A photograph of a path made of grey stones and concrete, lined with numerous smooth, rounded rocks. Each rock is hand-painted with various colors and designs, including abstract patterns, animals, and nature scenes. The path leads towards a stone wall in the background. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

THAXTED PARISH MAGAZINE
SUMMER 2021

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EDITORIAL - STEPHANIE HUGHES

Many people have asked why we have not produced the parish magazine as regularly as usual over the past year, though we would have liked to have done. Obviously in these difficult times of lockdowns and other restrictions we have taken heed of government advice, particularly in respect of our volunteer deliveries being safe. We missed Harvest 2020 but made up for it with a larger than usual Christmas edition. We were not able again due to lock-down to produce an Easter magazine, but have delayed it until now. Hopefully, we will be back to normal with a Harvest and Christmas edition at the usual times.

So now we are at last free this magazine will be printed in time for Pentecost. one of the great festivals of the church. After Easter, Pentecost is the greatest feast of the whole year. It commemorates the foundation of the church, whose beginnings are told in the Acts of the Apostles. It signals a new era in the history of the world, When the Holy Spirit descended on the faithful gathered together to celebrate the feast of weeks, the Jewish festival of Pentecost, it made perfect in them the work of illumination and sanctification that Christ had begun in the days after His resurrection. They were given the strength to be witnesses to the teachings of Christ. Jesus, as the gospel tells us, had told his disciples, about the coming of the Paraclete and this promise was fulfilled on Pentecost Sunday. The celebrant

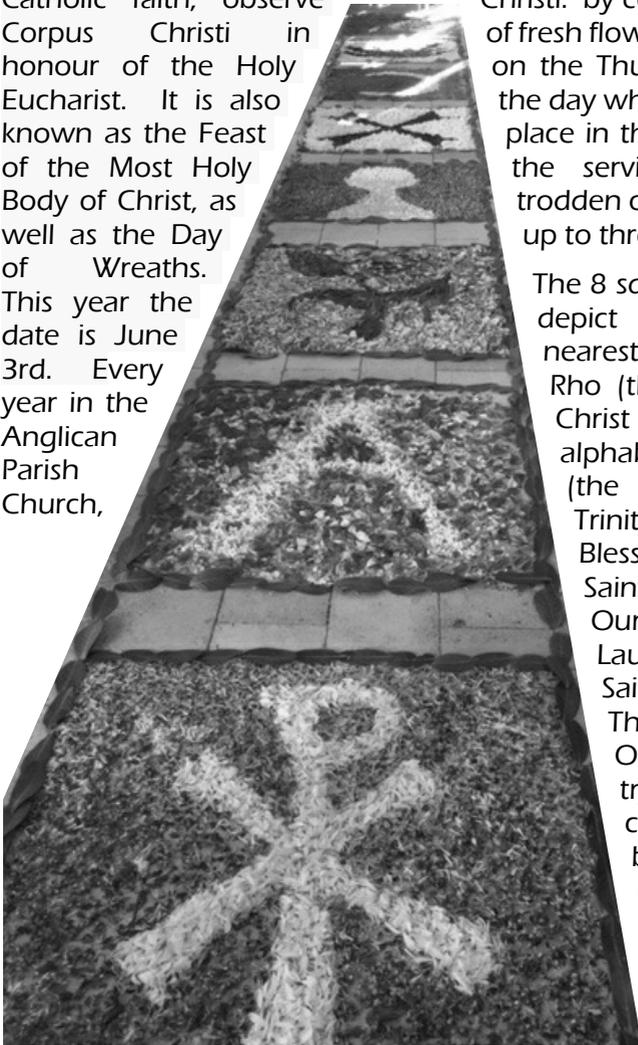
is clothed in red, which symbolises the tongues of fire, and in some churches while the "Veni Sancte Spiritus" was sung red roses fell from the roof, while a white dove flew over the heads of the congregation. Sometimes a trumpet was sounded as a reminder of the trumpet on Sinai, which was sounded to call together the people of Israel, when Moses was given the tablets of stone, or it represented the mighty roar of the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles. Pentecost is not only the anniversary of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles it is the descent of life into our hearts and by the workings of the Holy Spirit joy is reborn and peace blossoms in us.

Following on from Pentecost we have Corpus Christi. Many Christians in the United Kingdom,

especially those of the Roman Catholic faith, observe Corpus Christi in honour of the Holy Eucharist. It is also known as the Feast of the Most Holy Body of Christ, as well as the Day of Wreaths. This year the date is June 3rd. Every year in the Anglican Parish Church,

we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi. by constructing a carpet of fresh flower petals and leaves on the Thursday afternoon of the day when the service takes place in the evening. During the service the carpet is trodden on by the procession up to three times.

The 8 squares of the design depict the following: - nearest the camera is Chi Rho (the first 2 letters of Christ in the Greek alphabet), then Alpha (the beginning), the Trinity (3 in 1), the Blessed Sacrament and Saint John the Baptist, Our Lady and St. Laurence (the 3 patron Saints of our church). The final square is Omega (the end). We try to repair the carpet and we may be able to leave it in place until the weekend, so it may be possible for you to visit it.



Can you help this magazine committee?

The committee is looking for one or two new members. While most of the committee are members of one of our churches, it would be great to have some from the wider community. In particular we need someone to take on the role of advertising manager. If you would be interested do call Mike to find out what is involved. Tel: 01371830457.

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**IF THE HEART CAN CHANGE, THE WORLD CAN
CHANGE TOO**

Philip Tarris: Rector

It is seven years since I was licensed by Bishop Stephen Cottrell (now Archbishop of York!) to our village parishes and 15 months later to Thaxted too. I shall be retiring in July and making way for someone



younger - so how do I reflect on my time here and where we are as a church in this changing world?

To try and answer that question let's return to the said Archbishop who has just published another book, the inspiration for which came from an encounter he had at Paddington Station. He was buying a coffee before catching a train to Wales and the barista, noticing his clerical collar, looked him up and down and asked him 'What made you become a priest?' He didn't have long to answer as he had to get the train, but the gist of his response to her was two-fold.

Firstly, that he believed in God and had reached a point where life, the universe and everything in it made no sense without God, and moreover in Jesus there was a person through whom God

had a human face and a human heart. Secondly, he told her, he wanted to change the world – to help change the human heart because if the heart can change then the world can change too.

Bishop Stephen didn't have time to develop the conversation before catching the train – so he wrote the book instead – and I thoroughly recommend you read it (ref below). And in a way, my personal reflection on my time here resonates with the Bishop's conversation with the barista.

It is probably why many of us get ordained. Because we can't see how the world makes sense without God, and we have ambitions to share how Jesus can change the human heart. And I am privileged to have worked with lots of wonderful people in and around our five churches over the last seven years who share that ambition, although they will articulate it in different ways. These are people who are committed to their faith and draw on that resource to help contribute to the community.

