATE

GP Trainees

The practice was delighted to welcome three new GP trainees in August 2026: Dr Spence, Dr Emran and Dr Zulkefli.

All three are qualified Doctors in their final year of specialist training and are working towards becoming fully qualified GPs. They are being supervised by Dr Cole and Dr Outtridge, who are the practice GP trainers.

As part of their training, the GP trainers regularly review and discuss the trainees' consultations with them. This provides ongoing supervision, education and support throughout their final year of training.

The practice recognises that some patients can initially be hesitant about seeing a GP trainee. However, the trainees are experienced doctors who are undertaking the final stage of their GP training. Patients who agree to see them make a valuable contribution to the training of the next generation of GPs.

Flu Vaccination

The practice has released the first dates for this year's winter flu vaccination campaign. As in previous years, there will be a Saturday morning clinic followed by a number of clinics throughout October and November. The practice will also be busy undertaking flu vaccinations for housebound patients and residents of local care homes.

Please contact the surgery if you are yet to book your Flu vaccine.

Patient Participation Group- PPG

Have your say!

Would you like to have an input into the way your local GP Surgery operates? If so, we are currently seeking new members for our PPG. If you are a registered patient at Ardleigh Surgery

and interested in becoming a member, please visit the surgery for further information.

- Please be kind to staff, as the world is in turmoil and the life become stressful abuse of our staff is become a daily matter.

- There are always less appointments than patients needing appointments so please fill in your ANIMA requests early in the day.

The Team at Ardleigh Surgery

Newspaper Clipping

Suffolk Chronicle 23 August 1929

Dedham.

At the height of the storm on Friday night, just before nine o'clock, a motor-cycling accident occurred at the foot of Grove Hill, Dedham. Mr. William Smith, residing at Braintree, and employed at Crittall's, with a friend, Mr. William Pyle, of the Mill Cottages, Dedham, as pillion-rider, skidded. Following two vivid flashes of lightning and heavy peals of thunder, Mr. and Mrs. Archer, of the Laurels, heard a smash outside, and found Smith lying on the ground and the fence almost completely demolished. Smith was conveyed to Dr. J. C. Sleight's surgery, where he received attention to severe cuts on the right knee and severe abrasions on the face. His tongue was completely bitten through, causing considerable bleeding. He was afterwards taken on a stretcher to his sister's house, and did not regain consciousness until the following day. Pyle escaped with slight bruises to the knee. The machine was but slightly damaged.

DEDHAM ART SOCIETY

We are a friendly and welcoming amateur art group who love painting together on a regular basis. From time to time we invite guest tutors, and at our other sessions we enjoy sharing ideas, supporting one another, and learning together in a relaxed atmosphere. If you'd like to find out more about the Dedham Art Society, please Email dedhamartsociety@gmail.com or visit our website:

www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk.

If you're interested in coming along to a session, please do get in touch by email.

Dedham Art Society – October 2026 Thursday Painting Sessions Assembly Rooms, 2.00–4.30pm

October 8th, Thursday

Members' painting together session – Black and White Ink

October 22th, Thursday

Members' painting together session – Landscape of Imagination
Assembly Rooms, 2.00–4.30pm

Newspaper Clipping

Essex Newsman - 29 July 1939

BLAZE AT DEDHAM

ARTS SCHOOL DESTROYED.

Colchester Fire Brigade were called out on Thursday to a fire at Dedham which destroyed the East Anglian Arts School of Painting and Drawing. The Brigade found this old timber building ablaze from end to end, but a number of the pictures and some of the furniture were saved. A Chinese occupant of the school jumped from a window to escape the fire, but was not hurt.

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If we don't have a group you are interested in, you are welcome to start one up. Membership costs only £15 a year.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, Gaston Street, East Bergholt. Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join.

Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt, CO7 6TP. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4.

On the 14th October, Andy Moore will talk on "Colchester Zoo and its Role in Conservation" and on the 11th November, Paul Campion's subject will be "Hope and Glory - The Proud Story of the Proms".

Please take a look at our website <https://stourvalley.u3asite.uk/welcome/> for more information and contact details.

