



DEDHAM

Parish Magazine

July / August 2026

CONSTABLE  
AND THE COUNTRYSIDE



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026 | 7pm | Tickets £12  
Dedham Parish Church

# Dedham Parish Magazine

First Published in 1876

150 years

July/August 2026

## DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

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Tel: 322 136

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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 Druiitt **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 SEPTEMBER 2026 Magazine entries.**

**10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2026.**

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## IN YOUR MAGAZINE

A slight change in format this month. In previous issues the contents list was tucked away on page 2. To make it more visible I have moved it to page 3 and expanded it to give more detail. This issue is also the first to be created in the free software, Affinity by Canva. Any budding editors could give it a try, you would need to set up a free Canva account first. The poster creation abilities of AI are shown in the poster for the Big Breakfast and the Last Night of the Proms poster. Dedham Parish Council have a new website - [dedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](https://dedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk). As the new website doesn't include much of the Dedham specific information that has been built up over the years, I have created a website which includes a great deal of that information. Check it out on [e-voice.org.uk/dedham](https://e-voice.org.uk/dedham).

*John Goldsbrough*

# Services and Events

## Sunday, 5th July

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

## Sunday, 12th July

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh  
11am Holy Communion Dedham\*

## Sunday, 19th July

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh  
9.30am Morning Praise Dedham\*

## Sunday, 26th July

9.30am Morning Praise 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.**

## JULY

**Men's Breakfast - Saturday 4th July**  
9am - Breakfast, Bacon, Buns and Bible.

**Monday Lunch Club – Monday 9th July** 12.30pm, **Essex Tea Rooms.**  
Phone 322192 to reserve a place.

## Sunday, 2nd August

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Ardleigh  
9.30am Cafe Church Ardleigh  
9.30am Morning Praise Dedham\*

## Sunday, 9th August

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh  
11am Holy Communion Dedham\*

## Sunday, 16th August

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh  
9.30am Matins Dedham\*

## Sunday, 23rd August

9.30am Morning Praise Ardleigh  
9.30am Holy Communion Dedham\*

## Sunday, 30th August

11am Lords Supper - **Benefice service,**  
Dedham\*

**Walk and Talk - Thursday 9th July**  
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.

## AUGUST

**Men's Breakfast - Saturday 1st August**  
9am - Breakfast, Bacon, Buns and Bible.

**Monday Lunch Club – Monday 3rd August** 12.30pm, **Essex Tea Rooms.**  
Phone 322192 to reserve a place.

**Walk and Talk - Thursday 13th August**  
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.

Dear friends,

I hope you're all well and enjoying some of the summer sunshine!

In our house, conversation is increasingly turning to the end of the school year and the start of the summer holidays.

This year we're heading to the Lake District for the first time. We're looking forward to spending a week at the Keswick Convention and then exploring some of the beautiful countryside around it.

None of us have been before, so excitement levels are pretty high! What about you? Do you have any plans for the summer? Time with family? Travelling somewhere new? Or perhaps simply a chance to slow down, rest, and step away from the busyness and demands of everyday life? Whatever your plans, I hope they bring you refreshment and renewed energy.

As a family, we love spending time outdoors. There's something deeply restorative about being surrounded by nature – the peace and quiet (when the children allow it!), the beauty and the space to breathe and think. Psalm 24 begins, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." When we encounter that beauty and space to take it all in, it's worth pausing to recognise them as gifts from a good and generous God.

The Gospel – the good news at the heart of the Christian faith – offers even greater gifts: forgiveness, a living relationship with God, lasting joy and the presence of God's Spirit in our lives.

Through faith in Jesus, countless people have discovered a deep and enduring peace, a "peace... which transcends all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

Peace can feel hard to come by these days. It can be crowded out by relentless news cycles, squeezed by busy schedules or challenged by difficult circumstances. Holidays often give us an opportunity to reset, to step back from some of life's pressures and to find perspective again. I hope that this summer you'll not only enjoy the wonderful gifts God has given us in His creation, but also know personally the peace, joy, and hope He offers through His Son, Jesus.

With every good wish for the summer holidays,

*Phillip*

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## FROM THE REGISTERS

### BAPTISMS

June 7th - Penelope Goodey

June 14th - Roux Teeder

### WEDDINGS

July 11th - Charlotte Spells and Jerome Scoote

July 18th - Anna Hollingshead and Luke Antos

### FUNERAL

June 12th - Joan Penelope Brightwell

### INTERMENTS

July 10th - Renee and Kenneth Robinson

July 27th - Judith Clifford



# Open Gardens this summer

AT THE VICARAGE (DEDHAM, C07 6DE)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF JUNE, JULY & AUGUST, 2-4 O'CLOCK

**tearfund**

A Christian charity tackling poverty across the world.

