# THAXTED PARISH MAGAZINE



EASTER 2020
ANGLICAN,
BAPTIST, CATHOLIC
& UNITED REFORMED

# ABC & U EDITORIAL INFORMATION DATES FOR NEXT EDITION HARVEST 2020

Date for copy to Editor: Monday 3rd August 2020 Publication date: Sunday 6th September 2020

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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.

### **ADVERTISING INFORMATION**

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Not for profit organisations have different rates

Please apply to Mike for all information. Contact details as above.

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.

Download the magazine from our website www.abc-u.co.uk

Cover Photo: . Easter Tapestry - Margaret Caton

We welcome offers of photos for our cover. They should be Thaxted and season themed. Without identifiable people or homes.

#### **EDITORIAL - STEPHANIE HUGHES**

# **EASTER**

Before 1800, the English word loneliness did not exist. People lived in small communities surrounded by their family, did not travel too far, and believed in God, which meant that even if they were physically isolated they were never alone.

We are social beings that thrive on physical, mental and spiritual connections. In 1624 John Dunn wrote "No man is an island entire

of it's self, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

In this Parish Magazine we have included a couple of articles about loveliness which these days seems to be a problem with increasing numbers of people. We have grouped together some activities in

Thaxted where one can meet others. There is also the list of Clubs and Societies available from the Library.

Before the Industrial Revolution, loneliness was never heard of and it seems the role of modernity acknowledges the spread of this epidemic. The lack of face to face interaction and the use of social media are modern

ways of thinking which separate us from society in mind and body.

Loneliness is not only suffered by the elderly but a survey found that five percent of people feel lonely, women more than men. In the age group 16 to 24 it was more prevalent than in older age groups. It has been linked to mental disorders and we need to invest more in health and social care. We need health care that is

> preventative but sees the spiritual connections as well as the physical body.

A poll has shown that religion can play a key role in reducing loneliness. Those attending places of worship and regular services are less likely to experience social

isolation. Faith communities bring people together, they reach out to those who are isolated on a significant level.

We are fast approaching Easter the most important festival in the Christian Churches calendar. For those who are suffering loneliness why not visit a place of worship and thank God for all the wonderful gifts he has given us?

# **CHRISTIANITY UNCUT**

Michael Berrisford

Christians have a great habit of editing the bible. In fact, they have several ways of doing so. Here is a selection:

- 1. The oldest one is when the devil contradicted God's word and told Eve it was OK to eat the fruit. So, Eve edited out God's instruction and ate the fruit.
- 2. A variation on that is to water down the words by saying "Well, you have to understand the context." (Preachers like this one.) If I tell you your house is on fire, do you need to know the context?
- 3. And then there is this way very popular today. We say: "Well, that's how they understood it then, but of course, we are much better informed today." Here is an example: Jesus said, "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world, will keep it for eternal life."
  - Uncut, it means exactly what it says. Polished up for today, it means they had a miserable life in those days, but today we need to be happy and reach our potential.
- 4. Here is a good one; God is a God of love, so all that slaughtering in the Old Testament does not apply. It is amazing how people edit out what they have never read. If they read it, they would see God was perfectly justified in allowing warfare and conquest.

Along the same lines, are the people who select the 'nice' bits from the bible and forget the rest. The trouble here is, that you end up inventing your own God. And then how can you be sure of your own invention?

Christianity uncut is really scary at times, but it comes with a guarantee. Jesus said: "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

The bible is a complete story. It tells us where we have come from, where we are going, and what a mess we have made of things in the meantime. It tells us we need to be rescued, and there is only one person who can do that - Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Perhaps you will make this discovery for yourself by reading the bible uncut. And if you do, you will have a very happy Easter.

## OOPS

Anon

There has been an outbreak of dog fouling in the churchyard between the almshouses and the Windmill. It is not a pleasant topic but necessary to bring it to everyone's attention. There are reasons why it might happen such as a child walking the family dog and not being entirely responsible or an elderly person not able to physically pick up their dog's poo. Equally it could be someone of any age letting their dog run ahead and not seeing the dog "performing".

Most people who own a dog are perfectly responsible but there are things that can be done. Please if you are walking a dog keep it on a lead until you are sure it won't foul the churchyard, make sure you have a plentiful supply of poo bags, when loose keep the dog in sight and make sure a child is really old enough to control the dog in all situations. Another thing to note is it is against the law to fail to pick up after your dog within a 40 mph area, on a public footpath or anywhere to which the public have access.

We do hope this situation will improve with everyone's cooperation so people can visit their loved ones graves or attend a funeral without an unpleasant occurrence.

# **DOG WASTE BAGS**

Did you know that these are available from the library/information Centre. Pack of 50 for only £1

# **Threads**

Threads meets every Tuesday apart from Christmas and New Year in the Day Centre 2-4pm. Do come and join this friendly group with your sewing, knitting etc. We love to have new members

There is always a hand sewn quilt to join in with and some knitting projects. More information: Jill Smith

### JOHN WEBB'S WINDMILL-AN UPDATE

Unfortunately, the Windmill is to remain closed to the public for the The 2020 season. Trust continuing to work with Historic England with regards to repairs, restoration and financial support. We also have the full backing and support of our Parish Council and will continue to seek ways forward to preserve this iconic landmark of Thaxted. We will be announcing further plans for fundraising at the appropriate time. The Trustees of the Windmill would like to thank everyone for their continued interest and support.



To keep up with the latest news and developments, please visit our

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/johnwebbswindmillthaxted/



# **LECTURE SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2020**

*Jenny Antill*, who has spoken widely on cross-cultural Russian topics, will give 5 talks on aspects of Russian culture, including examples from art, theatre, reminiscence and literature.

Wednesday 22nd April Wednesday 29th April Wednesday 6th May Wednesday 13th May Wednesday 20th May

All lectures cost £3.50 for each talk with discounts available for the series. For further details, or to join the mailing list, contact Peter Simmons on 01371 830318

# THAXTED ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (TAS)

Steve Evers

Having met numbers of local people at the recent Clubs and Societies Fair that already have their own telescopes and with the nearest Astronomy clubs being a drive away at Witham, Loughton or Cambridge, I felt we might benefit from our own local Astronomy Club

Consequently, we have now formed a new club that will hopefully be beneficial for all people of Thaxted and the surrounding villages who might like to meet up with other similarly minded people focusing upon all aspects of the Night Sky?



