

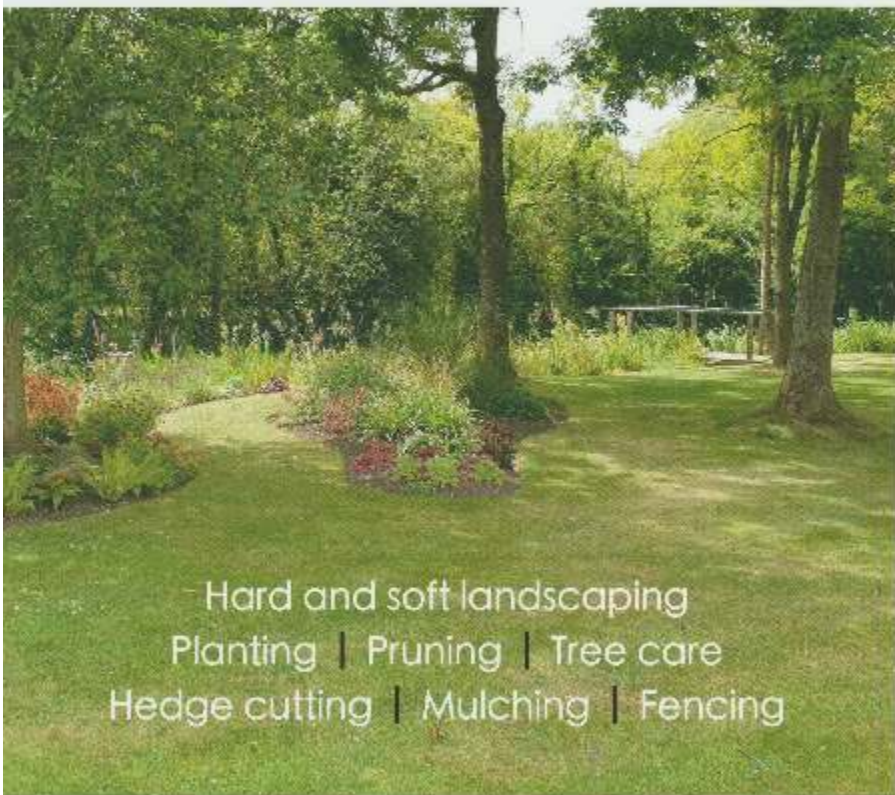
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EDITORIAL - SUE COLLINS - GUEST WRITER

"We were supposed to be going on a staycation with some friends, but we've just been pinged so we have to self-isolate even though we have both been double jabbed – ah well another Zoom chat I suppose" Eighteen months ago that sentence would have made no sense at all. How life has changed!

It is good to read in this edition that a number of groups and clubs are starting up again and that events are being planned for the Autumn. This will be another step in the post lock-down journey.

What has changed for you over the last months and what will you do differently in the future? The responses of various of our local businesses makes interesting reading. Change has been enforced on them and they have had to adapt, often out of necessity. Being away from normal working and from social interaction has been an opportunity to learn new ways of making contact and perhaps has also been an opportunity to re-assess how and why they do things in a particular way.

The same could be said of all of us. Many people have discovered new creative talents, exercised more, enjoyed the wonderful surroundings of our town and maybe volunteered to be one of the network of people who have kept life bearable for the more vulnerable members of our community. Hopefully these new aspects of life will continue

As you will read from a number of articles volunteers are still needed for various aspects of our community life. If you have learned the benefits to others and yourself of volunteering, then perhaps there are different opportunities to contribute to community life in the coming months.

Positive things are happening in Thaxted. I would like to think that life is not getting *back* to normal but *progressing* towards a new normal.