Tearfund partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. With the ultimate aim of ending extreme poverty, it addresses need and injustice through sustainable development and by responding to disasters and challenging injustice.

Tearfund's current appeals include a response to the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East and fundraising for girls' education in the Central African Republic.

<https://www.tearfund.org>



## MISSIONS BAKE SALES



All the mission sales are in front of the church unless otherwise stated.

The dates for the 2026 Mission Stall are as follows:

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 10am-12pm.  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 10am-4pm, bank holiday.  
**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 10am-12pm. Venue - The Duchy Barn**  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 10am-12pm.

*Ruth Higginson*



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

### July 12th

The Deanery choir will be singing at St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS at the I am communion service. The anthem that they will sing will be 'Lead me Lord' by Fred Bock.

Fred Bock was an influential American church musician, composer, and publisher. Renowned for his imaginative keyboard arrangements, he notably directed music at prominent Southern California churches, composed for film and TV, and founded the Fred Bock Publishing Group, which shapes modern sacred music.

Along with his entrepreneurship, Fred Bock was more than a businessman. Bock was also an avid lover of music, active member of church communities and an accomplished composer. He served as the Minister of Music at Hollywood Presbyterian Church for 18 years, and at the Bel Air Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles for 14 years.

In 1976, he became the Editor of Hymns for the revolutionary collection Family of God, a passion project he had begun developing 15 years prior. Since its release, the hymnal has sold over 3 million copies across North America and beyond.

*Graham Bell,  
Deanery Choir*

[grahambell493@gmail.com](mailto:grahambell493@gmail.com)



**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**



## PRAISE IN THE GARDEN



On Sunday 31st May members of the congregation of fifteen parishes were invited to a Praise in the Garden service at the home of Christopher and Virginia Palmer-Tomkinson.

The house and surroundings situated in a peaceful wooded area was the ideal place for an afternoon of praise and thanksgiving to God, which was to be followed by tea in the gardens and a tour of the beautiful scenic water gardens.

As the swallows wheeled overhead, returning to their nests in the eaves of the house, Christopher welcomed us all and introduced Bishop Guli, who together with the Rev John Saxon would be taking the service.

The first hymn *"Praise to the Lord the Almighty"* sounded out across the garden, joyfully sung by us all, as the Salvation Army Band led us in a hymn of thanks and praise.



Bishop Guli's address echoed the sentiments of the hymn as she enabled us to think about the wonders of life about us and to give thanks and praise to God for all we are given.

*"We enjoy the fruits of the harvest but sometimes forget you have given them to us. We belong to a people who are full and satisfied but ignore the cries of the hungry".* Father in your mercy forgive us and help us was our confession.

The Bible reading taken from Matthew 28 v16-20. was used to explore the theme of discipleship by Bishop Guli, for just as the early apostles were sent out by our Risen Lord- *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,"* so were we the congregation, invited to explore our own discipleship within the fifteen parishes; encouraging and supporting each other as we seek to spread God's word.



The hymn *"I the Lord of Sea and sky"* further echoed these words, as did the rousing final hymn *"Now thank we all our God,"* encouraging us to understand that the Holy Spirit is with us all, guiding and helping us as we journey through life.

Our grateful thanks go to our hosts, to the Salvation Army Band and to all those who worked so hard behind the scenes, particularly providing the wonderful refreshments for us all.

Thank you everyone for such a memorable afternoon spent in such beautiful gardens.

*Liz Reed*

## THE WINDOWS REPAIR PROJECT

Thank you to all those people who donated money to the windows repair project. The internal scaffolding had to be put up and down twice due to two weddings in February and March. The February wedding was the lovely Sarah Watson.

The glaziers have done a wonderful job on the cleaning and repairs, even looking up some biblical text, which was missing, and inserting it. Thank you to all those who helped to move the organ and furniture to allow for the scaffolding.

Whilst we had the external scaffolding up the builders were able to investigate a leak from the roof, which has now been repaired.



Lower part of a window prior to restoration



Same window after restoration

*Ruth Higginson*



## THE DUCHY BARN CHILDREN'S CINEMA

The Duchy Barn Cinema was set up in September 2025 as an initiative sponsored by St Mary's Church Dedham.

Our aim is to screen a selection of some of the best films ever produced to the local community. Showings usually take place on the 4th Wednesday of every month from October to April with some additional films for children being shown during the school holidays. Entrance is free and refreshments and cake are served during the interval!

So far, The Duchy Barn Cinema has shown a total of 8 films - the last of which, screened in May 2026, was aimed specifically at children and at anyone "young at heart".

We would very much like children and parents to be aware of this regular event, especially during the school holidays when they are able to attend.