Which, of course, is what it is all about. We church people need to make sure that what we talk about on Sundays affects what we do on Mondays! I remember speaking to a couple who wanted their child baptised in Thaxted, who firmly reminded me that that many people don't want to come to church to be "talked at". The best thing the church and its people can do is to be out and visible in the community doing things for others, demonstrating love in action in the community. Trying to change the world in fact.

However, I do also worry for our churches who struggle with finance and five grade 1 listed buildings! Small, and reducing, numbers of faithful congregations, are tasked with finding time, and very large sums of money, to maintain the 'infrastructure' of the church as we have inherited it today. A task for which they receive no financial support from the church at the centre (despite the belief of many that the church is flush with money). A task which is quite frankly getting too much for the smaller churches. Faithful

love and service is being consumed by the practicalities, leaving little time to change hearts and minds.

So, my conclusion is that change is on the way. Some of it will be forced by these practicalities and some people may not like the prospect of losing their village church which becomes a real possibility with every passing year. But out of change something new and fresh will emerge. They don't call ours a resurrection faith for nothing. I am with the Archbishop. I too believe that Jesus not only showed what God is like, but shows us what humanity *can* be like. Which is why, in the preaching and teaching that I have been able to do I have tried to concentrate on that very thing. Trying to make what we hear on Sundays affect how we live on Mondays. Trying to tell the story of what God has done in Jesus Christ to change the course of human history and to win our hearts.

If that strikes a chord with you then please read the Archbishop's book – it may help to change the world.

Dear England. Finding hope, taking heart and changing the world.
By Stephen Cottrell.

"WILDE ESSEX"

– a unique perspective on our landscape from a

Thaxted artist

Clare Wilde PhD

The Essex landscape is traditionally underrated by artists in favour of more classically romantic areas. It is being lost through constant building of housing, roads and related sprawling infrastructure at an alarming rate. If people do paint Essex, they do the obviously cute bits and the character, listed buildings. Swathes of Essex have a romantic beauty all their own - a quiet, magical bleakness, a gentle and peaceful ancient heart, but you have to stop and be aware with all your senses to experience it – rather than just being simply handed an immediate wham-bam drama. I have lived here for most of my life and walked and ridden thousands of miles here. I am intimately involved with our storm-bruised skies, blazing summer sunsets, the hazelly-brick clay and the history of the land – where mammoth's teeth were dug up, forgotten iron-age sites, tumuli nestled in the landscape, decayed Roman roads, green lanes, hollow-ways and droves, and the sites of lost and destroyed farm-workers'

cottages, medieval barns and manors pulled down after the last war.

In this series of work, I am deliberately working on a small scale in order to ask people to really look, to draw your attention in to quiet, dream-like vistas that first appear relatively empty but if you take the time to really see, are filled with detail and colour. I am seeking to evoke, rather than describe, and asking you to attend more closely to the easily-overlooked and really experience it - in effect taking a still-life approach to the essence of the world around us. I hope that through being asked to notice deep beauty in these simple lines, people may learn to look more slowly and carefully at the world around them, and perhaps develop a deeper respect and love for the land instead of seeing it simply as a commodity.

I spend a great deal of time outside and every day I see a thousand paintings in the changing shape and light of one cloud, casting shadows on the

meadow below; the light in a puddle with birds' footprints in the mud beneath, in a field that once had a name; the kaleidoscopic colours of a single tree. One star in the early night sky, the wrinkled bark of our ancient boundary oaks, the gentle mists and fog with its land-enfolding shifts and drifts. I am constantly aware of how connected to the land, and how insignificant I am. If I spend the rest of my life painting, I will never have time to come close to trying to evoke the beauty around me.



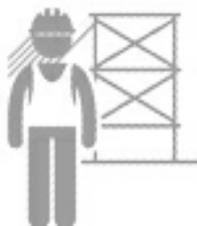
I make many of my own paints and use as many natural

materials as possible, particularly pigments dug from the earth, to paint the earth. I use ochres dug from the 7,000 year old ochre mines at Clearwell Caves, Epping yellow ochre, Mudlark Verdigris (made from found copper on the banks of the Thames), Suffolk chalks, a ground blue stone called Vivianite which was discovered in a Cornish mine; powdered Iron ore, natural woad blue from Somerset, genuine Indigo, oak gall and walnut inks, ground slate greys and powdered English willow charcoal, to name a few. Handling materials that have been used by generations of painters for thousands of years is an alchemical process. Where I do use synthetic pigments, I favour medieval colours like Smalt (ground blue glass), Sepia and Caput Mortuum (an iron oxide), and use oil paint made from pigment reclaimed from cleaning water. I work in a mixture of hand-made oil paints, inks, dry pigment, charcoal, graphite and pencils made at the Derwent factory in the North of England. When I can get them, I love to work on found surfaces.

Works are available directly from me at my website www.clarewilde.com or email me, drclarewilde@sky.com

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STEPHEN FLOOD

Stephen was an active member of the Thaxted Catholic Church and was also widely known as a much respected vet. He died at home after collapsing on Sunday January 24 at the age of 57. He had worked for Mercer and Hughes since 1991, previously working in Harlow,



and before that for two years in Ireland following his graduation from University College Dublin in 1985. Stephen's prudent work ethic saw him become one of the partners at Mercer and Hughes.

Stephen had a loyal following among his clients, his 'fan club' as they were called, appreciated his straight-talking manner and obvious care for the animals he looked after. Apparently all the pets in his care were always called Pickle, no matter what breed, shape or size! Stephen is remembered for always showing kindness and gratitude after a long working day, as he made a point of thanking each and every person when leaving theatre after an operation or when leaving the surgery at the end of

a clinic. It is said his bear hugs were phenomenal and his singing would resonate and brighten even the most stressful of days. He was a true Irishman of generous and gregarious character; he was a loyal rugby fan, dedicated parishioner and keen

collector of Labradors.

Steve was a highly spirited, fun loving Irishman who at one time played rugby for the Saffron Walden RFC. He went on to help with the coaching of their Colts team as well as Mini rugby.

His children were all born in Thaxted and they lived first in Bolford Street, then Bardfield Road. For many evenings Stephen was to be found entertaining in The Swan.

Stephen was a dedicated family man, a family that were his pride and joy. He will be sadly missed by so many.

As a final gesture Town Street was filled with mourners as his horse drawn hearse was driven to the Parish Church.

***CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF THAXTED'S
LINCOLN ORGAN***

Christopher Brown & Ann Pickhaver

2020 was for all of us, not least the Lincoln Organ Committee, an extraordinary year. Owing to the pandemic arrangements for a series of organ recitals given by accomplished organists was abandoned just before the first recital was due to be given.