"GLASS HALF FULL"

Julie Barnard

I am sitting on our Patio writing this article in the glorious July sunshine, Covid restrictions have been eased and when I walk my little dog I can smell Barbecues cooking in gardens with people laughing, chatting, planning outings and holidays so it would appear that 'All is right with the world'

I appreciate that for many this is not the case as under the Lockdown businesses have been hit very hard and may not have survived, people have lost jobs and were unable to be furloughed causing worrying financial difficulties. Some folk have been poorly, schools and colleges closed and farmers have experienced devastating heavy storm showers that have ruined some of their crops so it is insensitive to state that 'all is well' other than to share some positive local church news with you and try to present the glass 'Half Full'

The Thaxted United Reformed Church has been without a minister for five years since David Vincent retired but now Mark Hayes from Saffron Walden has taken us under his wing whilst completing his Ministerial training at Westminster College Cambridge. Mark has for many years been CEO of a Christian Housing Association in south east London but retired in June this year.

During the long interregnum we have been loyally supported by visiting ministers and the Parish Church team so we have been well looked after but we have missed the communication and continuity of having a minister to share concerns and ideas, never more so than during these last eighteen months with the added pressures that Covid has brought causing isolation and emotional difficulties for many.

Mark will be available to speak to people that are struggling, be more of a presence in the community, lead our services for at least two Sundays a month, chair meetings and other events.

Mark and his wife Janet have some great ideas not only for the URC but to reach out into the community for example to try 'Messy Church' on a weekday afternoon after school hopefully starting in the Autumn when children and parents can come together and be creative with a whole range of Art and Craft materials enjoy a delicious tea and be

able to chat. They are enthusiastic to 'Reach out' but appreciate it will take time and realize that these last eighteen months with all the difficulties that many of us have 'switched off' to anything even vaguely to do with church.

Having said that we are starting on Sunday 12th September at 3pm 'The Story' which is looking at the relationship between God and Humankind I am certain this will be very interesting so do come along to the URC have a cup of tea and join in the discussion.

Another idea suggested is to clear an area of the URC graveyard that is not used for burials and then develop a 'Wild flower garden' to create a space where people can sit quietly for reflection and perhaps find some peace in this very busy and often chaotic life.

We have a member of our congregation undertaking the URC accredited Lay Preaching course so she will be able to lead services when Mark is asked to preach elsewhere, plus we have two excellent organists who are available to play at our services whereas before we had been using a Digital Hymnal which is ok but nothing like the wonderful sound of the organ and now that we are able to sing once more our spirits have been lifted and so has the roof!! Suddenly our 'Cup overfloweth'

Sometimes it is so hard to be positive and 'Look Forward'. This past year or so has been a real test of that, even with this horrible Covid virus still causing alarm I share with you something written on the wall as you enter Addenbrookes Hospital "Whatever it is, it will pass"

Let's try as much as we can to keep looking forward and being positive which is highly infectious and making every effort to ensure that the 'glass is always half full'.

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. We try to include articles of general interest, so a non-church goer would be very welcome. 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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FOODS

THE GIDDY UP TEACUP

Jackie & Antony

Our business, The Giddy Up Teacup, has been lucky to have a regular weekend pitch in front of the Windmill in Thaxted. We work from a beautifully converted horsebox and we're absolutely delighted with how our little business is progressing. More of that later. But we've often been asked why we chose to start our business from a horsebox. Well, it wasn't our first choice as we had our hearts set on a vintage WW2 ambulance with a business selling tea and sympathy for medicinal purposes (get it... still a great idea we think)! However, a vintage vehicle wasn't without its problems. Expensive to convert but of more concern was the reliability factor. To ensure customers were guaranteed our business would turn up, we had to look at other options and that's where the horsebox idea came into play. Towable behind our 4x4, it can pretty much go anywhere, and we wanted a business vehicle that offered versatility, flexibility and reliability while being able to adapt from a pretty teashop by day, The Giddy Up Teacup, to a hipster bar at night, our alter ego The Giddy Up Bar.

