



Dedham Parish Magazine - April 1876

OPENING OF THE NEW BRIDGE OVER THE STOUR. DEDHAM, March 18th, 1876.

Mr Editor – I have an old fashioned idea (for "old" I suppose it is) in these days of rapid locomotion, that all things which affect one member of a parish should be felt more or less by all, and in like manner the general interest in things around us should be made known to all. Your Dedham Magazine therefore may be brought into requisition for my purpose, should you think this letter worthy of insertion,

Our parish may have but few, if any, points of grandeur, but it certainly has much of quiet, peaceful beauty. What can be prettier or more fragrant than our flower fields in summer, our meadows green, and all the rich and varied foliage which surround the many seats" of those who dwell within its boundary, and though last, not least, our beautiful church tower, which has weathered the storms of more than 300 years; but with all my love of home, I can scarce agree with one I knew in years gone by, who having to walk daily from a neighbouring town, told me he always thought, as from a hill he overlooked the valley of the Stour, Surely there can be no be no sin there."

I have wandered from my subject as far as my friend did from the truth I want to tell you of a bridge, the fairest bridge that ever spanned our river.

On Saturday, the 11th March, 1876, after a luncheon at a friend's house in the parish, the following gentlemen proceeded to the bridge by the Rookery Road, in an irregular procession attended by Messrs, Stock and Aytan (the county surveyors for Essex and Suffolk).

Suffolk was represented by the Hon, and Rev. F. De Grey, of Copdock, Sir Charles Rowley, Bart, Tendring Hall, and Captain Morse, of Copdock;

Essex being represented by Edgar Disney, Esq., The Hyde, Ingatestone, and W. H. Penrose, Esq., of Dedham.

There were also present other friends, amongst whom I noticed F. Nicholls Esq., Lawford Hall, R Nicholls Esq., The Rev J. G. Mills, H. R. Edwards Esq., Hillands. And of course a bright array (on road and river) of the gentle sex, ever ready to lend their presence and adorn the scene,

The barricades, on the arrival of the carriages, soon disappeared by the many willing hands of Messrs. Saunders, the contractors, when the procession passed across, and declared the bridge open to the public.

A minute inspection above and beneath, followed, when very high praise was given to the contractors for the way in which they had carried out the work. A few particulars respecting this new bridge may prove interesting;

It consists of a single span of 77 feet. The weight of iron employed is from 60 to 70 tons, and consists of six cast iron arched ribs, tied together with straining pieces, and wrought iron rods and bolts, finished with balcony railings.

The roadway, 21 feet 6 inches wide, is carried on brick arches turned from rib to rib; giving a total weight of about 140 tons, and built with sufficient strength to carry 80 tons across it.

Its predecessor was, as we all know, a wooden structure, and had stood our friend for over 80 years
We must leave thee, fair bridge of more beauty and more strength, to bear the burden of the day, and may that time be long. How long we know not; but doubtless many generations will have come and gone before thy life has closed.
And now I close, Mr. Editor, as
Your obedient servant, A PARISHIONER

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**Bury Free Press
18th March 1876**

**STRATFORD ST. MARY
OPENING OF THE NEW BRIDGE. -**

The new bridge over the Stour, between Stratford and Dedham, was opened on Saturday last for public traffic in the presence of Sir Charles Rowley, Bart., the Hon. and Rev. F. de Grey, Capt. Morse, and other Suffolk and Essex Magistrates. Mr. W. H. Penrose, of Dedham, most hospitably entertained the party at luncheon, after which the worthy Magistrate and his guests proceeded to the bridge, when the barrier which had been put up to prevent the public passing over it was removed, and the Magistrates rode over it, and the bridge was declared open to the public.

It is the widest bridge in the county of Suffolk. It is a one-arch iron bridge of 80 feet span, 13 feet high above the water, and giving a roadway 20 feet wide, and is a very handsome structure, doing great credit to the County Surveyors of Suffolk and Essex, Mr. H. M. Eyton and Mr. Henry Stalk, by whom the plans were prepared.