However, the year saw a significant change of membership from several of the original committee of local volunteers established in 2006, led by Sybil King BEM who was the driving force. This committee, with successive members, succeeded marvellously in its task to raise a considerable amount for the restoration in 2014. Sadly, Sybil has moved away from Thaxted, as have Chris and Sheilah Rengert; Michael Bailie and Maureen Walker now feel it is time for them to hand over their responsibilities. So Kate Barker, Ann Pickhaver and Christopher Bayston have been joined by Stephen Odom, Richard Till, Noelle Till, Oliver Wilson forming the new committee with Chris Brown as Chairman.

The organ, built for St John's Chapel, Bedford Row in Bloomsbury in 1821 by Henry Lincoln, was moved to Thaxted Parish Church in 1858. With the organ wonderfully restored the committee's work has changed its focus. We will continue to ensure its condition be properly monitored with necessary maintenance undertaken. In addition, we will be arranging recitals and seeking to develop its use, particularly for educational purposes. We seek to make the organ's special contribution to the development of instrumental music more widely appreciated. We hope thereby to attract specialists to Thaxted and make our contribution to this town's rich artistic heritage. The organ is already 'on the map' and is a valuable resource, the significance of this instrument as a unique little-altered Georgian organ was recognised by the award of a certificate Grade 1 as a rare instrument of its period by the British Institute of Organ Studies.

During this year's Thaxted Festival the recital on Saturday 26 June at noon celebrates 200 years since the Lincoln Organ's inauguration. Robin Walker's programme will include works by many composers who were alive at the time of its installation.

MEN'S SHED – CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Glyn

Thaxted has its own Men's Shed, which can be described as not unlike a traditional Shed in its nature but on a larger scale with room for many. It is essentially a safe space for men to come together and share conversation and tools whilst engaging in practical projects. And we welcome the involvement of women too.

Our activities concentrate around Thaxted Church and seek to support the church and community by helping to maintain the building and its grounds. A lot of work during 2020 has been carried out outside when we have been able. Over the past few years we have helped create a memorial walk, painted the gates and railings, tidied and replanted the rose bed, helped prepare the church for services during lock-down and managed a range of projects to repair and enhance the visitor experience.

As a result of the work of the volunteers, we have seen a lot more care taken of the graveyards and this is really heartening. We meet each Tuesday morning from 9.30 – midday and supply tea and coffee to help make the morning go with a cheer. More volunteers are welcome to join us.

Essex Summer by Patricia March

Essex lanes are brimming now
With seas of cream and green;
Queen Anne's lace and meadow sweet,
Hawthorn white and wild rose pink
Suffuse this fairest scene,

Town fetes and village fairs teem
With myriad stalls of cakes, jam and flowers;
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FOODS

THAXTED RANGERS - YOUTH DIVISION

Laurin Barham - Vice Chair

Three years ago, a number of different factors had seen the youth division at Thaxted Rangers dwindle significantly. So when a parent approached the now Chairman, Martin Tritton, about starting a new team for her child to play in, Martin had no way of knowing quite how dramatically the tide was about to turn. "I was initially contacted by just one parent looking for a local team for her son. It had always been the plan to start re-developing the club but this was the catalyst. With the enthusiasm of one parent, suddenly there were 8 budding new players, which rapidly grew to 12, and we began to realise that there was really high demand for the provision of football in the community."

Following the launch of that initial youth team, a group of volunteers formed a new committee. Their aim was to work collaboratively to ensure grassroots football was revived in the area. In the 3 years since Martin was first approached, Thaxted Rangers FC has gone from strength to strength. Talking of the club's growth he reveals how their motto of 'The Home of Fair Play' has shaped the way they've approached the last few years. "The growth of the club has certainly been dramatic" he says "In the last 3 years we have gone from just 3 teams, to approximately 130 registered players ranging in age from 6 to 56. We feel much of that success is because of the positive, nurturing environment we have worked to create, which has afforded more people the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful game."

Thaxted's Youth division is now thriving and dynamic, with a focus on fair play for all, and Martin's plan is to keep it that way, even in the current climate. "The one thing that nobody in grassroots had anticipated was a pandemic. Primarily run by volunteers and with little guidance and training in dealing with its impact, somehow we have managed to navigate through and get our players back on the pitch as safely as possible"

Now, as the club continues to grow and with demand increasing, they are looking to find more land in the town to support their growth. "The Rec has been our home for many years and will remain so, but in truth we need more pitches. In recent years we have been fortunate enough to hire pitches within our kind neighbouring

villages, but where possible we would like to keep our teams within the community of Thaxted.”

The club says that Thaxted Parish Council have been very supportive with their plight, however with no locally owned areas of land suitable, they are now appealing for any local land owner(s) who may be willing to help, to contact them. “We understand this is a HUGE request but we are extremely keen to speak to anyone who has an area of land that could be converted to house 3-4 grass pitches, or even just 1 which could be the game changer!”

In the meantime, the club will continue working hard to provide the first class, fun, FA accredited football coaching, for which they've become renowned. After the past year especially, they say there is nothing better than the sound of children playing on their pitches... and funnily enough, the children agree!

For more information about Thaxted Rangers FC and their work in the community, please contact Martin Tritton on martintritton@hotmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/thaxtedrandgersyouthfc

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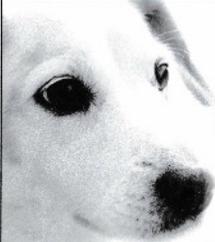
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HOPE IN ACTION: THE CHANTRY COMMUNITY HUB

Philip Tarris

I hope that you are beginning to hear much more about the Chantry – that wonderful, thatched building opposite the Almshouses. Because the plans for the Chantry’s future are now really beginning to come to fruition.

The coronavirus pandemic has forced us all to spend time apart and some people have been very much alone. And as we start to see a way out of the pandemic the need to meet and be with people, and to have a popular meeting place, has greatly increased. Social isolation needs to become social interaction.

The Chantry can play a key role. Situated in the centre of town, next to the church and on the way to the windmill, a refurbished Chantry could form a community hub, for use by the wider population, visitors, local businesses and the churches. It could be used for people to meet informally or in more organised meetings. There are suggestions to provide refreshments for people from the town and our many visitors on summer afternoons using the garden too. The facilities could be of considerable value when there are large gatherings in the church, for concerts, arts events community functions and church services.



Significantly it will offer toilets with proper access (there are none in the church), a kitchen and a good-sized meeting space.

The project so far has involved a few members of the church and other members of the wider community. We are now engaging even more widely via various means, including social media, for ideas as to how people would like to use the hub, seeking to give people a sense of ownership. The voluntary sector will also be involved as hopefully they will also see the Chantry as a place where they can interact with local people during and after the pandemic.