2020 was a write off due to Covid. However, we're delighted to report that since April, we've been back at the windmill most weekends selling Blake's Bakes, homemade cakes which are delicious! Our cakes, teas, coffees and cold drinks are all served on pretty vintage china – tea definitely tastes better in a china cup! We've also been lucky enough to meet Theresa Egan whose Thaxted based CakeHole business has provided us with some of our china, in particular the beautiful cake stands which Theresa makes here in Thaxted while raising money for Cancer Research. Our customers have been extremely generous buying Windmill merchandise and donating money for the Windmill Trust to help go towards running and repair costs of this beautiful building.

We've got several private functions booked this year. The Giddy Up Bar has been put to work at weddings and private parties. The Giddy Up Teacup has also been booked for celebratory vintage tea parties.

We've invested in an extension to the horsebox. David at Thaxted's Glendale Forge has worked wonders creating a removable structure that has enabled us to almost double the space at the back of the horsebox.

Finally, we have needed to grow the team and have taken on new members of staff who will work on a rota basis for us. Our son Nick and his girlfriend Mery, who were so instrumental in helping us out in 2020, have now got really busy with their own jobs but I'm sure they'll still be around from time to time. The new team have all been amazing and an asset to our team.

Thank you for reading our story and we hope you'll visit us at the windmill, either before the end of this season or next year when we hope to be back again.

THAXTED COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Mike, Sue and Daniel

Some of the members of the Country Dance Club met for a summer party and discovered that we all still had working arms and legs and could still move to music. With restrictions lifted and everyone double vaccinated we decided that we should start meeting again. Our first evening will be on September 21st in the Church Hall, Margaret Street from 8 pm. From then on we hope to meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday. We will still be taking some precautions, such as hand sanitising and plenty of ventilation and we will be asking for contact details. In really hot weather we have been known to use Margaret Gardens!

Everyone is welcome to join us. We are a friendly group who welcome newcomers. No experience is necessary as all the dances are taught before trying them to the music of our talented live band. We only charge £2 if you come a second and subsequent times.

What else do you need to know? We call our dances "country dances", but some may say folk dances or barn dances, or even ceilidh (pronounced - kaylee). They range from very simple to quite difficult, but always a mix to give everyone a sporting chance. It also does not matter if you go wrong, if you keep at it you soon find it works. While they are mostly couple dances, you do not need to come as a couple, there are always plenty of others who have come alone and who will help new members lead a merry dance.

For more info contact Mike and Sue 830457.





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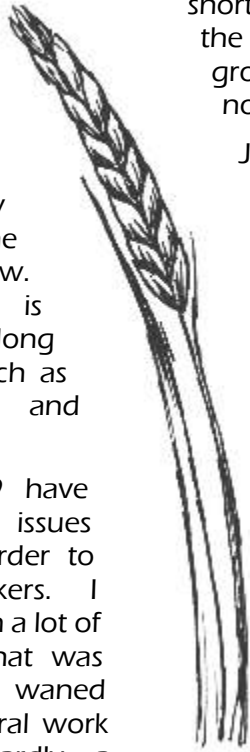
REAPING THE HARVEST

Jim Ford

Last year the Country Land and Business Organisation estimated that 80,000 agricultural workers would be needed to help farmers and fruit growers bring in the harvest here in the UK. At the same time "Concordia" a Brighton based volunteer/employee charity recorded that while 35,000 participants had expressed an interest in farming work only 5,500 had taken up the offer of an interview. Part of the issue is matching up skills along with other factors such as length of contracts and accommodation.

Brexit and Covid 19 have compounded the issues especially as it is harder to recruit overseas workers. I suspect also that when a lot of people looked at what was required enthusiasm waned somewhat. Agricultural work of any kind is hardly a glamorous affair. The work can be back breaking. You have to be out in all kinds of weathers and up at all kinds of times. You literally work "by the sweat of

your brow." Yet it is work that literally brings life. The farmers plants the crops, then he/she harvests them and food arrives on the table. If you are a vine grower your work brings wine to the table which a wine lover like me really appreciates. "Yet if the shortage of workers continues the harvest could be left in the ground and the food would not arrive.