We plan to meet each Wednesday between 20.00h and 22.00h

Bi-weekly - In doors - at the Swan. Alt Bi-weekly - Outdoors to view the night Sky

If you would like to know more then contact Steve Evers, Ashgrove, The Chase, Park St, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 2NE, or 07789 933 111, or ThaxtedAS@BTInternet.com



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## **LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOUR**

Jim Ford

As someone who worships at the Baptist Church, it has struck me how beautiful Thaxted is. With beautiful buildings like the parish church and the windmill as well as the ornate main street plus the lovely setting, one could easily imagine that living here would be absolutely idyllic. Yet behind the blinds of even the loveliest house there can be issues and one of the biggest of these is loneliness. A study by the Local Government Association and Public Health England has found that rural social networks are breaking down with a consequent increase in social isolation and loneliness. Loneliness can occur for a whole host of reasons including bereavement, poverty, illness or simply being at home with young children. Behind all the statistics is a human being crying out for companionship and someone just to listen.

Maybe there's someone on your street who just needs to hear a human voice. An old lady who's lost her husband; an old man housebound because of ill health; a young mum struggling to get some sleep because of a small baby; a man or woman struggling with depression who just needs a chat. It doesn't actually take very much. A cup of tea over a kitchen table; a chat on the street that starts with a genuine "How are you?"; an invite to the pub or the tearoom. Yet the results can be amazing. At Thaxted Baptist Church we run a monthly event called "Coffee and Company" which allows bereaved people to meet for a chat and share their grief. It is amazing to see how tears gradually turn to laughter as people discover some purpose again.

A writer once wrote that 10% of people are genuinely mentally ill and 90% just want someone to listen to them. Why not be one of these listeners and make a difference to someone's life today



It is so very nice to meet you.

#### **COMBATING LONELINESS**

Uttlesford Frontline

All the lonely people, where do they all come from? So sang the Beatles in 1966 in the haunting ballad of Eleanor Rigby. Fiftythree years later, loneliness is perhaps even more of a societal problem than ever before.

Paradoxically, loneliness is not the same as being alone. Many people live happy and contented lives in solitary bliss, while others experience the empty feelings that come with this isolating condition, even in a crowd of people. Nor are young people exempt - loneliness can impact anyone whatever their age.

Loneliness is debilitating, has a real impact on our well-being and can lead to severe mental health problems. So, what can be done to help? There's no magic wand, of course. But we can all do our "bit" by keeping a weather eye out for family, friends and neighbours who may have experienced one of life's devastating events. phone call, an invitation for a "cuppa" or a glass of wine for instance are obvious ways by which we can demonstrate that someone cares. that there's someone there who will listen.

There are also organisations that can help through social activities,

befriending, regular phone calls and outings. There are clubs and societies for all sorts of interests. Trying to track down what's out there and what's available is another matter.

Carers, older people and those with mental health or learning disabilities are able to call upon Essex Befriends while Age UK also offers one-to-one and telephone befriending and REAL Friends provides support to young people enduring bullying.

Fortunately, there are a number of organisations which provide social activities and befriending for people with conditions such as cancer, Dementia, loss of sight and/or hearing and mental health issues - those who are often at most risk in society of loneliness and isolation.

Full details about these organisations and many more are available on uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk. Set up by Uttlesford CAB, it lists almost 200 organisations across West Essex that can provide help, advice and information on a wide range of health and well-being issues. Fach service listed provides full contact details, fact sheets and a call back option.

### **OUR OUT GROUP**

Diana

We have formed a social group to try to combat loneliness. We have a simple formula. We have created a *WhatsApp* group. We call ourselves 'Our Out Group'. If anyone wants a chat, coffee or lunch with some company; we just put a msg on the group site to see who is available. For more information please email Diana: lily.df40@ gmail.com. I can then give your details to our admin lady. - you will then be added to the message group.

Many thanks. This is a new group, we need all of your ideas!

### RELAUNCHED ACTIVITY GROUP IN DUNMOW

People living with dementia can now benefit from a weekly Activity Group in Dunmow run by Essex charity Action for Family Carers.

People attending similar groups are 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.

Action for Family Carers has taken over management of the groups which were previously run by the Alzheimer's Society.

The local Activity Group takes place in the Dourdan Pavilion, Dunmow on Mondays 10-12.30pm and 1-3.30pm and new members are welcome. The sessions are £18 each with a free taster session available call Clare Savva on 07851 249707 or email clare.savva@affc.org.uk

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where you will find pleasant company and a satisfying drink to quench your thirst.

# Ladybird Group

Ladybird Group for carers and pre-school children of any age meets during termtime on Thursday mornings 9-30 til 11 am in the Church Hall in Margaret Street.

Always pleased to see new faces so do come and enjoy the fun.

More information : Jill Smith 07805094605 / 01371 830426

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## **PATADAMS - MEMORIES**

This article is based on the Tribute written by the Celebrant Dennis Prior, with kind permission from the family.

Patrica Adams, known in Thaxted as Pat, and to her family as Paddy, was born on the 13th August 1932 in Grays Essex. She died on 6th January 2020 and was buried at Old Park Meadow Natural Burial Ground, North End.

Pat had a younger brother Pete. Her late Husband was Owen who sadly he died in 1995. They had four children as well as seven grandchildren.

At the outbreak of The Second World War Pat was aged just seven.
London and its nearby outskirts suffered from severe bombing and

Pat, along with many children, was evacuated to Suffolk. Quite soon, being homesick, she returned home to Grays.

After leaving school at fourteen, she took a Pitmans secretarial shorthand, and typing course. Having received her shorthand and speed certificate she worked as a secretary for a book binding company based in London's Covent Garden area. Despite twice being showed the way to get to Covent Garden by her

Mother, she managed to get lost on her first day and returned home. Her Mum very quickly took her back to the station, travelled with her to London and delivered back to the company's office.