Our next children's film will be on Wednesday 27th August at 2pm and all are welcome! Please note that seating capacity is limited to 30 people and that anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult.

Because of the restrictions imposed by the Church Copyright Licence, we cannot advertise the actual film being screened except within church premises. Please drop in to St Mary's Church or the Duchy Barn itself to collect an information leaflet.



## **Korban's Bethany Place to be sold!**

**“Korban saved my life... you took me under your wings and guided me to the man I am today.” Ali, age 20\***

**“Even though you knew my trauma you accepted me, you didn't turn me down. You didn't think I'd be too difficult to deal with.” Jenny, age 21\***

**“It has taught me how to live properly, has given me good life skills and I had fun!” John, age 18\***

**\* Names and ages changed to protect confidentiality.**

## **Bethany Place, Korban's main house**

Many of you will have heard of Colchester Korban Project which provides supported accommodation for young homeless people, aged 16-25. As you can see from residents' comments above, Korban has made a significant impact on their lives. Korban provides a happy and nurturing environment for young people who have found themselves without a place to call home often through no fault of their own.

Often young homeless people are called the “hidden homeless” as they end up sleeping on a friend's floor or “sofa surfing”, moving from place to place. Korban has two homes which provide different levels of support. Bethany Place, the hub house is rented, whereas Bethel House is owned by Korban, and for residents who still need some support to make the transition to independence.

The hub house has 5 rooms and residents there have access to a tailored support plan that addresses a variety of issues to help them develop the character, skills and confidence to live independently.

Korban is facing a big challenge because the hub house, which is currently rented, is due to be sold in November 2027 and it is raising money to purchase it. This will prevent upheaval for the existing residents and help to secure the future of the charity.

Korban needs to raise £500,000 before November 2027 when the house is due to be sold. The charity has already raised over £51,000 so far but needs help to buy Bethany Place so that it has a secure base to grow its work and continue to break the cycle of homelessness for young people in Colchester.

If you can help, please go to <https://www.korban.org.uk/a-place-to-call-home> where you can buy some bricks!

You may also be interested in our Korban Dine With Me initiative <https://www.korban.org.uk/korban-dine-with-me>

Any donation you can make will be greatly appreciated by the Korban trustees, staff and residents.

*Helen Sims, Korban volunteer*

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:dedhamefclerk@gmail.com)

☎ 07989 579227

📘 Dedham Educational Foundation



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

<https://www.dedhamfilms.co.uk/>



## COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND CONSULTATION



**Help shape the future of Dedham's playground on The Duchy Field!** Our playground has been in place for 15 years and is now in need of modernisation. We'd love to hear from you - share your feedback and ensure it meets the needs of local children and families. **Please scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/dedhamplay](https://bit.ly/dedhamplay)**



### **DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT – MONDAY, 1ST JUNE 2026.**

The Parish Council meeting attracted a large public attendance, with many residents attending to discuss concerns relating to the Bank Holiday period and use of the river area.

#### **Impact of Langham Housing Plans**

Representatives from Langham Parish Council gave a presentation on the potential impact of proposed housing developments in Langham. Particular concern was expressed regarding the potential increase in water and sewage discharges into the Black Brook, which flows through Dedham. Councillors noted the significant implications this could have for the local environment and water quality.

#### **Poor Mobile Phone Coverage**

The Council discussed concerns about worsening mobile phone coverage in the village following the removal of a telecommunications mast on the edge of Dedham. Residents experiencing difficulties were encouraged to raise

complaints directly with their mobile service providers.

#### **Bank Holiday Weekend by the River**

A number of residents spoke about the impact of the large numbers of visitors to the river area during the Bank Holiday weekend. Concerns included anti-social behaviour, illegal parking, littering, pressure on local amenities and a perceived lack of visible presence from relevant public bodies.

Councillor Bourn updated the meeting on a series of discussions he has held with Babergh District Council, Essex Police and other organisations. As a result, an action plan has been developed, including a number of task groups responsible for monitoring and reporting issues relating to parking, use of the meadows, anti-social behaviour and litter.

#### **District and County Councillor Reports**

District Councillor Thomas Rowe reported on plans for the future introduction of wheelie bins. He advised that the scheme is not expected to be introduced in Dedham until 2027 and

that some areas may qualify for exemptions.

County Councillor Naylor provided an update on recent political changes within Essex and noted that tackling potholes remains a key priority.

## **Image of Dedham**

The Council discussed concerns regarding the village's public image and how Dedham is portrayed on social media and in the press. It was agreed that a dedicated group should be established to develop a long-term communications strategy aimed at promoting a positive image of the village while addressing ongoing challenges.