Jesus also talks about a harvest that is short of workers. He says, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send workers into the harvest" (Matt 9'.37-38). He is talking about a quite different harvest. A harvest of souls whose hunger is for eternal life rather than just earthly life. The previous verse describes the crowds that Jesus addressed as being 'harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd'.

What an apt description of people in our country today. Covid 19, climate change, "black

lives matter", ageing, loneliness are all issues that frighten us and leave us feeling stressed. Depression is the second biggest disease in the UK after heart disease.

As Christians, Jesus calls us to be harvest workers, bringing his message of hope to our world. A message of love, forgiveness, reconciliation and mercy, but like the physical harvest it is hard work. The gospel message calls people to repentance and turning away from self, back to God. Not everyone wants to hear that. Often we will be


rejected or even jeered at. The media will gleefully tell us that church is dead, showing statistics to prove it. We, however, need to quietly persist. Offering the love of Christ in word and deed. Gently sharing his message of grace and mercy. There are hungry souls out there. We need to go and find them. Also one day the harvest will be brought in and then we will see the fruit of our work. Jesus promises a return of up to 100 fold on our harvesting (Mathew 13:23).

That is a return worth breaking our back for.



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HAVERHILL SILVER BAND

Tom Walker

Last year was supposed to have been a special anniversary for the Band marking 200 years since the first mention of a "Haverhill Brass Band in the Chevens Almanack of 1889; *"...a very old institution, having now attained its 69th birthday ...current Bandmaster Mr C Mizon has held his post for a period of 37 years"*

The photo shows a ten-piece line up with Bass Drum, two trombones, Euphonium, four Cornets, a strange small Sousaphone (unless any readers know better) and Clarinet (no woodwind nowadays)



We still have a few players who can boast of over 40 years' service, but also plenty of youngsters keen to progress from the youth to senior Band.

Along with all other amateur musical groups, the Band has had to cease operations for the past 18 months and can only resume rehearsals with distancing in place.

We normally meet for rehearsals in a large school classroom, a tight squeeze for 25 players in normal times!

Luckily The Old Independent and St Marys Church, both in Haverhill, have come to the rescue and offered us the space that we require to meet safely.

Some music making was achieved remotely over the last year -each player was sent a backing track and sheet music and had to record their part digitally and then email it to the Conductor.

He then had the arduous task of editing these together having to replace his computer halfway through when it could no longer cope.

Please have a look at Haverhill silver Band Facebook page for the lock down performances. Select videos and enjoy the variety of music there.

I am pleased to say that the Band will once again be playing in

Thaxted Parish Church on 23 October. This will again be in support of the British Legion and we do hope that as many as

possible will be able to attend. Tickets will be available from Gifted or from tomwalker63@hotmail.co.uk.

Volunteers - We need you!

Home-Start Essex is looking for volunteers to provide support to families who need a bit of extra help. Can you spare a few hours a week? Would you like to help your local community?

We are looking for volunteers within the Uttlesford area to join our new online volunteer preparation training course, which consists of 8 sessions held from 10-12.30 once per week on Zoom. If you are looking for a volunteering opportunity and would like to make a difference to the lives of children and families, then please get in touch. You do not need to be a parent to volunteer, any experience of working or volunteering with children is welcome also.

Our volunteers know how tough parenting can be and they don't want anyone to go through it alone. As a professionally trained volunteer you will make a lasting difference to families who need a



helping hand. The benefit to children is long term: reducing the risk of problems escalating in the future to ensure they have a happy and secure family life.

Recent studies have highlighted the enormous benefits for people of volunteering. When you volunteer, your ties to the community improve, so does your own support network and mental health. So while you are generously helping others, you are also helping yourself. Volunteering allows you to support your community, make friends for life, and gain new skills and experience.

Volunteering will not only change families lives, it will change yours...

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THAXTED FESTIVAL

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It was an emotional moment when I was able to introduce our opening concert on Thursday 24 June. Months of planning in an uncertain environment had preoccupied all of our team. Would our audiences feel safe to return? Would our artists be able to perform? Would the regulations change at the last moment? What would the course of the pandemic be by June? In the end, the applause which greeted the opening of our new season said it all: yes, our audiences were overwhelmed to be back to hear live music, and our musicians were delighted to be performing on stage again, many of them for the first time in 18 months.