It cost something over £2,000 and is a substitute for an old pile bridge, which was built 80 years ago. The Essex half

was made two feet higher than the Suffolk half, and consequently there had to be a slope in the curve so as to make both ends meet in the middle, and the architects, in preparing plans for the new bridge had some difficulty in dealing with the road on the Suffolk side.

The public using the road much will no doubt very greatly appreciate the new bridge, which will certainly be a great convenience not only to those driving along the road, but to those who have business to transact on the Stour. During the six months that the work has been in progress, provision was made for the road traffic by a temporary bridge.

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**Building News
24th March 1876**

An iron bridge has been thrown across the river Stour, between Stratford St. Mary and Dedham, to replace one of timber built 80 years since, the piles of which had rotted through, letting the structure down 6in.

The new bridge is 80ft. span, and - 20ft. wide; it was built from plans by Messrs. H. W. - Eyton, and H. Stock, county surveyors for Suffolk - and Essex, by Messrs. Saunders, of Dedham, the contract price being £2,250.

Editor: The contract price is equivalent to £226,556 today.

The wooden bridge that this Iron one replaced was built in 1795 by Essex County Surveyor John Johnson (1732-1814), with Essex and Suffolk County Councils jointly liable for maintenance costs. It was relocated to the east of earlier crossings, this time with brick abutments at either end. (Source: Lucy Archer article, Three Bridges)

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**Essex Standard
10th March 1876**

Dedham v. Harwich Club.

On Wednesday afternoon the return match between the Dedham Grammar School and the Harwich Club was played on a meadow adjoining Mr. Watts' farm at Upper Dovercourt. The weather was anything but favourable, a strong wind blowing, and about half time a drizzling rain set in, which continued to the close of the game. Up to half time the game appeared to be evenly contested, but on changing ends there came also a change in the game. The Dedham boys played well together, and from a corner kick which they gained the ball was being carried by the wind right under the tape but instead of being allowed to pass without being touched, one of the Harwich team attempted to catch it, He succeeded in touching it only, but not in stopping it, and thus a goal was scored for the School. Shortly afterwards another goal was scored for the School who thus won the match by two goals to none.

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**Essex Standard
24th Mar 1876**

Colchester Football Club v. Dedham.

This match was played at Dedham on Wednesday, and notwithstanding the heavy snow of the previous night, and another storm an hour or two before play commenced, the ground, though somewhat greasy, was by no means in such bad condition as was anticipated. The Dedham team, which was composed in about even proportions of past and present boys of the Grammar School, won the toss, and elected to kick down the ground, with the wind, a light breeze, against them; but for the entire first half time, they were

powerless against their opponents, who secured a brace of goals in a very neat fashion. On ends changing, however, circumstances changed also, and the visitors apparently losing all their verve, Let them do what they liked with the ball and they doubled their opponents' score, securing four goals in three-quarters of an hour. Once or twice the Colchester men rallied, and drove the ball down to their opponents' goal, and even succeeded in getting a corner kick or two, but all to no purpose, for when time was called, Dedham was declared the victor by four goals to two. The play of the Home backs was very fine, that of L. Chitty being simply perfect; while of the remainder White (a very little fellow), A. G. Chitty, Ray, and Fraser, are all worthy of notice. On the Visitors' side the play was by no means good, their backs being particularly weak; but E. B. Orpen, and C. Davey, deserve mention for the very neat manneOr in which they each secured a goal. The following composed the teams:-Dedham: J. Fraser, E. Short, L. Chitty, A. G. Chitty, V. Shortland, H. Lermite, S. Lermite, R. Ray, Ernest Short, E. Austin, White, and Lawson. Colchester: H. J. Cant (captain in the absence of Osmond Orpen through indisposition), H. Newton Davey, C. Davey, A. G. Gilders, W. Hall, G. Ralling, C. Cant, E. B. Orpen, R. L. Orpen, C. Horley, and J. T. Rayner.

Editor: In July 2001 issue of the Parish Magazine, the Dedham Old Boys Football advertised a Five-a-side competition celebrating their 125th Anniversary. So this year should be the 150th Anniversary.



However the current Football Club logo indicates that 1877 was the date of the first match, but these 1876 newspaper reports show earlier matches.