## **Padel Tennis Proposal**

The Council considered a request to explore the possibility of introducing padel tennis facilities in Dedham. It was agreed that a feasibility study should be undertaken to assess the proposal.

## **Grant Application**

A grant of £1,348 was approved for Dedham Cricket Club to assist with the purchase of new scoreboards.

## **Administrative Support**

The Council agreed in principle to consider options for providing additional administrative support to assist with its growing workload.

## **Infrastructure**

Following discussion of the agreed street trading bay area in Royal Square, councillors agreed that further consideration should be given to the proposed hours of operation before any final decisions are made.

## **Water Problems on Castle Hill**

An update was received regarding the longstanding drainage issues at Castle Hill. Investigations have suggested that

blockages and historic alterations to drainage routes may be contributing to the problem. Discussions with landowners will continue in an effort to identify a long-term solution.

## **Sports Club**

A meeting between the Parish Council and the Sports Club has been arranged for 9th June to discuss future plans and areas of cooperation.

## **Communications**

The Council noted the ongoing improvements being made to the parish website. Further updates on progress are expected to be presented at the next meeting.

*Cllr Douglas Bourn*

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## **ONGOING CONCERNS REGARDING THE USAGE OF THE WATER MEADOWS AND THE RIVER**

The end of May Bank Holiday weekend was a very challenging one for the residents of Dedham and local businesses. The large number of visitors to the river area resulted in major problems in terms of illegal parking, anti-social behaviour and abuse of the local environment. The Police were called a number of times to address the behaviour issue. On the Suffolk side we know at least 25 parking fines were given.

A teenager who jumped off the bridge was badly injured. Ambulances found it very difficult to get through the village in an emergency.

As the Council have mentioned several times before the river at Dedham is heavily polluted and not suitable for bathing.

We are also aware of major problems with thieving from shops, poor behaviour and abuse to local residents.

The sheer volume of litter on the Bank holiday Monday resulted in Babergh having to bring out special vehicles to remove the rubbish on the Tuesday which took them most of the day. The usage of the meadows for trading is under constant monitoring.

As chair of the Council, I have had regular meetings with relevant agencies during the week and as a result a series of ongoing monitoring groups have been established including on anti-social behaviour, parking, litter and trading

Residents are reminded to report any incidents to the police or relevant local councils. We will keep residents informed of updates through the magazine and also our website.

*Councillor Douglas Bourn*

## FLY TIPPING (GREEN WASTE)

We all take pride in keeping Dedham tidy. There has been an increase in green waste being dumped, particularly along the footpath between Forge Street and Parsons Field. Although it may seem harmless, this is fly tipping under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and the same penalties apply.

### **Please remember:**

- Do not leave garden waste on public land.

- Only use a registered waste carrier.

**Dispose of waste at:** Lawford Recycling Centre.

### **Report fly tipping:**

Online via Colchester City Council 'Report a Problem'

Email:

[customerservicecentre@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:customerservicecentre@colchester.gov.uk)

Tel: 01206 282581

Thank you for helping keep Dedham clean.

## CONSTABLE AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

**Dedham Parish Church, 7pm  
Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Dedham's contribution to the Constable 250 Celebrations will be on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> with an evening of music, poetry reading and talks relevant to the theme of Constable and the Countryside.

Music will be provided by Antony Watson will play a selection of organ pieces by Joseph Gibbs who was Organist at Dedham Parish Church and a friend of Thomas Gainsborough, Gabbie Watson will perform a Cello Sonata by the Dutch composer Willem de Fesch and Anne Chorley will play a Sonatina for Harp by Jan Ladislav Dussek, who was contemporary with Constable, and a piece by the Irish harpist and composer Turlough O'Carolan, (1670-1738).

There will also be a reading of Robert Bloomfield's poem A Farmer's Boy by local actor and theatre director Pat Marlowe who will be appearing in The Haywain, a play about the characters in Constable's painting in Castle Park in Colchester.

There will also be talks by Emma Roodhouse from the Ipswich museums, Susan Owens, author of A Constable Year and well know local environmentalist Jules Pretty.

Following the music and presentations drinks will be available.

The event is supported by Greener Dedham and tickets cost £12 from:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/constable-and-the-countryside-tickets-1985370749356>

# CONSTABLE AND THE COUNTRYSIDE



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026 | 7pm | Tickets £12  
Dedham Parish Church

A fascinating evening of words and music in beautiful Dedham Church. Talks by Susan Owens, Emma Goodhouse and Julie Pretty will focus on Constable and his connection with the Dedham Vale countryside, and on that landscape today. Proceeds from the event will support the Eco-Church initiative at Dedham Parish Church. The programme includes organ music and a cello performance in honour of Constable's love of the cello. Refreshments available.