Thaxted Festival's usual mix of classical, vocal, orchestral, and chamber music, infused with jazz and other offerings, again formed our programme this year. But having to present our concerts with safely distanced seating and performance areas meant that we had to re-think all our planning. With reduced audience numbers and smaller-scale ensembles we were able to keep our finances in

balance. Happily, Thaxted Parish Church offers such a splendid space that we were able to adapt easily to suit the current conditions; something other venues had more difficulty with. We compressed our season into two long weekends rather than the usual four weekends, and we were delighted that our audiences returned in such significant numbers, with many concerts full to our reduced capacity.

Until near to our opening, we had hoped to be able to offer our usual interval catering, with our renowned home-made cakes and liquid refreshments. Unfortunately, government regulations were not relaxed in time and we missed out on this social element of our season. However, it was a small price to pay for the overall enthusiasm and delight of our audiences and artists at getting back to live performances. The standard of performance throughout this year was second to none, and we feel we have enhanced Thaxted's reputation as a festival where you can be sure to

enjoy the highest musical standards across all our events.

So, what have we learned from these difficult times? Above all, we've been assured of the great support from our audiences who want to hear live music in our superb surroundings. Our volunteer teams have come up with new and creative solutions for how we do things – from ticketing through to staging and managing everyone's safety. With almost everyone now accustomed to supporting their lives online, we have been able to extend our reach in promotion and ticketing, and our profile across the music profession, through social media, emails and our online ticketing. Our new design, created by Vrve of Thaxted, has given new strength to our website and our overall 'brand', while conveying what is unique about our Festival. We've learned to do some things differently, and we will continue to innovate in future seasons.

There are many people to thank for bringing us successfully through the past year and a half. Our volunteers have worked hard in front of and behind the scenes, and the Festival Board has worked thoughtfully and meticulously to oversee all our planning. The Vicar, Church-wardens and congregation of the Church have

been understanding and accommodating. Thaxted United Reformed Church were able to offer spacious 'green room' facilities for our artists to prepare and refresh themselves. We have benefitted greatly from the support of our Thaxted Music Lovers through their annual subscriptions, and also from their many messages of support and appreciation. Our 'TMLs' are part of our close Festival family, and receive benefits including priority booking periods and special events, from as little as £15 per year. Details are on our website, and new subscriptions will be available for our 2022 season from the beginning of next year.

Thaxted Festival now continues throughout the year, as well as during our summer seasons. Don't miss our autumn recital, with star young pianist Iyad Sughayer, in Thaxted Church at 3.00pm on Sunday 17 October. Tickets for this



are already on sale to Thaxted Music Lovers, and will be on general sale from Monday 6 September at 9.30 through our website, priced at £17 each. In early 2022 we will have a preview event for Thaxted Music Lovers for our summer season, which will be back to our regular format of four weekends, Friday through Sunday, between 17 June and 10 July.

There's much up-to-date news on our website, including a report of our education project, which we were delighted could go ahead with Thaxted Primary School together with Covent Garden Sinfonia during the Festival. Go to: About Us/Festival News, for this and other news, past and present. You can also see a Gallery of images from our 2021 summer season, by clicking the button on our home page, and also read the Saffron Waldon Reporter account, including a video of our Lincoln

Organ soloist Robin Walker, by clicking a link. Just go to: thaxtedfestival.co.uk and explore. You can also sign up to receive our news and update emails, if you are not already registered.

Thaxted Festival will continue to offer something for everyone as we return to our regular format next summer, when we plan to have some larger-sized ensembles again, and audiences back to full capacity. We even dare to hope that our renowned home-made cakes will return! We look forward to having you join us at any of our events.

Below are some of the many comments we have received from our audience members this year.