Plans have now been prepared, permissions granted and tenders received. So, we are nearly ready to go! But, of course, this is costing money. We have some of it from existing funds and grants but we need at least another £50,000. We are continuing to apply for grants, but we are really hoping that the town and surrounding villages will take this project to heart and want to do everything they can to protect and restore this iconic building, and give it a real purpose for the Thaxted area.

So please support our Chantry campaign. It is amazing what we can do with crowd funding if we all give a little. If 2,000 of us gave £20 we would be nearly there! So share this with your friends!

Visit our Justgiving page www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/the-thaxted-chantry to play your part and www.thaxtedchantry.org to keep in touch with progress.

This is a great example of 'hope in action' as we come out of the pandemic. Thank you so much for your help.

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GARDENERS' WEEKEND - 25TH & 26TH SEPT

The new committee of the Thaxted gardening and craft show are delighted this local event can take place this year. It will follow the usual format with classes for fruit and vegetables, flowers and flower arranging, crafts, cooking, wine and photography. There are lots of classes for children and some extra classes for Thaxted primary school pupils.

The schedules are in the local shops and the entry forms are included within the booklet. Entries can be made by this form or online.

The show itself will be open on Saturday 25th September from 2-5 and on Sunday 26th 12-5. The event will be held in the United Reform Church in Bolford Street Thaxted.



There are lots of cups to be won and all children's class winners receive a monetary reward.

Why not search for the show's Facebook page - Thaxted-Gardening-and-Craft-Show - for photos from previous years.

NGS - THE OLD VICARAGE BROXTED

This Victorian garde with 3 acres of formal gardens and a woodland and hay meadow is open to the public on Sunday 20th June under the "National Open Gardens Scheme". Booking is essential so go to <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/16413>.

With deep mixed boarders, a rose garden with recently added perenial inderplanting, it is not to be missed. it has a wide range of plants and trees, a series of ponds and views across the meadow to the church and beyond.

Uttlesford Fresh Food Voucher Scheme

Uttlesford Foodbank would like to give a big thank you to Thaxted Bakery and Butchery, and Guildhall Stores. They have very kindly agreed to join the Uttlesford Foodbank fresh food voucher scheme. Their support means that our Thaxted clients in addition to receiving their food parcel will also receive vouchers for the Thaxted Bakery & Butchery and Guildhall Stores which can be exchanged for fresh produce. The fresh produce improves the quality of our food parcel and is really appreciated by our clients. We are incredibly grateful to both of these shops. If you would like to find out more about the work we do please visit our website www.uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk or email us at info@uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk.

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Mary is a National Association of Jewellers Registered Valuer. She has over eighteen years experience in the jewellery trade, working in a variety of sectors. Alongside her work with MW Valuations she is a consultant valuer for The Guild of Valuers and Jewellers and an off screen valuer on the television show Dickinsons Real Deal.

Please contact Mary with any enquiries or to book an appointment. Tel: 07811 399 247
Email: mary@mwvaluations.com

THAXTED SCOUTS

Rory Wilson

“Every child has the right to an adventure; life is about grabbing opportunities. The prizes don't always go to the biggest, the best and the strongest they go to those who persevere. These are simple life lessons that scouting teaches.” – Bear Grylls (Chief Scout)

Scouts are do-ers and give-it-a-go-ers. Yes, we go camping, hiking, swimming, abseiling, cycling and canoeing. But we also get to hang out with our friends every week – having fun, playing games, working in a team and taking on new challenges.

Every week, the Scout Association nationally gives almost half a million 6-25 year olds the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life.

Scouting is split into five sections, based on age: Beavers (6-8), Cubs (8-10), Scouts (10-14), Explorers (14-18), Network (18-25) and the progressive programme for each section builds upon the young person's skills.

For over 50 years, The Scout Association has been active within Thaxted and now, twinned with Carver Barracks and the Wimbish area, we are able to offer access to many more young people. The Scout group has remained active during the pandemic, with Zoom based learning sessions and have also had presentations from Magician Richard Jones, the RNLI, Roborace, Household cavalry, Met Police Boat Unit, Essex Police Traffic Unit, the Fire Brigade, National Grid, Acrobats, the Royal Air force, the Royal Navy, and many many more!

In 2019, 1st Thaxted-Carver Scouts successfully raised enough money through the support of local and national charities to achieve our goal of buying a brand new minibus suitable for our needs



which, once the pandemic has cleared and we can all travel again, will enable trips and camps wider than just the local area. It is a massive achievement for the group and is a testament to what can be achieved, working together with our friends and supporters.

Everyone's welcome at Scouts. All genders, races and backgrounds. Regardless of your child's physical ability – there's a Scout adventure out there waiting for them. And we'll help them find it.

If you or your young person is interested in Scouting, please contact: GSL@thaxtedscouts.org.uk or Visit our Website <https://thaxtedscouts.org.uk>.

Never to Forget

The First 122 Names

by Howard Goodall

As a member of the London Symphony Chorus which is the choir of the London Symphony Orchestra, I was very privileged to sing in the virtual choir performance during lockdown of "Never to Forget."

It premiered on 5th July 2020.

Composed by Howard Goodall CBE and commissioned by the London Symphony Chorus, "Never to Forget" paid tribute to 122 health and care workers who were among the first to have died from Covid-19. The text of this new piece was made up entirely of the names like a roll call of those health and care workers, and when complete, "Never To Forget" will be extended to include all names of those health and care workers who have died by the time of its first live performance in London at Christ Church, Spitalfields hopefully this Summer 2021.

The final work will be performed to families of those who have lost their lives. It was a very moving experience to sing "Never to Forget" and a wonderful tribute to those who gave their life in service protecting our Country. You can listen to the initial recording made last year on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/sKeLR7gtzOs> - Jill Jones

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Sundays	8.00 a.m.	Said Mass
	10.00 a.m.	Sung Mass
Wednesdays	10.00 a.m.	Said Mass

THE BAPTIST CHURCH, PARK STREET

www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com

facebook.com/thaxtedbaptists/

Contact : Fran Griffiths 7, St Clements CM6 2LL

Tel 01371 831 161

Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Church Service, also on Zoom
Thursday	8 p.m.	Bible Study via Zoom
Friday	10 - 11.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Saturday	8.45 for 9 a.m.	Men's Breakfast held every fourth week.

With regard to the dates when our community activities resume back to normality refer to the Baptist News section.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, BOLFORD STREET

Contact - Julie Barnard, 01371 830261

Sundays 9.30 am Morning Service, followed by coffee.

On the fourth Sunday of the month Morning Service is with Communion.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Richard N Rowe - Priest-in-Charge,

Weavers, 5 Newbiggen Street, Thaxted CM6 2QS

Tel: 01371 830808

All Sunday Services are in Great Bardfield at 9.30 am

IN MEMORIAM

The Committee offers condolences to all those who have been bereaved since the last issue of this magazine.