As a teenager, working in Covent Garden, being a short walk from the Opera house was a real bonus for Pat. In her lunch hour she would pop out and

watch open ballet rehearsals.

> Pat met Owen in the local snack bar where her mother

worked. They struck up a

conversation. From a first brief encounter their friendship blossomed, and on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1950 they were married for over 45 years. They lived in Grays then East Tilbury.

During the evenings when Pat worked in a sock factory she met many European women, French, Spanish, and Czech. They introduced Pat to their cuisines. She also learned about Indian food from her father who served in India.

They moved to Hornchurch, then to Great Dunmow. Pat and Owen shared many of the same interests, horse riding being one which became a very important part of their lives.

She liked cooking, and would experiment by cooking exotic dishes, which today would be recognised as everyday dishes.

Pat had a passion for travel, going all over Europe and to New Zealand and Australia. In Austria she liked to go langlaufing (cross country skiing.)

After attending painting а course. she became an accomplished painter. Antiques was another passion of hers. Paintings and furniture adorned the numerous houses which she lived in over the years. When it came to interior design, she had an eye for detail. She was a very stylish dresser and was always well groomed. A very classy lady!

Pat settled in Thaxted, then moved to Great Bardfield.

However, she always longed to return to Thaxted, which she finally was able to do. She took long walks in the Countryside especially with her dog Polly.

Pat will be known by many as the friendly face at the Thaxted Information Centre office until she retired at the age of eighty. She held her renowned Friday afternoon un-official tea parties in the back room of the TIC, with friends dropping in to sample her homemade cakes, while always keeping an eye out for visitors.

She was a generous, adventurous impulsive lady who had an unconventional sense of humour. She was very proud of her children and all that they have achieved in life and she took a great deal of interest in how her grandchildren were progressing. She was kind, good natured and much respected by everyone who knew and loved her. She will be sorely missed.

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#### **PAM STEVENS**

Julie Barnard

My dear friend and 'Church Buddy' Pam Stevens died very suddenly on the 8th February in Costa Rica whilst on holiday with her husband Terry.

It was the most enormous shock as we have been friends for almost 50 years from the time our children started at Thaxted Primary School until the day she died.

Pam had many skills from being a very able teacher to an accomplished pianist and enjoying and playing many sports. She was for a time on the committee on this magazine and always a dedicated deliverer in Bardfield End Green.

Much later, when I opened The Barn Nursery, she would come and do delightful Music Workshops with the little children. Then help me with sporting activities in the Holiday Scheme we ran for older children during school holidays

Pam and I have been Members of Thaxted United Reformed Church for as long as I can remember, hence me calling her my 'Church Buddy'. This was because we shared many tasks and duties in the life of the church, from operating the Digital Hymnal for the music for Sunday services to taking minutes at 'Churches Together' meetings. More widely she helped with community events such as the Christian Aid 'Big Brekkie' and the wonderful 'Hymnathon' held in the URC last September.

The World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) this year was held on Friday 6th March in the URC and was a fitting reminder of yet another task that Pam took under her wing as she had planned to introduce the service and manage the music for it. The service this year has been written by the women of Zimbabwe. Her encouragement enthusiasm and energy for all things 'Ecumenical' cannot be denied.

The fact that Pam was so sporty and seemingly fit added to the shock of her leaving us so suddenly, but I end this article with a most lovely blessing that Pam found whilst away on one of her many Tennis Tournaments on the south coast of England. She had taken a break to attend a service at a nearby church and this blessing was sung at

the very end of that service which Pam thought was so special she would bring it back to Thaxted. It has now become the "Sending out Blessing" we sing each week at the end of our service in the URC.

I write it here with love especially for my dear friend Pam but for you all at this Eastertime.

"Go now in Peace, never be afraid,
God will be with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, Steadfast strong and true,
know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe,
reach out to others so all the world can see
God will be there empowering with his love
Go now in Peace in Faith and in Love"



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## **BUFFY PLAYBUS**

Editor's note: Following on from the article in our Harvest 2019 edition concerned with the appeal to raise £5,315 to fund a new Buffy Playbus, we are pleased to hear that the new Playbus was launched last October! The Playbus team have sent us the following up-date.

What a first term we have had, not only the launch our new bus but also we celebrated the fact that our organisation has been in existence for 25 years and during

that time has welcomed over 100,000 people on-board.

The new bus features an interior excitina which includes lots of new toys, an arts and crafts area, an extended ball pond and an amazing sensory den with touch,

sound and light panels. We were able to install this wonderful new feature due to the generosity of many people who contributed to our Crowdfund Campaign over the summer which raised over £5000 and we are very grateful to everyone who helped us.

We thank everyone for supporting us in many different ways over the last 25 years.

Buffy Playbus provides pre-school children with an opportunity to play, socialise and have fun in comfortable and safe surroundings under the guidance of experienced playleaders.

Our service operates during termtime and over the half term breaks. We travel throughout Uttlesford.



We stop in Thaxted on Tuesdays at The Recreation Ground, Newbiggen Street, CM6 2PT from 1.45 to 3.00pm.

So if you haven't been on board our new playbus – come have fun, play, socialise and make some new friends in your community. See you soon!

### FRIENDS OF THAXTED CHURCH

For those of you who are new to Thaxted, or those who have forgotten, this is just a reminder of what the Friends of Thaxted Church are all about: our purpose is to raise money for the fabric, furnishings and facilities of Thaxted Church and also to promote the use of the church to the wider community. We do this by organising a variety of events throughout the year - from opera to Queen concerts, lectures and cream teas - and, of course, by running a bar outside the church throughout the run of the Thaxted Festival in June/July.

We are supported by a wonderful band of volunteers, some of whom are Friends and others who are not but help us anyway because they love Thaxted Church and are thoroughly nice people. Anyone can become a Friend for a modest annual subscription, which gives you prior notice of all our events and up-to-date news of what is going on in our wonderful mediaeval church, as well as an opportunity to lend it your support. You can pick up a Friends' leaflet in the church at any time or telephone our Membership Secretary, Mary Carter on 01371 830263.