Scan the QR code for tickets or visit:  
[constable.eventbrite.com](http://constable.eventbrite.com)

Jointly sponsored by  
**Greener  
DEDHAM**

250  
CONSTABLE




GOLDING CONSTABLE'S KITCHEN GARDEN - JOHN CONSTABLE (1776-1837)  
COLLECTOR OF 40000 INK DRAWINGS FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE COLLECTION

# LUMOS


## A Coldplay Candlelight Experience

an unforgettable evening of music in an enchanting indoor setting

Dedham Parish Church, High St,  
Dedham, Colchester CO7 6DE  
Friday 31st July  
2 Sittings: 7-8pm | 9-10pm



SCAN ME



Book tickets now!  
[www.lumos-experiences.com](http://www.lumos-experiences.com)

Sunday 12 July 2026, 3.15pm for 3.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms CO7 6HJ

### The Eighth and Last SVF Musical Tea Party

#### A Musical Family

Tassilo Erhardt & Patrick Rimes violin  
Sally Holman bassoon  
Louise Jameson bass violin & violoncello  
Peter Holman harpsichord



tickets: £30

Come and support SVF by enjoying a slap-up tea, starting with a glass of Prosecco, with delicious seventeenth- and eighteenth-century chamber music played by members of Peter Holman's family: his daughters Louise and Sally, son-in-law Tassilo, nephew Patrick, with a contribution from his granddaughter Lucy Jameson. There will be sonatas, suites and dances by Marini, Merula, Biber, Henry Purcell, François Couperin, Vivaldi, Tartini, Handel and others.

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### The Final Suffolk Villages Festival 28-31 August 2026

#### A Portrait of Marc-Antoine Charpentier

to include the Te Deum H.146  
Charles Daniels tenor, Psalmody & Essex Baroque Orchestra  
directed by Peter Holman

#### Steven Devine directs music by J.S. Bach

to include Suite no. 3 in D major & the Double Violin Concerto

#### The Dowland Project


led by Philippa Hyde soprano, Reiko Ichise bass viol & Elizabeth Kenny lute

#### Mediva

Ann Allen, Patrick Rimes & Grace Newcombe

#### Henry Purcell Dido & Aeneas

Helen Charlston, Philippa Hyde soprano, Michael Craddock, Stuart O'Hara bass  
Psalmody & Essex Baroque Orchestra, directed by Peter Holman



Adapted from the novel by Nicola Matthews

# 2026

## Black Brook Theatre,

Langham, CO45PP  
August 7th-9th

Based on real events in the life of Kitty Canham who walked these Essex shores 300 years ago. A tale of love, loss and necessary lies

# KITTY

For booking info go to [nicolamwrit.es](http://nicolamwrit.es)

## BRINGING KITTY TO LIFE



The story of Kitty Canham is legendary in Thorpe le Soken. Born in Beaumont to a family of yeoman farmers, she was, by all accounts, beautiful, intelligent, and restless — a woman constrained by the expectations placed upon her in the eighteenth century. She married the Rector of Thorpe-le-Soken, but after only two years she vanished, leaving behind a mystery that has echoed through the centuries.

During the long walks so many of us took through the Covid lockdowns, I found myself wandering the backwaters from Kirby-le-Soken to Beaumont Quay. It was on those walks that I began to imagine Kitty treading the same paths some three hundred years before. Slowly, she began to get under my skin. By the time the lockdowns dragged on, there was only one thing for it — I knew I had to write her story.

That novel became *Kitty Canham*, a fictional story woven around the real events of Kitty's life. There are, inevitably conflicting accounts of her life, and particularly about her death. Some believe she threw herself from the church tower, others that her body was brought home from Europe in a barrel of rum! And then, of course, there are those who believe Kitty never left at all — that she still walks the passageways of the Bell Inn in Thorpe in ghostly form.

Since writing the novel, I have worked with a small team to adapt the novel for stage — and what a journey that has been. A novel can hold hundreds of characters and endless worlds; a play must find its power in something more immediate.

We have worked on keeping Kitty's story true to both the spirit of the novel and to the woman at its heart. Inevitably, the piece has transformed into something new — shaped not only by the adaptation itself, but by the wonderful cast who have brought their own insight, emotion, and interpretation to the story.

We are absolutely delighted to be bringing *Kitty Canham* to the magical Black Brook Theatre in Langham. A new and exciting venue for open air theatre, transformed by local actor, Peregrine Maturin-Baird. For more info and to book tickets go to the Black Brook Theatre website.

<https://www.blackbrooktheatre.co.uk/about-us>

The Black Brook Theatre is set in the heart of the North Essex countryside. Nestled in rural woodland alongside the Black Brook tributary we offer an immersive theatre experience in a serene natural setting.