Peter Donovan, Chairman Thaxted Festival Foundation.
thaxtedfestival.co.uk
music@thaxtedfestival.co.uk

Hugely appreciated the hard work of the team in very difficult circumstances.

The team worked a small miracle to get us together in such a situation. Well done to all.

What a treat! I think I enjoyed it all the more this year as it was a welcome live experience. Thank you to all the organisers for their hard work!

We thought that it was brilliant that you managed to hold the festival at all and many congratulations are due to all involved.

Wonderful to hear live music of this standard again.

The church venue and acoustics are wonderful.

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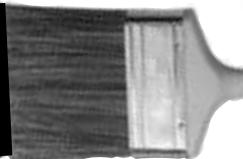
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UPDATE FROM THE THAXTED FAYRE TRUST

Bringing the community together through fundraising

Well, what a challenging 18 months this has been for all of us! The Thaxted Fayre Trust, like so many businesses and charities had to lock-down and cease all events. And being as this is our only source of fundraising, we've had no alternative but to put our Community Grant Scheme on hold. But times are slowly changing, and light does appear to be starting to shine brighter at the end of the tunnel.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

So, with everything crossed, we are hoping to bring our town together next June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old. An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the

historic milestone. The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

How would you like to celebrate the event?

We, in collaboration with Thaxted Parish Council and Thaxted Live are meeting in early September to start planning on

how we can bring our community together, and this celebratory event to life. We would love to hear from Thaxted Youth Club, Thaxted Primary School, Thaxted Lecture Society, Thaxted Gardening Club, Wild Thaxted,

Windmill Pre-School, Thaxted & Carver Barracks Scouts, Thaxted Rangers FC or Thaxted Martial Arts, to name just a few of our fantastic selection of local groups and organisations. In fact, we'd love all our local groups, clubs, societies, businesses, and organisations to play a part in this community event. But most of all we'd love the whole community to get involved.



Drop us an email at thaxtedfayretrust@outlook.com to let us know your ideas, but more importantly put your name down to volunteer to help us bring this community event to life.

What can you do to help?

Thaxted Fayre Trust, just like our Parish Council and many of our local groups, are run by

volunteers and we are always looking for 'friends' to help the Trust put on our events. If you can spare a few hours in June 2022 to not just enjoy the day, but help make this and other events a success, please do get in touch and become a TFT Friend.

Or find us on Facebook @ThaxtedFayreTrust

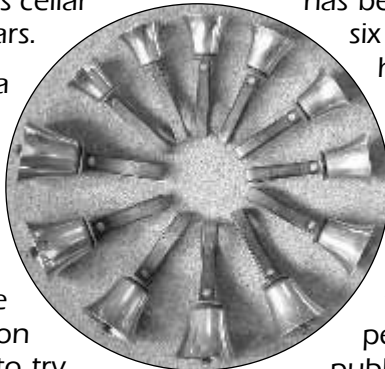
HANDBELL RINGING

Margaret Caton

Recently an almost complete set of handbells belonging to the parish church was returned to the church. They had been stored in someone's cellar for a number of years.

Encouraged by a visiting priest the bellringers decided to try to form a subgroup.

A few people from amongst the church congregation met one morning to try out the bells. Guided by someone who had some experience from ringing with a group in a neighbouring village we made slow progress. We started off with a simple hymn tune and soon found our strengths and weaknesses.



The following week we were joined by lots more people who were intrigued and wanted to try for themselves. So far the group has been going for about six weeks and we now have a core of people who really enjoy their Tuesday mornings. Our repertoire has expanded and we look forward to performing our first public performance at Christmas. We hope to resurrect the old tradition of ringing "Our church bells in Thaxted" as performed in the past.

Once we are more proficient we hope to welcome some more people to join us.



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COMING EVENTS

- 25/26 September Garden and Craft Show - URC Church. See page 48 for details and times. Show schedules are available in various shops and library.
- 2nd October Clubs and Societies Open Day. Parish Church 2 - 5 p.m. see page 44.
- 16th October Arts and Crafts Fair. 10 - 4 p.m. See page 53
- 17th October Thaxted Festival Autumn event 3 p.m. See website and page 19 for more information.
- 23rd October Haverhill Silver Band in the Parish Church. See page 14.