Our current project is to support a new lighting project in the church, which will enable worshippers and visitors to enjoy the beauty of the church whatever the season and allow events in the church to be enhanced. Last year, the Friends raised £17,682 towards this project, thanks to all who gave us their support to our events. We can't wait to see work start, and hope that it will be completed this year and that we can all bathe in the light - and see to read the hymns - at our Carol Service in December.

Meanwhile, we hope you will be able to join us for some of our events this Spring and Summer. As usual, we are providing cream teas on the Saturday of Morris week-end and running the Friends' Bar throughout the Thaxted Festival in June/July. We have a very special event on the 17th July when BBC Radio 4's 'Any Questions' will be broadcast live from Thaxted Church. Tickets will be limited (but free) so look for news of when they will be available. This is not a fund-raising event, but a great opportunity for Thaxted to gain some very positive publicity. Another popular event will be the Saffron Walden's Symphony Orchestra concert celebrating film music in October. Do come along to some or all of these, you will be most welcome.

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# THAXTED FLOWER CLUB

Meetings held at URC Church, Bolford Street, CM6 2PY at 7.30pm on 1st Tuesday of the month (no meetings in Jan or Aug).



Guest flower arranging demonstrator on most meetings with the floral arrangements raffled on the night.

Non-members welcome - £5 per evening inc refreshments

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# MOSSCOTTS MEADOW - WILD FLOWER PLANTING EVENT

Cllr. Alison Howells

Thaxted Parish Council is very pleased to take possession of the land between the Sampford Road and Mosscotts. The Parish Council and friends are lovingly calling it 'Mosscotts Meadow', as that was the name of the farm where the land is situated.



Marbled White Butterfly

The developers, in conjunction with Uttlesford District Council, declared this to be a 'wildflower meadow'.

Wild Thaxted, a local volunteer group, who are looking after Chalky Meadow next door, and local residents are keen to discuss the way forward to help this Meadow become another beautiful jewel in Thaxted's crown. Last year's dead grasses and weeds have been cut down and removed and we are in the process of replanting bare parts

of the hedge. The trees which are still alive will be nurtured and the dead ones removed but there are no plans to plant more as that would impede the growth of a wild flower meadow. Later in the Spring we will be sowing more wild flowers, hoping to attract more wild life, and this is where you could help as already the area is home to the Marbled White and Brown **Angus** Butterfly (both rare to this area) and Mother Shipton's Moth.

A Community Wild Flower planning event is scheduled for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 between 11:00 – 13:00 at Mosscotts Meadow. Just bring a Bulb planter or trowel.

After, why not visit the community gardens situated in Margaret Street for fun and



Brown Argus Butterfly

activities with a variety of craft stalls for all the family.

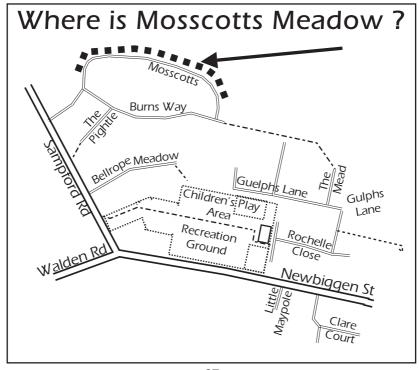
We also have a Parish Council notice board at the entrance to the footpath to The Mead. Wild Thaxted are intending to place information about the species which may be seen, but it is also available for anyone to display their community information. Please take your posters to the Clerk at 7 Town Street, Thaxted.

Although Mosscotts Meadow will be immensely beneficial to wild life, it will provide an amenity for Thaxted residents, offering



Mother Shipton's Moth

pleasant walks and play/picnic areas. As it improves through the year, The Parish Council and Friends hope many people will visit and enjoy it's natural beauty.





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# CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST OUR LADY AND ST. LAURENCE

www.thaxtedparishchurch.co.uk Fr. Philip Tarris - Rector pgtarris@gmail.com The Vicarage, Watling Lane, Thaxted, CM6 2QY

Palm Sunday 5 April 8.00am Mass (said)

9.45am Palm procession from Church Hall and

10.00am Sung Mass

Maundy Thurs 9 April 7.30pm Sung Mass followed by Vigil

Good Friday 10 April 11.00am Walk of witness from Catholic Church

ending with a short service at the URC.

2.00pm An hour at the cross

Easter Eve 11 April 7.30pm Service of light and renewal of baptism

VOWS

Easter Day 8.00am Mass (said)

10.00am Sung Mass

### THE BAPTIST CHURCH, PARK STREET

www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com m.facebook.com/thaxtedbaptists

Contact: Fran Griffiths 7. St Clements CM6 2LL Tel 01371 831 161

Good Friday 9.15 am Morning Service Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service

Wednesday 2.30 pm Fellowship, every fortnight

Thursday 8 pm Bible Study

Friday 10 - 11.30 am Coffee Morning [Open to all]

11.30 -12 noon Bible Study

Saturday 8.45 for 9 am Men's Breakfast [1st of Month]

# UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, BOLFORD STREET

Contact - Julie Barnard, 01371 830261

Sundays 9.30 am Morning Service, followed by coffee.

Wednesday 10.00 am Said Mass followed by coffee On the fourth Sunday of the month Morning Service is Communion.

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Richard N Rowe - Priest-in-Charge, Weavers, 5 Newbiggen Street, Thaxted CM6 2OS 01371 830808

Easter Sunday Service is in Great Bardfield at 9.30 am

### **PARISH CHURCH EVENTS**

22 March Mothering Sunday, Open Doors Service Parish

Church 10.00am (Open Doors happens every 4th

Sunday)

Sunday 5 April Palm Sunday Procession from Church Hall at 9.45am

Thursday 9 April Maundy Thursday 7.30pm

Good Friday Walk of Witness starts outside Catholic Church

building 11.00am

2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

Holy Saturday 7.30pm

Easter Sunday Said Mass 8.00am

Sung Mass 10.00am

Saturday 2 May Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Saturday 16 May Christian Aid Big Brekkie Parish Church 9-12.30pm

Sunday 17 May Circle the City 12noon - 6.30pm

Sat, 30th May Friends of Thaxted Church cream teas in the Church

Thurs 11 June Corpus Christi Carpet of Flowers. 7.30pm

Sunday 14 July Open Gardens

Friday, 17th July - Radio 4 'Any Questions'; Friends of Thaxted Church

has arranged for the programme to be recorded live

from Thaxted Church, 7.30pm

Sat, 24th Oct Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra film music

concert, Friends of Thaxted Church.