We also have easy access to the A12 for those of you travelling from farther afield and proximity to the picturesque village of Dedham. Please note the theatre is NOT open until scheduled performances.

Our address is:  
Black Brook Theatre, Glebe Farm,  
Dedham Road, Langham, Colchester,  
Essex, CO4 5PP

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*Entry by donation, all proceeds going to the church.*

## ANOTHER YEAR DONE, ANOTHER YEAR TO COME

Summer's here! Though everything's been feeling a little like a game of two halves this June.

As I write this in the second week of June, we've followed up the late May heatwave with temperatures barely hitting 15C and prospects for our members' coffee morning looking a bit soggy to say the least! The very dry soil in the garden and the allotment is loving it though. Everything, including the weeds (inevitably), is looking wonderfully lush.



Dahlias trials.

If any of you are having a go at growing dahlias and planning to exhibit a few (and maybe win our new trophy) in the Autumn Show on 5 September, then they should be putting on a good amount of growth now. It's still a bit early for flowers, especially since I pinched a lot of them when they reached 30cm tall to encourage more flowers, but a few of my plants are now showing small buds. Pinching just means cutting out the top of the lead shoot to encourage side shoots to develop, each of which will carry a flower.

Make sure to keep them well-watered (no problem there, given the thundering downpour outside as I write) and – when you start to see those buds – feed them every 7-10 days with liquid

tomato feed. You'll need to support them with canes or netting as a lot of varieties can reach more than a metre high and the weight of larger-flowers can easily snap stems.

When you're ready to exhibit at the show, cut your flowers early in the morning a day or so before the show, plunging the stems into deep water immediately. Store them in cool, dark conditions to keep them as fresh as possible and take care transporting them to avoid damage.



Dahlias on show.

Our judges are pretty forgiving given it's a village show, but they'll be looking for freshness, uniform petal shapes and symmetry between flowers if you're exhibiting in the 'three of a kind' classes. Blemishes, holes in petals caused by insects or fading colours as the flowers 'go over' will also get you marked down. But in the end, it's great to see everyone having a go – there's no need to stress about it.

Dedham is very lucky to have brilliant events like flower shows, as well as its film club and art society and sports from tennis and football to cricket and more. But organising them depends on often-shrinking committees and the willingness of 'fresh blood' to chip in.

The Horticultural Society's programme of events of speaker evenings, shows, plant sale, coffee morning, day trip, and Christmas supper takes some organisation as you'll appreciate. This is obviously easier with nine of us, but with six it's starting to prove more difficult.

We'd love a few more people to join us on the committee – it really is true that many hands make light work. We aim to meet no more than six times a year with each meeting taking around 60-90 minutes (coffee, biscuits and a bit of catching up included!). We've been doing this for a while now so can rattle through the jobs that need doing for each of our events and how we can fit them in among our other non-horticultural commitments.

Having said that, if you'd like volunteer to help us out but don't think you've time to join the committee, there are a few jobs that might suit more: If anyone feels like popping into some of Dedham's businesses and putting up posters eight times a year, this is a job that need only take 30 minutes. It could be done by more than one person.

If you have access to a computer, we'd welcome someone taking on the job of booking our events on the Assembly Rooms booking website. We can provide all the dates at the same, so this takes less than an hour and then it's done.

If you've ever wondered what judges are looking for in the different sections of our shows, it's fascinating to accompany them as they go round the exhibition tables. If you're free on a Saturday morning (usually 11am-12noon) in September and in late March, we need stewards to go round with the judges and record their decisions. This was one of the first jobs I helped with, and it gave me loads of insight into exhibiting.

Finally, we also need someone who will take care of the trophies for our shows: collecting them in, getting them engraved, before redistributing them to new winners.



Show trophies

If you think you have a bit of time to help us continue to put on a fantastic programme for members and visitors, come along to an event to have a chat or drop us a line at [dedhamgardening@gmail.com](mailto:dedhamgardening@gmail.com).

*Elliott Fisby*

## Autumn Show Saturday 5 September

Download a schedule  
at [dedhamgardening.com](http://dedhamgardening.com)  
and plan your entries



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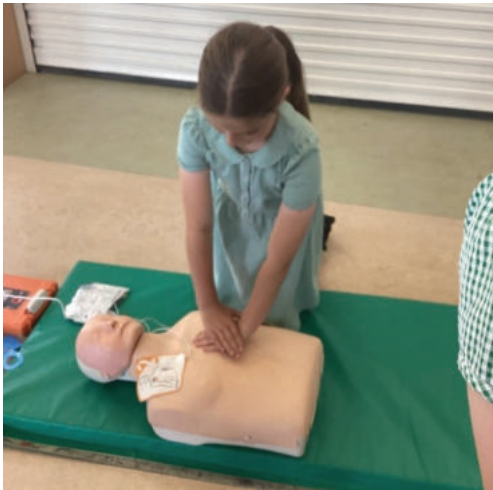
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We are incredibly proud of our broad and balanced curriculum offer at Dedham Primary School. Last month, we shared some of

the ways in which we are using technology to enhance teaching and learning, so this month, we wanted to share examples of our children working away from devices and developing other essential academic and personal skills.