We remember especially:

Norma Hobbs, Anthony Neil Brown, Eileen Burgess, Mary Lydia Lagden, Stephen Flood, Phyllis Young, and Stuart McDonald.

May they all rest in peace.

BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

Peter Archibald

Church Services

Our 10.30 Sunday Morning Church Services can also be viewed on Zoom. For information with regard to Zoom please email thaxtedbaptistchurch@gmail.com or ring 07752 553 368

Men's Breakfast

Our successful community Men's Breakfast ,which is held every fourth week ,will resume in September.

Coffee & Company

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one and would like to chat and also have mutual support with people who understand, please come and join us for coffee/tea and cake. We meet on the last Saturday of every month in our Church hall between 10 and 11.30 am.

For details visit www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com : email coffeandcompany006@gmail.com or ring Debbie on 01371831548

Other Community Activities

Our Friday Coffee Morning will re open from the 21st of May. The Exercise Classes will resume at a date yet to be agreed and the Thaxted Ladies Community Choir will commence once Covid Restrictions have been eased for singing groups indoors. The Wednesday Fellowship has as yet no starting date.



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THE 1ST THAXTED RANGER UNIT

Siobhan Evers

Calling all girls and young women – are you ready to try something different?

Rangers is fun, flexible and full of new experiences. We challenge each other to try new things, to develop new skills and support each other.

What are Rangers?

If you became a Ranger, you would be part of the worldwide Girlguiding movement, joining half a million girls and volunteers around the globe. Rangers are aged between 14 and 18, following on from the Guides (10 – 14). But you don't have to have been part of the Guiding community to join us – everyone is welcome.

So, what about the Thaxted Rangers? We were founded in February last year, just before the world was turned upside down by the Corona virus. We had a few face-to-face meetings and outings before the first lockdown and then we chose to continue with virtual meetings every week. It was good to have the company of other Rangers through difficult times, to talk to people from outside our homes and outside our own particular schools. We shared games, films, science experiments, soap making, paper making, cookery, camping at home - whatever we wanted to do. If these activities sound a little tame remember we were stuck at home. Ghyll scrambling, rock climbing, zip wires and zorbing are also among our favourite past times and they *will* be possible again.

Helping people is always a priority for us. Last year, despite the lockdown, we helped our local elderly at Humfrey Lodge to celebrate VE Day. We delivered a huge supply of home baked cakes and decorations and a card to every resident. We feel as though we are friends now and delivered more cakes and decorations at Easter.

As Covid restrictions gradually relax we are looking forward to a brighter, more flexible future so this would be the ideal time to join us. At present we have six members, but this number is set to expand soon. We meet weekly on a Wednesday, 7 – 8.30pm. Currently we are meeting outdoors and we are very grateful to the Clarence House

Conservation Garden for hosting us. We plan to return to indoor meetings before too long, probably at Thaxted Youth Club.

Lastly, we should point out that Rangers offer you the opportunity to do things beyond our weekly meetings, and beyond Thaxted. For example, at least one of our Rangers will have the opportunity to travel overseas with Girlguiding -- and two have put themselves forward for the 'Young Leader' scheme, to work with Brownies or Rainbows. This will give them lots of experience of working with children and a qualification, handy when you are looking for things to put on your CV. There are other opportunities for leadership training too, learning how to lead other Rangers on camping trips for example, helping you to gain confidence and experience.

What are you waiting for? Check out the Rangers' web site for more information on the movement as a whole: www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/rangers and register your interest at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> The Thaxted Rangers will make you very welcome.

Toys & Games

Gifts & Presents

Newspapers & Deliveries

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Cards & Wrapping Papers

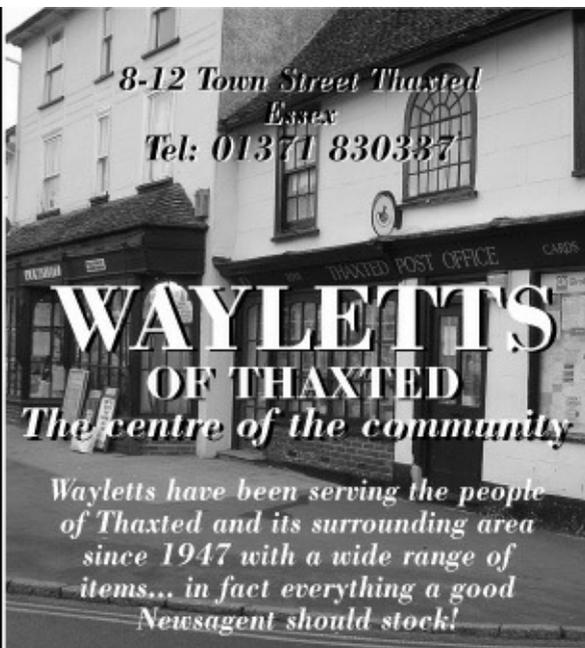
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Thaxted Souvenirs

Tobacco & Sweets

Post Office Counter

Lottery

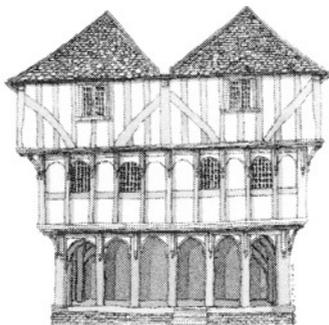


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It is estimated that more than 3,000 households in Uttlesford may be struggling to pay their utility bills or cutting back on their use of gas or electricity to pay for other household essentials. This may be because they are out of work, managing a on low income or living in an energy-inefficient property.

The good news is that there is lots of help available. A team of energy specialists at Uttlesford Citizens Advice can check your benefit entitlements and offer advice on energy efficiency measures and home improvement grants. They can also compare deals and help you switch to a lower tariff; provide support to manage fuel related or any other debts and access emergency funds on your behalf, if needed.

Last year the team helped more than 200 families cut their bills, securing over £53,000 in additional benefits and grants.

So, remember, warm homes help is not just for winter! Why not give the team a call? Getting in touch is easy. Simply call 01799 618858 or email warmhomes@uttlesfordca.org.uk. Advice is always completely free and confidential.

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THAXTED FESTIVAL

• EST 1916 •

Thaxted Festival 2021

Thaxted Festival is back for two long weekends of the best in music, from 24-27 June and 1-4 July. Tickets are now on general sale, although they have been selling extremely fast since priority booking opened in early April.

We have been so grateful to everyone for their support during 2020, which is the first time for 40 years that Thaxted has been without a summer music Festival. This support has enabled us to keep going, adapt our systems, and also give ourselves a new look which is well-suited to age of digital publicity and bookings. Our volunteer team stands ready to welcome you once again this year.