# Children's Activities Morning in Thaxted Church in October 2019

A very successful event was held with lots of help from local people. Children enjoyed flower arranging, play-dough, cake decorating, mask making, and music and art.

Light a candle to remember a loved one in Thaxted Church on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019

Over 80 people came together to share a special time with refreshments and chat afterwards. Many local people came along to host the occasion.

#### **BAPTISMS**

6 October Albert William Thomas son of Matthew and Amy Thomas
 24 Nov Cameron Joe Geoffrey Garrett son of Christopher Garrett
 & Natalie Schillaci.

both at Thaxted Parish Church

#### IN MEMORIAM

The Committee offers condolences to all those who have been bereaved since the last issue of this magazine. We remember especially Crawford Dew, Audrey Marriott, Bob Grout, Mick Bristow, Pam Stevens, Ria Malon

May they all rest in peace.

#### **MORRIS WEEKEND & PATRONAL FESTIVAL**

Fri 29th May 9:00pm The Star, Thaxted (informal dancing) Sat 30th May 9:30am Coach tours around the local area.

4:00pm The Maypole, Thaxted

6:00pm Procession to Town Street and dancing.9:30pm Massed dancing in Town Street, continued.

10:15pm Abbots Bromley Horn Dance.

Sun 31st May 9:30am Procession to Church.

10:00am Church service with offertory dance.

11:30am Dancing in the Churchyard.

2:30pm Morris and Country Dancing Margaret Gardens.

Patronal Festival

Sat 22nd June 7:30pm Procession from Thaxted Primary School,

7:35pm The Maypole, 8:15pm The Star,

8:50pm The Guildhall, 9:30 The Church Yard,

10:15pm Abbotts Bromley Horn Dance

# THAXTED GARDENING CLUB - PROGRAMME 2020

Monday 27th April The Day of the Daylily"
Monday 18th May Growing Cut Flowers

June - Visit to be arranged
Monday 27th July Fashions in the Garden

Monday 28th Sept Amateur Grapevine Growing in Essex

All 7.30 pm at the Day Centre

### **BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS**

Peter Archibald

Although we do not have a Minister at this point in time, we are blessed with a number of excellent lay Preachers and retired Ministers who lead our Sunday morning service. This giving an interesting variation to our worship.

The Church is now being utilized by an increasing number of activities. The hall has very good disabled and toilet facilities plus an up- to - date kitchen'.

A number of our congregation will be enjoying a week's holiday together in Bournemouth this April. We hope that the weather will be kind.

Recently the gentlemen of the Church provided a cream tea for the ladies in appreciation of all their good works during the year. This was enjoyed by all.

Our weekly Coffee morning held each Friday between 10.00 and 11.30, is open to everyone, and continues to do well.

The Men's Breakfast held on the first Saturday of the month is continuing to be a success. The breakfast is open to anyone. For further details please contact Michael Beresford on 01371 830577.

The Bereavement Group is for those who may need support and friendship and the opportunity to talk over some light refreshments, meets on the fourth Saturday of the month in the Church hall. For further information please contact Debbie Sandom on 01371 831548 or email debbie .sandom@gmail.com.



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## **UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY TRAVEL (UCT)**

If you are elderly or disabled, and are finding it difficult to get out and about, a local charity is on hand to help with all your transport needs.

Uttlesford Community Travel (UCT), whose head office is in Great Dunmow, supplies minibuses and cars to take residents of Uttlesford wherever they want to go, including to medical appointments.

A fleet of six specially-adapted minibuses. all of which wheelchair accessible, are used for Book-A-Ride its service. transporting passengers to just about anywhere they want to go such as shopping, to hairdressers, to visit friends, or perhaps to garden centres. All drivers are fully trained and checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

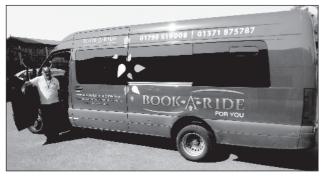
Passengers pay a £10 annual joining fee and then for their journeys it costs £3.40 for the first two miles travelled and £1.02 for all subsequent miles.

Book-A-Ride also provides an opportunity for groups — such as WI's, schools and all sorts of other clubs — to join to provide transport for outings such as trips to the coast, places of interest, theatre trips, garden centres, lunches and afternoon teas, school trips and even regular group meetings.

The annual joining fee for a group is £20 and the price for journeys is then worked out on an individual basis per group,

UCT also provides a Hospital Car Service, which helps people who have difficulty in getting to medical appointments by finding a driver

who lives nearby, and who uses their own car, to take them. The drivers are all volunteers, so the passengers have to pay only the HMRC mileage rate of 45p per mile to get them there.



For more information on UCT, the services it provides and how to join, email the charity info@uttlesfordcommunitytravel.org.

or ring on 01371 875787





MW Valuations is based in Thaxted and specialises in jewellery and watch valuations for the purpose of insurance, probate, division of assets and private sale.

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

### THE NEW £20 NOTE

Ken McDonald, Secretary, The Hundred Parishes Society

Please take a close look at the new polymer £20 banknote that has just been issued. It features the British artist JMW Turner (1775 – 1851) and his painting, *The Fighting Temeraire*. The painting shows HMS Temeraire in 1838, being towed by a steam tug towards a scrapyard at Rotherhithe on the Thames. It was a sad ending for a ship that achieved considerable fame at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The Temeraire was immediately astern of Nelson's flagship, the Victory, and played a major part in the battle, her crew capturing two enemy ships while suffering heavy casualties.