With our fantastic Class 6 children about to move on to the next stage of their education, we know that they not only leave us with the necessary knowledge and skills, but also the confidence, curiosity and resilience required to be both happy and successful in their new schools.



Class 5 and Class 6 learned about emergency first aid and CPR with the Colchester First Responders.



In June, Class 5 had the opportunity to go crabbing in Brightlingsea and to go aboard the Pioneer, a 70ft sailing vessel originally used for dredging oysters.



This term, Class 5 designed and made masks inspired by their work on the ancient Maya.



Class 2 learned how to sew (and persevere!) when making hand puppets.



Class R are enjoying learning about seeds and growing this term.



All classes in our school experiences Forest School for at least six weeks every year.



Class 3 have been working on their sketching skills this year. This included sketching plants as well as themselves.



In order to better understand the properties of shapes, Class 3 used playdough and spaghetti to build their own 3D shapes.



There are many educational visits which take place every term and last term, Class 2 visited Ipswich Transport Museum.



Playtimes include table tennis, swingball, fancy dress, dancing, chess and so much more! Our children love opportunities to play with children from other classes too, with our upper key stage two children acting as role models for our youngest children.



With netball, football and athletics teams, the school calendar is always busy with competitive fixtures. This term, children are particularly enjoying playing cricket, tennis and rounders in their PE lessons.



Our youngest children now begin the day with some independent writing and are showcasing their fantastic progress with letter formation and phonics this year.



Having designed and made toys with cam mechanisms based on picture books, our Class 5 children shared these with Class R. Class 5 are certainly eager to become Class R 'buddies' when they move into Class 6 in September!

As we end another academic year at Dedham Primary, we would like to take this opportunity to extend a thank you to all those in the local community who have supported the school this year.

Whether it be supporting school events and helping us to raise money, or coming in to school to lead assemblies and to support learning, thank you! We wish you all a safe and very happy summer holiday.

*Laura Valentine*

## Surgery News

Sister Fiona Wallington is retiring at the end of June having worked at the surgery for 8 years. We wish her a very happy retirement and will be missed by patients and staff.

During the months of July and August we will gain another three new GP trainees. With ongoing staff shortages and summer holidays we continue to face a challenging summer. Patients however remain our priority and we will endeavour to provide the best possible service.

## Research Projects at The Ardleigh Surgery

We, as a surgery will be participating in research projects, these will be led by Dr O'Carroll. Some of you may have noticed the Indigo survey posters in the surgery, or you may have been contacted to fill in a questionnaire. If you wish to opt out of these please let the surgery know, we appreciate patient support. The Research Nurse is happy to come and join the PPG group meeting, if you think this would be helpful, please let us know.

## 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. We are especially looking for young people to inject new blood into the PPG.

Over the next few months, we'll be running an Empowerment Series from A to Z, focusing on common health topics and how you can take charge of your own care.

## U - UTI – suspected

If you suspect you have a urine infection, firstly please check if you can be seen by Pharmacy First- Female only and age 16 to 64. If you do not fit this criteria please submit an Anima request to be reviewed.

## V - Verruca

Verruca Treatment Steps:

1. Self-care and over-the-counter treatments like salicylic acid.
2. Stronger pharmacy treatments or cryotherapy.
3. Referral to podiatrist or dermatologist for persistent cases.
4. Private clinics such as Colchester Foot Clinic offer advanced treatments.

Avoid walking barefoot in communal areas and do not pick or scratch the verruca.

## W - Weight loss medication

At present, GPs cannot prescribe weight loss drugs purely for weight loss. They can be prescribed for diabetes management.

Standing orders

- Please be kind to staff, as the world is in turmoil and life becomes 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.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and for being such a vital part of our community. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the months ahead.

## **NUREMBERG (15) Directed by James Vanderbilt 2025**

**Wednesday, July 15th 2026**  
**Dedham Assembly Rooms**  
**7.30pm - 10pm**

A WWII psychiatrist evaluates Nazi leaders before the Nuremberg trials, growing increasingly obsessed with understanding evil as he forms a disturbing bond with Hermann Göring. The Nazi high command was put on trial 80 years ago in 1945. The film Nuremberg draws on a little-known chapter of the trial's proceedings to ask enduring questions about the wellspring of fascism and the true nature of evil.