Planning for this season has presented a lot of challenges, but our artists can't wait to perform with us. For some it will be their first live performances since early March last year. All seats in the main nave and side aisle areas are sold as pairs and single, with spaces between them and with alternate rows removed. This ensures we comply with distancing regulations which may still be in place. (It also means that our seating capacity is limited, which is why availability is getting very restricted.) However, we are also offering additional seating along the sides of the stage. Initially these seats will also be distanced, but if regulations allow nearer the time, we can make all of these side-stage seats for sale.

As always, our season contains something for all tastes, from leading artists in their fields. Orchestral and chamber music is brought to us by the Heath Quartet, young cellist Laura van der Heijden with pianist Jams Coleman, Howard Shelley and London Mozart Players, and the Covent Garden Sinfonia with Christopher Weston, piano. A taste of the 1920s is offered by our Patron, Zeb Soanes, and Selina Cadell performing William Walton's *Façade*, together with *Carnival of the*

Animals, with Covent Garden Soloists. This latter work will form the centrepiece of a music project with Thaxted Primary School, for which we are grateful for the support of Yardley's Charity and Thaxted Fayre Trust.

Vocal music is always a treat in Thaxted Church, and this year we welcome the stunning young vocal ensemble VOCES8, with a wide-ranging programme from Bach and Byrd to Gershwin and van Morrison! Our long-term friends Opus Anglicanum return with a programme of Gregorian Chants and other sacred music, together with piano virtuoso Jason Rebello, who improvises along with their voices.

Jazz, our other staple, is represented by the Darius Brubeck Quartet. Darius is one of Dave Brubeck's talented sons, who performs his own works, standards, and of course, favourites by his father.

Thaxted's Lincoln Organ features in a recital by Robin Walker, who returns with a programme of works suited to the era of this historic instrument in the year of its 200th anniversary, while also celebrating some other musical anniversaries.

Our full programme is on our website, where you can also see videos of many of our artists in performance. All bookings should be made online through the booking links on this site. You will then receive e-tickets which can be printed out or displayed on your device. Entry will be via either the north or south door of the church. Our office remains closed, but if you are passing you can pick up a leaflet from the dispenser outside.

www.thaxtedfestival.co.uk

We are hoping for fine weather, and that regulations will permit us to serve our world-renowned home-made cakes outside in the church grounds during our extended intervals, and also that Friends of Thaxted Church will be able to offer their usual range of liquid refreshments. Further details will be on our website nearer the time.

We are looking forward so much to welcoming you back this summer when music comes alive again in Thaxted.

Peter Donovan, Chairman, Thaxted Festival Foundation

APPS ON YOUR PHONE

100 Parishes Society and Mike

Who would have thought a few years ago that we can take a phone with us when we go for a walk and then be able to use it to identify wildflowers and trees? As summer arrives, we will again enjoy the walks around our town. I am not going to advertise the "Thaxted Walks" booklet available from the Information Centre/Library again, but I will remind you of the P3 volunteers who have continued to keep our paths clear and easy to walk. Look out for the yellow topped rights of way routes provide a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the variety of wildflowers growing in field margins and hedgerows.

After the chilly start to the year, the warmer days are encouraging the flowers to provide essential nectar and pollen to support visiting pollinators. With the increasing concern about the alarming reduction in insect numbers, many of those caring for green spaces have adopted the 'NO MOW IN MAY' approach to grass maintenance, where the uncut grassy places can support a surprisingly large number of

different native species. Their flowers add variety to these areas and the bees benefit as well!

Wayside plants such as Stinging Nettles, Goosegrass (the long, hairy plant that sticks to your socks) and Cow Parsley thrive alongside lanes and tracks. Cow parsley, with its splay of tiny white flowers, can grow as high as a person. A touch of pink is often added by the flowers of Red Campion, also known as Bachelor's Buttons as it might have been worn as a buttonhole by unmarried men.

Common bright yellow flowers include Dandelions and the shiny golden petals of a great variety of Buttercups. The tall Ox-eye Daisy is often present where wildflower mixtures have been sown.

The types of wildflower I have listed can be seen and enjoyed almost everywhere in the paths around Thaxted. There are many more varieties to be seen and occasionally something quite rare. So maybe you too will become a smart phone user with the identification apps. Meanwhile remember we do not have to be experts to appreciate and enjoy nature's abundance.

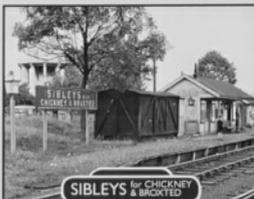
ELSENHAM & THAXTED LIGHT RAILWAY

1913 - 1953

The Gin and Toffee Line



ELSENHAM



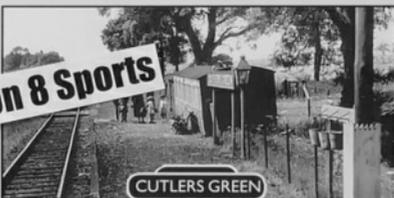
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HISTORY OF THE LINE.....

THE ELSENHAM & THAXTED LIGHT RAILWAY was 5 1/2 mile long light railway in Essex. The line was sanctioned in 1906, did not finally open to traffic until 1st April 1913. It was the first railway line built in Essex and construction of Braintree Airport railway station. The promoters for the scheme were Sir Walter Gilby (who was a gin manufacturer in Elsenham), George Lee (wholesale confectioner in Thaxted), Jon Tredgill (farmer Thaxted), Benjamin Tyler (farmer Thaxted), Thomas Franklin (farmer Thaxted), Laurence Cranmer Byng (Thaxted) and James John Prior (farmer Great Sanford). Due to the employment of the two prominent promoters it was nicknamed the "Gin and Toffee Line" with the estimated cost in 1913 was £15,000, of which a sum of £15,750 was requested from the government. The railway left the West Anglia Main Line at Elsenham. There were two stations Sibleys and Thaxted plus three halts on the railway, all except Mill Road Halt (Opened in 1922) were opened with the line. The line was never a commercial success, since all of the stations were located at some distance from the settlements they served. Thaxted station was 1/2 mile distance from the town, since to construct a crossing of the River Chelmer would have been too costly. As a light railway it was limited to 25mph giving a journey time of 22-28 minutes. There were five down and four up trains per day on opening, passenger services were withdrawn on the 15th September 1952 and the railway finally closed on the 1st June 1953.



This colour poster has been created by Mick Hooker. He is selling the print framed or not. Anyone interested in a copy should contact Mick, info@junctionsportsmemorabilia.co.uk or 07957 814639. Please also mention the ABC&U as we should get some commission.