The captain of the Temeraire at Trafalgar was Eliab Harvey (1758 – 1830) from Chigwell in Essex. He shared his time between naval duties and being one of the two Members of Parliament for Essex. He was later knighted and promoted to the rank of admiral. Sir Eliab's final resting place is in the Hundred Parishes, in the Harvey family crypt beneath St Andrew's Church, Hempstead. The crypt holds the coffins of around fifty members of the extended Harvey family.

An earlier family member was William Harvey (1578 – 1657), the first doctor to describe the circulation of the blood. His mortal remains are also in Hempstead Church although his body was moved in 1883 by the Royal College of Physicians from the crypt into a large sarcophagus in the chapel above the private crypt.

A print of *The Fighting Temeraire* hangs in Saffron Walden in The



Temeraire, a Wetherspoon pub whose walls are richly decorated with pictures and information about local history.

The £20 note is not the first to have a local connection. The £50 note in circulation from 1994 to 2011 featured Sir John Houblon. Members of his family once owned Hatfield Forest.

### LORD MAYNARD'S CHARITY

In his will, dated 30th May 1698, the Rt. Hon. William, Lord Maynard allocated £4,000 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 four Trustees and is administered by the Trustees 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 2020. Please give the names and dates of birth of the qualifying children.
- Brides who were married within the previous twelve months of the qualifying date – 31st August 2020. 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 2020. They will be reviewed at a meeting of the Trustees and Administrators to be held in September 20120







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### **COUNTRY DANCING IN THAXTED**

While Morris is well known in Thaxted today, folk dancing or country dancing, as we might call it, has a much longer tradition. The following extract is from an article written in 1911 by Father George Chambers, curate to Rev Conrad Noel.

After many months' careful investigation and enquiry, no trace can be found at Thaxted of any traditional Morris Dance, the type of dance which was danced solely by men. On the other hand, the Country Dances were exceedingly popular well within living memory. In the days when the fairs were held by the Market Cross the old-time-dances formed a very prominent feature of these shows. Many of the Inns had their dancing rooms where old and young folk constantly met and all danced friends together."

#### THE MAGIC THREAD - 1938

Rev. Jack Putterill, vicar of Thaxted Parish Church - 1942 - 1973

Editor's note: Before becoming vicar, Jack Putterill was curate from 1925 until 1937. He had a deep interest in folk music and folk dancing. He was an accomplished musician, playing for all sorts of dancing forms. He wrote this essay primarily for teachers of folk dancing, but it holds a message for us all, even in today's busy world.

Most of us wisely drop the threads of our work for the holidays, and usually with a sense of great relief. We get from "sides all" and the seemingly interminable permutations and combinations of "arms all" and "men's hey" (with women!).

We return home refreshed to take up our autumn work. We prepare our classes; we sort out another huge batch of dances and all is ready. But have we in fact gathered up all the essential threads of the Dance?

Folk dancing has been resuscitated from a dance or

dancer here and there, and from the British Museum. Great patience and skill have been expended in reproducing the dance in accordance with tradition, but is it not a fact that the social thread which gives the colour and the gaiety to the dance still largely needs to be picked up? It is this magic quality, which is the secret of its life.

The Folk Dance was essentially a jolly holiday affair. Everywhere the old dancers tell us, " We always danced on Club days." These were the Bank Holidays of earlier times, when all the Benefit



Rev Jack Putterill playing for Country Dancing outside the Guildhall

Clubs, such as the Foresters, Shepherds and Hearts of Oak, had their gala days with fairs and roundabouts. Then it was that the fiddler would gather his pence in the dancing-booths and strike up a tune, and away they would go the "Double lead" through as at Sherborne.

There is in this something very different from the well-ordered Folk Dance Class held in the schoolroom, and the usual piano which so often invites one to dance on it rather than to it.

The Folk Dance does not become alive until it is the expression of corporate joy and the holiday spirit. If you do not long to dance to the accordion outside the local inn, or in the road, you have not got hold of the magic which gives it all its meaning. It is just the leaving out of this coloured thread which makes the material so dull and heavy,

May I suggest to those that have not adventured along these lines that they master twelve dances (not 1200) so well that they can be danced by all with ease and enjoyment. Then seek out some popular meeting-place; secure a musician and set forth with fiddle. pipe, mouth-organ, concertina, accordion and all kinds of music — failing these put wheels on the piano and dance till the people around feel they must join in,

The Lambeth Walk has conquered for the moment because, although inferior to most folk tunes, yet it has in its performance something of the magic thread; it has ease and abandon, and the people lose themselves in it: but they would lose more of themselves in the Morpeth Rant. Let us gather up all the threads.



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### **PLOUGH SUNDAY 2020**

Canon Janet Nicholls Rural Adviser & Agricultural Chaplain

Plough Sunday was celebrated with great qusto by congregation of 230 in Thaxted Parish Church on Sunday 12th January 2020!

The service was led by The Revd Philip Tarris and Canon Janet Nicholls. The preacher was the Rt Revd John Perumbalath, Bishop Plough Sunday of Bradwell. gives us the opportunity to reconnect to the good earth, the source of our food, and to our farming community, affirming those who work the land to produce our food.

During the service Thaxted Morris Men pulled a vintage plough into church, reminding us of the rich agricultural heritage of the area. The bishop blessed soil local farms, modern from ploughs fresh from the fields of Thaxted and of course, everyone who worked

on the land.

The Sampford Singers led the singing of favourite agricultural hymns and the Thaxted Morris Men entertained us with

traditional Plough Monday dances.

Many generations of farmers gathered for the event. It was especially encouraging to see children bringing forward soil for blessing and members of Essex Young Farmers providing grand finale as they left Thaxted in an enthusiastic procession of 27 tractors!

And of course, Plough Sunday wouldn't be complete without a Ploughman's Lunch! The lunch, generously provided by the wonderful Thaxted Church catering team, was greatly enjoyed by all.

It was a wonderful day, ensuring that we continue the tradition of fortifying our farmers with food. friendship and God's blessing as they work the land of our parishes.



In fair weather and foul, in rain and wind, in frost and sunshine:

God speed the plough!