Starring Russell Crowe, Rami Malek and Michael Shannon



## **H IS FOR HAWK (PG13) Directed by Phillipa Lowthorpe 2025**

**Wednesday, August 19, 2026**  
**7:30pm - 10:00pm**

**H** is for Hawk follows Helen (Claire Foy), who, after the sudden death of her father (Brendan Gleeson), loses herself in the memories of their time birding and exploring the natural world together and turns the ancient art of falconry--rooted in European tradition--training a wild goshawk named Mabel to navigate her profound loss. But as she teaches Mabel to hunt and fly free, Helen discovers how deeply she has neglected her own emotions and life. What begins as an act of endurance transforms into an intimate journey of resilience and healing.



## 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](mailto:dedhamartsociety@gmail.com) or visit our website:  
[www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk](http://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk).

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

### Dedham Art Society – July/August 2026 Thursday Painting Sessions

**July 9th, Thursday**  
**Members' painting together session**  
**– Still Life**  
**Assembly Rooms, 2.00–4.30pm**

**August 6th, Thursday**  
**Members' painting together session**  
**– Restricted Palette**  
**Assembly Rooms, 2.00–4.30pm**

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appreciation, curry club, international dining, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel, bridge, Sunday Singles lunch ..... there's something for everyone. 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.

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



### 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

## JULY 2026

- Sunday 5th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Rise & Shine.
- Monday 6th - 12.30pm, Essex Rose Tea Room - Monday Lunch Club.
- Monday 6th - 6.30pm, Duchy Barn - Dedham Parish Council Meeting.
- Thursday 9th - 2pm-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.
- Saturday 11th - 7pm, Dedham Church - **CONSTABLE AND THE COUNTYSIDE**.
- Sunday 12th - 11am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Wednesday 15th - 7.30pm-10pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, **NUREMBERG**.
- Sunday 19th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Morning Praise.
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm Dedham Church - Mission Bake Stall.
- Sunday 26th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Sunday 26th - 2pm - 4pm, The Vicarage - Open Gardens.
- Sunday 31st - 7pm-8pm, 9pm-10pm, Dedham Church, Coldplay Candlelight Experience

## AUGUST

- Sunday 2nd - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Morning Praise.
- Thursday 6th - 2pm-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.
- Sunday 9th - 11am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.

- Sunday 16th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Matins.
- Wednesday 19th - 7.30pm-10pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, **H IS FOR HAWK**.
- Sunday 23rd - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.  
Sunday 23rd - 2pm - 4pm, The Vicarage - Open Gardens.
- Wednesday 27th - 2pm, Duchy Barn, Children's Cinema.
- Sunday 30th - 11am, Dedham Church - Benefice Service
- Monday 31st - 10am-4pm 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, 10:30pm to 12pm.
- [Morning Prayer - Dedham Church, 10.30pm.](#)
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 9pm to 11pm.
- [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.



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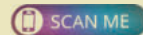
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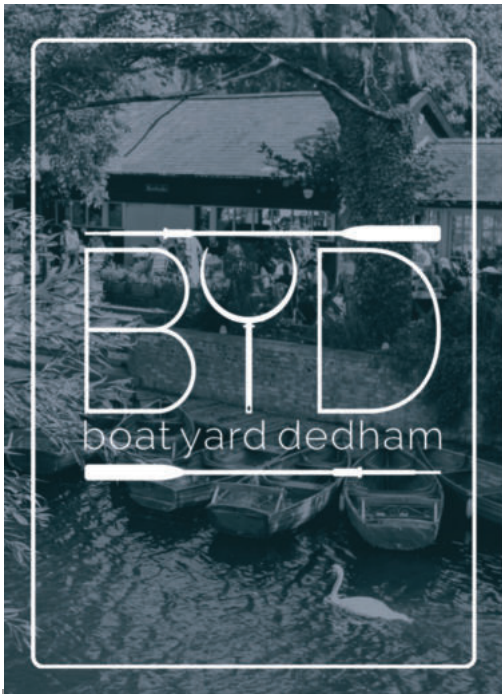
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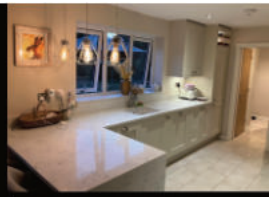
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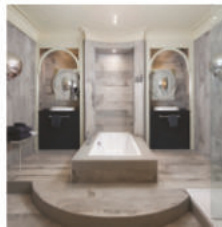
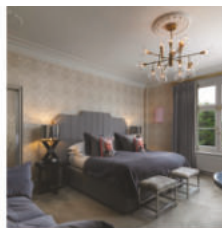
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