YARDLEYS CHARITY

Stephanie Hughes

Once again Yardleys Charity has been generous enough to donate money to keep the ABC and U, our parish magazine, in production after the two lockdowns when we have not been able to produce one. There are those of you, new to the area, who will not know about Yardleys and the significance it has played in the development of Thaxted. Thomas Yerdele, a local landowner died, leaving his estate to his sons. In his will dated first February in the 21st year of the reign of Henry VI 1443 he left some of his land firstly to his family and the rest to be sold *“for the good of the church, the relief of the poorest inhabitants and the upkeep of the roads”*. It seems the that the property was first administered by trustees in 1470 but when the sons of Thomas Yardley died childless in 1490, the principal inhabitants decided to purchase the property to pay for taxes, known as tenths and fifteenths, for the sake of the town. It is not known exactly which land Thomas Yardley left as over the years there seems to have been land bought and exchanged but now it has the same boundaries as a survey map, made in 1746 by the trustees, 185 acres, 1 rod and 24 perches.

Over the years the income from the farm has provided many benefits for Thaxted’s inhabitants. The water and sewage systems were updated, so there was no more raw sewage running down the street. A fire engine was provided, which can still be seen in the windmill. From the early 1600’s, Yardleys was involved in the maintenance of a school and a schoolmaster. The charity has also contributed to the preservation and upkeep of the Guildhall and provided money toward the reparation of the houses in Town Street. Today, the charity is able to donate money to worthy causes in the town, which is why we are able to provide the inhabitants with the parish magazine free of charge. Thank you, Thomas Yerdley!

Today Yardleys charity is the working title of Town Estate Charity number 227363 It operates as two bodies, Town Estate non-Ecclesiastical Charity (two thirds of the income) and Town Estate Ecclesiastical Charity (one third of the income). The Charity owns the freehold of Yardleys Farm, Thaxted and its income is derived from the rent of the farm, farm buildings and from investments.

LORD MAYNARD'S CHARITY

Daniel Fox

In his will, dated 30th May 1698, the Rt. Hon. William, Lord Maynard allocated £4000 for his executors to use for several purposes including helping the people of Thaxted, in particular families with young children and apprentices, which today includes students.

The charity is in the care of three Trustees and is administered by the them together with the Vicar of Thaxted, the Churchwardens, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Thaxted Parish Council.

Applications are invited from eligible residents of Thaxted to benefit from the charity that fall into one of the following categories:

1. Families with three or more children under the age of 16 on the qualifying date – 31st August 2021. Please give the names and dates of birth of the qualifying children.
2. Couples – one or both being resident in Thaxted - who were married in Thaxted Parish Church within the previous twelve months of the qualifying date – 31st August 2021. Please give the date of the marriage.
3. Students undertaking further education. This excludes sixth form colleges. Please give the name of the course and of the college or university. Please note only one application can be made.
4. Apprentices. Please give the name of the company to whom the applicant is apprenticed. Please note that only one application can be made.

Distribution of grants depends on the funds available and the number of applications received. Applications should be sent to Daniel Fox, Moulton, Vicarage Lane, Thaxted CM6 2QP or email to thaxtedfox@gmail.com to arrive by 31st July 2021. They will be reviewed at a meeting of the Trustees and Administrators to be held in September 2021.

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FOSTER CARE FORTNIGHT

“There is no greater reward than seeing your foster children develop into happy young people who are enjoying their childhood!” Says a fostering couple from West Essex.

Over the past year, there has been much concern across the UK about the impact of Covid on children’s physical and mental wellbeing. They have had disrupted routines, time away from school and missed opportunities to physically interact with friends due to the pandemic. Although only a temporary pause in childhood experiences, there is much concern over the long-lasting impact this period of increased anxiety may have on our young people. It has also highlighted the tragic fact that many children go hungry, unless fed at school.

In Foster Care Fortnight, which ran from 10 - 23 May, Essex County Council were seeking to highlight how missing out on aspects of childhood can often be a sustained normality for many children arriving into care. They also wanted to highlight the life changing difference foster carers are making in giving children a second chance at the childhood they have been deprived of and helping them to recover from the trauma experienced.

Essex County Council’s Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Barbara Canepa said: *“Childhood should be a time of nurturing and feeling safe to play, learn, socialise and explore – a pivotal point which lays the foundation for the adult they become. Playing and feeling secure enough to behave like a child is essential to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of young people.*

Sadly, it’s quite common for many foster children to have missed out on large parts of their childhood through trauma and neglect, many have also played a parenting role to their younger siblings and parents”.

Barbara added: *“Foster carers can help a child heal from their trauma by giving them a second chance at childhood. Our role is to give them the knowledge, support and tools to do so”.*

Two foster carers, who have been fostering for six years. describe their experiences of fostering the brothers aged 12 and 9 in their care. Their eldest foster child lost out on a large part of his childhood as he took on the role of both mother and father at a young age. He would

routinely look after his younger brother; going to the shops to buy food, cooking them dinner, and making sure he got ready for school.

"Fostering isn't about 'saving' a young person – it's about helping a young person recover from their past traumas and be the best they can be through stability, consistency, and love. "We will hopefully help them to develop the self-confidence, ability, and life skills they will need to become the successful adults they deserve to be".

Due to the impact of Coronavirus the fostering service has seen a 30% reduction in approved foster carers this year. Essex County Council is therefore urging more people like these two to support vulnerable children by becoming a foster carer. They recommend that anyone thinking about fostering children or young people should just pick up the phone and enquire.

"Fostering really has been the best decision we ever made as a couple and it's totally changed our lives together for the better. The difference you can make to a young person, just by treating them as part of your family, is huge. "And that's very much how we see our foster children – a part of our family. There is no greater reward than seeing them develop into happy young people who are enjoying their childhood!"

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Companion Cat by Patricia March

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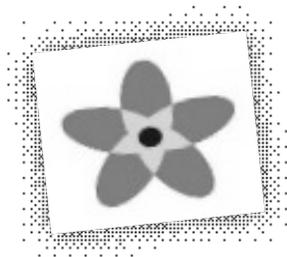
Alison Howells

Clarance House Conservation Garden is re-opening to the public from 22nd May; it will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm until the Autumn.

The garden is dedicated to providing a haven for wildlife and native species, and somewhere for Thaxted to enjoy time with their friends and families whilst staying safe.

We have a wildlife meadow, a pond (currently full of tadpoles), woodland and an orchard, and a large lawn for games and picnics.

It is also available to hire for parties, children's events, and any outdoor function, including clubs. Please contact the parish clerk at thaxted.co.uk or ring 01371 830 952.