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on

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at

7.30pm

in

#### THAXTED PARISH CHURCH

It's been guite a few years since the Osiligi Maasai Warriors last performed in Thaxted Parish Church but those of you who were there will remember their impressive dancing and singing. So we are very pleased to announce that they will be making a return visit to perform for us on the evening of Saturday 26 September.

The group comes from the village of Oleopolos and surrounding communities in southern Kenya, around thirty miles south of Nairobi and perform authentic and exciting Maasai tribal song and dance plus the world-famous Maasai jumping. During the many tours the troupe has made since they first started touring the UK in 2002 they have raised enough money to have a clean water system, build a school and a church for their community.

The Warriors come from farming backgrounds and their families, back home in Kenya, look after the farms in the Warriors' absence, and also make tribal jewellery which is sold at the performances.

The event is being organised by Perry Staker and Margaret Caton so if you're interested speak to them when you see them and they will notify you when tickets are available.



### **BOWLING CLUB**

**Ian Roberts** 

Play Bowls for fun why not trv something new this summer, it's a great fun. sport, competitive and a great way of making new friends. Thaxted Bowlina Club located on Meadow Field, off Park Street and we have been playing bowls there for well over 50 years.



We have a thriving membership who play regularly throughout the summer months in league, friendlies and club competitions. There is also opportunity to play through the winter months indoors.

We welcome both NEW and existing players to come along and give bowls a try on any Monday evening at 6pm from the 20th April. Come and meet us to find out more about the game.

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May we will be holding our annual OPEN DAY from 1.30pm to 4.30pm for any adult interested in taking up the game, COME ALONG for a roll up and play bowls 4 fun, in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. All you need is a flat pair of shoes. Coaching and Refreshments will be available. If you would like further information please contact me on 01371 831018 or at thaxtedbc@btinternet.com.

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# OLIO SHARE MORE - WASTE LESS

Hello neighbour!

Have you heard the news? There's a food sharing movement going on, and it's happening right on your doorstep!

I'm a volunteer for OLIO, a free app connecting neighbours with each other so surplus food can be shared, not thrown away. Whether you've got a glut from your allotment, over-catered for a dinner party, are going on holiday or simply having a cupboard clear-out, why not add your unwanted food to OLIO for a lovely neighbour to collect.

And the sharing doesn't stop at food! You can also add any unwanted household items, such as toiletries, cleaning supplies, kitchen equipment, etc. Not only does it feel amazing to give things of value a second chance, it's also really fun and social to share with your neighbours.

Since launching in 2016, OLIO has grown to 1.8 million users globally, supported by 50,000 volunteers (I'm one of them!) spreading the word and hoping to build a more sustainable future for us all.

If you want to share more & waste less then OLIO is for you! Best wishes.

Your local OLIO Ambassador, Jill Trouse

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# THAXTED FESTIVAL

# 2020 Season

F · 10	
Fri 19 June 7.30 pm	Guy Johnston, Cello; Brandenburg Sinfonia Leading British cellist Guy Johnston opens our season with Elgar's elegiac Cello Concerto in E minor, along with Holst's haunting Invocation and Mark Anthony Turnage's Milo. Brahms' Symphony No.3 in F major and Delius' Miniatures complete an unmissable evening. Plus: free pre-concert talk at 6.00 by Stephen Dickinson of the Elgar Society, in Thaxted URC.
Sat 20 June 7.00 pm	Brodsky Quartet The renowned Brodsky Quartet performs two major works: Beethoven's late Opus 135 in F major, and Ravel's scintillating 1903 quartet, with Wolf's Italian Serenade and Puccini's I Christemi.
Sun 21 June 7.30 pm	Benjamin Grosvenor The internationally-acclaimed pianist plays Rameau, Beethoven and Liszt.
Fri 26 June 7.30 pm	Armonico Consort - Director: Christopher Monks The combined choral and orchestral ensemble of Armonico Consort perform Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, and Pergolesi's Stabat Mater.
Sat 27 June 12.00 noon	Robin Walker plays Thaxted Church's Lincoln Organ Robin returns to the Festival to play works by Wesley, Mendelssohn and many others, dating from the period of the Lincoln Organ's construction, revealing the full glories of this unique instrument.
Sat 27 June 7.30 pm	Ronnie Scott's Jazz Orchestra, with Georgina Jackson Now a regular hit in Thaxted, the star players of Ronnie Scott's bring the best of big-band standards and classic jazz hits, headed by the amazing trumpeter and vocalist Georgina Jackson.
Sun 28 June 2020	The King's Men The choral scholars of King's College Cambridge perform an evening of virtuosic close harmony; expect styles from Tallis to spirituals, jazz and popular, sung with impeccable precision.

Full details, booking information and online booking:

Fri 3 July 7.30 pm	The Yehudi Menuhin School String Orchestra
	The impressive talent of this young string orchestra will delight as always in their appearances in Thaxted. They play Divertimenti by Mozart and Bartók, with Serenades by Tchaikovsky and Elgar.
Sat 4 July 11.00 am	Family Concert – SIRINU: Sir Goward the Coward and
	the Feasty Beasty
	Our popular relaxed event for all the family this year features story- telling action and music from an exciting ensemble of voice and early- music players.
Sat 4 July 7.30 pm	Roderick Williams, baritone, with Susie Allan, piano:
	Beethoven and Schubert
	Star baritone Roderick Williams performs Beethoven's seminal song cycle An die ferne Geliebte – To the Distant Beloved, and Schubert's Romantic Schwanengesang – Swansong (in English).
	(This is a change to the programme advertised in our brochure.)
Sun 5	The Katona Twins
July 7.30 pm	Acoustic guitarists Peter and Zoltán Katona dazzled us at our launch event in 2018. They return with a varied programme from Bach to Bartók, Bernstein, Falla and Django Reinhardt.
Fri 10 July 7.30 pm	The Mikado – Charles Court Opera
	A welcome return of opera this season brings the versatile and dynamic Charles Court chamber opera company to perform this muchloved Gilbert and Sullivan classic.
Sat 11 July 7.30 pm	The Pasadena Roof Orchestra
	Dance band music of the 1920s and 30s performed with panache and flair by this big band; from Gershwin, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin to Duke Ellington, with a twist of British humour.
Sun 12 July 2020	Brandenburg Sinfonia
	Our resident orchestra closes our season with Bach's Double Violin Concerto and Brandenburg Concerto No.3, Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and Vaughan Williams' Dives and Lazarus.

thaxtedfestival.co.uk General booking opens 6 April.