THE BIG BREAKFAST

THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, DEDHAM



Saturday 14th November 2026,
8:30am – 11:30am



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Director David Frankel 2026

Wednesday 21st October 7.30pm

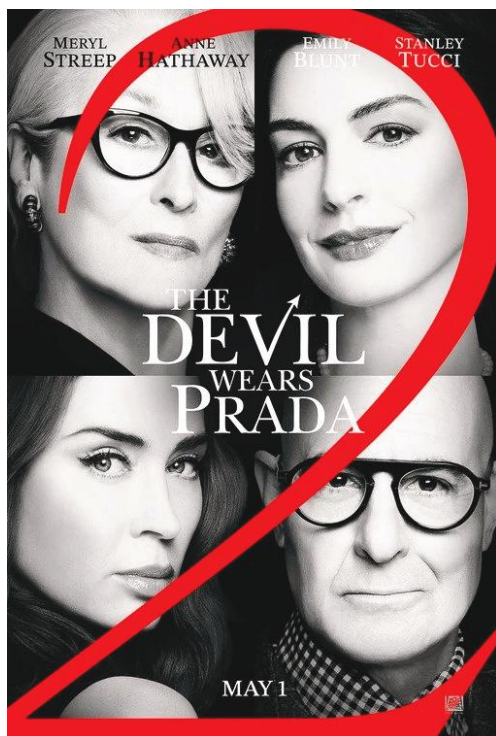
Assembly Rooms Dedham

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Tickets £5 will be available online on our website or in person at St Helena Hospice shop in Dedham High Street or on the door or our Box Office on 0333 666 4466



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GUIDE DOGS

A date for your diary.

Everyone is warmly invited to a special service to celebrate 95 years of Guide Dogs for the Blind in this country on Sunday October 25th 3pm at St Mary the Virgin Church, Ardleigh. Come and meet our wonderful dogs and hear the difference they make to their owners lives. Meet, greet and make new friends over refreshments after the service.

Marjorie Culham BEM

OCTOBER 2026

- Saturday 3rd - 7pm, Dedham Church, Organ Concert
- Sunday 4th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Rise & Shine. 5pm, - Evensong,
- Monday 5th - 12.30pm, Essex Rose Tea Room - Monday Lunch Club.
- Monday 5th - 6.30pm, Duchy Barn - Dedham Parish Council Meeting.
- Wednesday 7th - 7.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Horticultural Society
- Thursday 8th - 2pm-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.
- Sunday 11th - 11am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Friday 16th - 7pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Lord Lucan and Dr. Crippen talk in aid of Cancer Research.
- Sunday 18th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Matins. 5pm. Revive@5
- Wednesday 21st - 7pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Films - The Devil Wears Prada 2.
- Thursday 22th - 2pm-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.
- Friday 23rd - 6.30pm, Dedham Church, Roman River Concert
- Sunday 25th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion
- Saturday 31st - 10am-12pm, Dedham Church, Mission Bake stall.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday

- Meet up Mondays - The Sun Inn, 11am to 12pm.
- [Social Table Tennis, Dedham Sports Club, 10.30am.](#)
- Watercolour Painting Group, Duchy Barn, 10am to 12pm.
- [Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 13.30pm to 15.30pm.](#)

Tuesday

- Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30am to 12pm.
- [Morning Prayer - Dedham Church, 10.30am.](#)
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 9am to 11am.
- [Dedham Baby and Toddler Group Dedham Sports Club, 10am to 12pm \(Term time\).](#)

Wednesday

- Bridge in Dedham - Assembly Rooms, 1.30pm-5pm.

Thursday

- Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30am to 12pm.

Friday

- Dedham Youth Club - The Duchy Barn, 7.30pm to 9.15pm.

Newspaper Clipping

Dundee Evening Telegraph 09
September 1901

PRIZES FOR WASPS' NESTS.

A novel and eminently practical means of combating the wasp pest in fruit-growing districts was successfully inaugurated at Dedham Horticultural Show. The prize schedule contained a class for wasps' nests, and a large and interesting collection of these wonderful evidences of insect intelligence and constructive skill was the result. The youths of the district had evidently entered with zest into their wasp marauding expeditions, for one competitor had nine nests, in consideration of which he was awarded a special prize.



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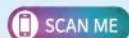
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