*Saffron Walden Dementia Café
Re-Opening at new premises
Wednesday 7th July 10am-12pm
Fairycroft House, Audley Road, Saffron
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Are you caring for or living with someone affected by Dementia / Alzheimer's or have you lost a loved one and would just like to chat? Then why not pop along to our Dementia Café and enjoy companionship, support, activities, information, and advice and of course refreshments. We will meet weekly in Fairycroft House, onsite parking available. Why not drop in and see us or if you would like to find out more call 07900123917 or email saffronwaldendementiacafe@gmail.com

ACTION FOR FAMILY CARERS

Popular Dementia Activity Group Reopens in Dunmow

People living with dementia can once again benefit from a hugely popular weekly Activity Group in Dunmow run by Essex-based charity Action for Family Carers which has reopened following 4 months of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than a dozen people attend the Dunmow group and a further 50 in West Essex attend similar groups mixing with others and participating in a variety of mentally and physically stimulating activities ranging from seated exercise, indoor bowling, reminiscence discussions and games often including music.

The Groups are led by a small team of professional and caring staff and a large number of dedicated local volunteers. Morning sessions, called Keeping Active, focus on physical activity and afternoon sessions, called Active Minds, focus on activities to stimulate the mind.

Physical activity is an important part of a healthy lifestyle and can help overall wellbeing. It can give opportunities to spend time with others, reducing isolation and



loneliness and support people to continue being independent.

Cognitive stimulation involves activities and exercises that stimulate thinking, concentration, communication and memory in the person with dementia. It involves talking about day-to-day interests, reminiscence and information relating to the current time and place.

Group Activity Support Manager, Clare Savva, said "There's never been a more important time for groups such as ours which help stimulate minds and bodies and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation. The group also provides a much-needed break for carers who are often close family members."

The Activity Group takes place in Great Canfield Village Hall near Dunmow on Mondays 10-12.30pm and 1-3.30pm and new members are welcome.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from joining the groups and for more information please call 0300 770 80 90 and ask for Clare Savva or email clare.savva@affc.org.uk

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If you want to make your own professional cake stand, I sell all associated items to help you. Also available are free instructions on "How to Drill through a Plate" downloadable as PDF. I have over 1,000 plates & 3 Tier Quality Fittings of different designs and colours for you to choose from here in Thaxted in my little "Charity Emporium" in Bolford Street. I also have a huge collection of tea sets, duos, trios, teapots, platters - Antique/ Vintage/Retro. I only ask a wee bit more than I bought the items for and I probably have the biggest collection of china in Essex at very low prices! If you

want me to make you a stand, you can select the plates or you can bring me your own plates from a cherished collection. I will then drill them for you and add the suitable cake stand handles to match the style. I am happy to



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I have a free PDF download of "How to make Scented Candle Cups". If you are interested, I have quality scented, coloured wax and complete kits to make your own. Happy to do demo days for these too free of charge!

The CakeHole Thaxted has supplied many local people with cake stands and china at no charge. They have also been happy to buy lovely cake stands and tea sets at very low prices or have given me a small donation for charity. The Giddy Up Bar has bought MANY PRETTY CAKE STANDS & china their wonderful



morning/afternoon cakes/teas etc. at the Windmill on a Sunday.

The CakeHole is not a commercial business - I simply raise funds for Cancer Research and have supported NHS hospital staff by donating money for healthy snacks between shifts. My "JustGiving" Page was set up when I lived in Rayleigh and remains the same despite now having lived in Thaxted for the last four years. I have raised a lot of money from hire and sales through donations to my "JustGiving" page. With many thanks recently to the kind people of Thaxted & surrounding areas.

Cancer takes away the Smiles from families and due to Covid many people are having delayed diagnoses and treatment. More than ever now Cancer Research requires our help.

Kind regards to all Theresa Egan, The CakeHole, 19 Bolford Street, Thaxted, CM6 2PY – Mobile 07740610213

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

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JOHN WEBB'S WINDMILL – AN UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

As we all know, 2020 was a very difficult and challenging year on many levels. Consequently, progress on the repair and restoration of the Windmill was also slowed down. However, we are pleased to report that the investigation works have since picked up momentum.

The Trust was very fortunate to secure a grant from Historic England for Project Development works last year. These encompass in depth investigations into the issues that the building is facing and then the planning of repairs with the associated costs.

A full digital survey of the Windmill was undertaken using the latest technology and this has allowed the conservation specialists to see the building in detail as never before. In addition, a damp monitoring system has been installed and will run for the next year. The information gained from the research at Thaxted Windmill will also be shared throughout the Mill community to help other buildings in a similar situation.

A full investigation day, coordinated by Ed Morton of The Morton Partnership, took place at the end of February. This involved a team of specialists examining both the interior and exterior of the Windmill in great detail. Samples of both brickwork and timber have been taken for analysis and hopefully, the findings will throw more light

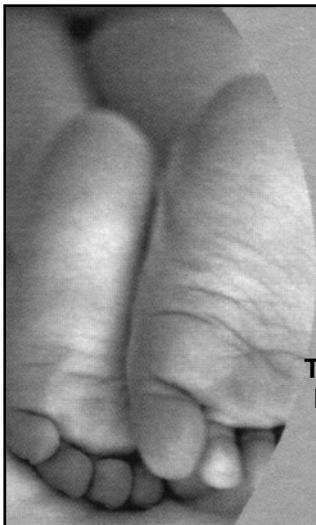


onto how the ageing process is affecting the building. We are awaiting final reports as this piece goes to press.

A team of Ecologists have also conducted a survey and have been present throughout any investigation work. This is to ensure that there is no impact on the Windmill's resident Bat families and that their roosts are left undisturbed.

The Trustees would like to express their thanks to everyone who has been involved with this stage of the work. And, also to people both locally and further afield who continue to support the Trust. The Trustees would also like to acknowledge Thaxted Parish Council for their continued backing through what is a very interesting development in the history of the Windmill.

At some point in the future the Trust will be launching a fund raising campaign to help meet the costs of restoring the Windmill. Please keep an eye out for any announcements and for up to date information please follow the Windmill Facebook page: www.facebook.com/johnwebbswindmillthaxted/



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HARVEST 2021

Date for copy to Editor: Monday 9th August 2021
Publication date: Sunday 29th August 2021

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If you have items of interest, such as births, weddings, etc. please contact a member of the committee. If we are not informed of events and interesting happenings, we cannot always know of them. We are always pleased to receive articles for inclusion. Please send any contributions to the editor before the deadline date above. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

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The ABC&U is published three times a year, shortly before Christmas, Easter and Harvest. The magazine conveys both a Christian message and secular information to the parish of Thaxted. The views expressed are those of the individual writers. They are not necessarily the views of the churches of the parish. The committee welcomes ideas, articles and views from anyone. Reproduction of material from this edition is welcome, but the source should be acknowledged. Please contact the editor for more information.

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Cover Photo: . Decorated stones outside the Parish Church - Mike.



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