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# DENDROCHRONOLOGY SURVEY THAXTED GUILDHALL

Alan Gant, Guildhall custodian

Many people were wondering why the Guildhall was surrounded by scaffolding last year. Now removed it is possible to see that a new piece of timber has been inserted into the front timber work, called the sole plate. The beam had been found to be rotting and concern for the structure led to it being supported by steel until the rotted piece



could be replaced. As part of this work testing was done to find out the extent of the rotting. Fortunately only the one piece was found to be in need of replacement. It is thought that the rotted piece was actually a replacement and not an original piece. Dendrochronology was carried out as part of the sole plate replacement and related works.

A recent Dendrochronology (Dendro) Survey was carried out at Thaxted Guildhall by Dr Martin Bridge of the Institute of Archaeology at University College London. The survey was commissioned by Historic England in order to find out more about when the Guildhall was built. Current estimates seem to vary from the around 1390 to around 1470.

In simple terms the Dendro survey is a means of aging timber by counting the rings that are produced each year of its life. It can also provide information about weather conditions and events that have affected the tree during its lifetime.

Of course the age of the timber doesn't necessarily give an indication of when it was installed as part of the building's structure. The survey can accurately tell when the tree was felled but it may have remained as an uncut log for many years before it was formed into a beam. Conversely, it may have been part of a demolished building that was built hundreds of years before the Guildhall was constructed.

Indeed, there is a theory that some of the structure of the Guildhall came from Thaxted Manor which was situated on the estate that occupied the south side of Town Street, adjacent to Market Cross where the Guildhall is situated. Consequently, it is possible that some



of the timber that forms the structure of the Guildhall is over 1,000 years old whereas other timbers that were used in the 1930's and previous refurbishments, may be considerably younger.

So, the art of investigating the date of an ancient buildings construction is more complicated than simply aging one beam or sole plate; many samples are needed to find the most common age of the majority of the timbers to give the most likely indication of a building's age.

#### **JUBILEE GARDENS**

Alison Howells

Jubilee Gardens, at the top of Weaverhead Lane, have been returned to Thaxted Parish Council by the contractors who worked on the new surgery.

They have provided parking, water and electricity and have planted a young laurel hedge to match the existing one at the back of the garden. They also kept our memorial oaks in a very good condition.

Unfortunately they also dug over the land and reseeded it very late in the year, after the rains had started and the grass is not looking too good. There is nothing anyone can do for the moment but when spring comes we will re-assess and get the garden returned to a good state. Two benches have already been replaced and we have two more ready to be sited. Additionally we will be planting two more attractive trees to enhance the area.

### A COFFEE MORNING IN THAXTED

Joe Hobbs

At the first meeting of the Thaxted Branch, Royal British Legion, 2020, I was introduced as retiring Standard Bearer to the Standard Bearer elect, Duncan May.

On this, his first appearance, he may have wondered what on earth he was coming into. I was asked to address the members and guests but I chose to deliver a song and a poem. The poem and the song lyric I'd written and the subject of both was the 'Standard'.

I explained that, because the song was rather ribald, I would start with the more serious poem by way of some counterbalance. As it transpired the song, which was sung off the cuff, was so well received (and supported in the refrains). It was suggested that I have it published locally for posterity. Hence this article.

The song is printed below, although the intention is to submit the poem to the Royal British Legion magazine, *The Legion*. I had also explained that whereas one of the song's verses refers to the known potential hazard of the steep stairs down to the Royal Albert Hall arena, another concerns a problem quite unforeseeable. This was the whipping-off of my (tight-fitting) beret when my neighbour-standard bearer caught it with the finial of his standard pole when we moved to attention from being seated!

The song was instigated by a remark made to me as I left the house for the first of the rehearsals for the Festival of Remembrance last November. The tune used bears some resemblance to that for *Don't Put Your Daughter on the Stage, Mrs. Worthington.* 

## Keeping Up Your Standards (Song)

"Don't leave your banner on the bus, Joe."

*Refrain:* Don't leave your banner on the bus.

Cos if you miss your call at Prince Albert's Hall the nice Parade Commander will bellow and will bawl and you'll be the cause of one enormous fuss...

so don't leave your banner on the bus!

*Refrain:* So don't leave your banner on the bus!

Don't trip up the apples and pears, Joe,

*Refrain:* Don't trip up the apples and pears.

Cos if you take a fall in Prince Albert's Hall the nice Parade Commander you'll cause to blub and bawl. So do beware the fruits of your labour there...

and don't trip up those apples and pears!

Refrain: And don't trip up those apples and pears!

Don't lose your beret off your nut, Joe,

*Refrain:* Don't lose your beret off your nut.

Cos everyone and all at Prince Albert's Hall, not least the Parade Commander, are bound to see it fall and HM Queen will brook no if or but... so don't lose your beret off your nut!

Refrain: So don't lose your beret off your nut!

The word from 'er indoors was wrong, folks,

*Refrain:* The word from 'er indoors was wrong.

But at Prince Albert's Hall where 'standard' it is called the nice Parade Commander won't be fazed at all. As she's given rise to a new Legion song...

though 'er word 'banner' is flagrantly wrong!

*Refrain:* though 'er word 'banner' is flag-rantly wrong!

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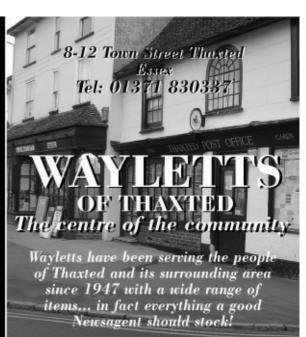
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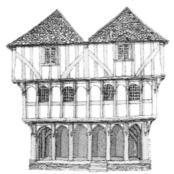
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