HARVESTS IN THE PAST



The photograph shows Arthur Willis, grandfather of Roger Saych, who is driving the steam engine cutting the corn in Thaxted. Arthur Willis lived at 18 Wainsfield Villas and worked for a contractor from Gt Chesterford. When he no longer drove the steam engine he went to work for George Lee, in the sweet factory, as their chief stoker. He and his wife are both buried in the graveyard of the United Reformed Church.

BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

Peter Archibald

Church Services

At last our 10.30 Morning Service has returned to normality, always being aware of any changes in Government directives

For information on Church matters please email thaxtedbaptistchurch@gmail.com or ring 07752 553 368

Men's Breakfast

Again the Men's Breakfast will recommence on Saturday 4th September, 8.45 for 9.00 am. Now will be held every fourth week .

Friday Coffee Morning

Now resumed from 10.00 to 11.30. It is open to anyone to call in.

Coffee & Company

This group are now meeting together on the last Saturday of each month 10-11.30 am. 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 details visit www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com : email coffeandcompany006@gmail.com or ring Debbie on 01371831548

Other Community Activities

At this point in time no decision has been made with regard to the Exercise Classes and Community Choir.

Thaxted Parish Church welcomes you to our

Chat Cafe

Every Monday from 6th September from 10.30 to 12.30.

Tel: 07823 777679 or 07850 489652

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

www.thaxtedparishchurch.co.uk

For parish enquiries or pastoral care during the interregnum please
contact our Churchwardens:

Paul Meader paul.meader@gmail.com OR Ann Pickhaver
ap66wr@btinternet.com

Sundays	8.00 a.m.	Said Mass (alternate Sundays)
	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,
Friday	10 - 11.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Saturday	8.45 for 9 a.m.	Men's Breakfast.
Saturday	10 - 11.30	Coffee and Company - Bereavement Group - last Saturday of the month

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, BOLFORD STREET

Contact - Julie Barnard, 01371 830261

Sundays	9.30 am	Morning Service, followed by coffee.
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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 2OS

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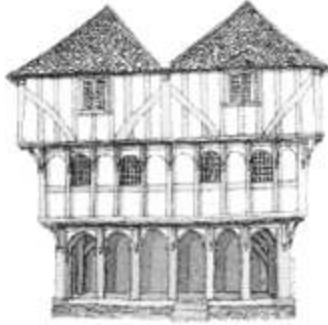
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WE ASKED THAXTED BUSINESSES HOW HAS COVID 19 AFFECTED THEM

We asked as many Thaxted based businesses as we could these two questions. If we did not manage to contact you and you would like to submit your answers – please do so for the next edition to editor@abc-u.co.uk

Q1 Where are you now (what are you doing as a business)? How have you survived covid?

Q2 What will you be taking forward as a result of what you have learned from Covid-19, e.g. what will be done differently, what is new? What changes have you made that you will keep?

These are the answers that we received.

Thaxted Yoga

After a very difficult time, our beautiful Thaxted studio is fully back open with a new timetable and class sizes gradually able to increase again. We maintain safety measures in relation to the guidelines and risk assessment advised both during and post the pandemic. Our fantastic community knew the benefits of yoga and mindfulness through this testing time and with their support, we managed to keep regular classes going online via Zoom, which was a lifeline in being able to keep the business afloat.

We have a new website, a new logo and signage and are delighted to have welcomed several new clients since reopening. We aim to provide a safe, warm and welcoming atmosphere, free from the pressures of everyday life, enabling our community to practice yoga, promote wellbeing and the opportunity to relax, unwind and smile. Our philosophy is that anyone can do yoga and practice mindfulness.

All ages and abilities are welcome to join us in our friendly, non-competitive, non-judgmental unique space. We have a wonderful team of teachers offering a variety of classes, workshops and events, including men's yoga and beginner's courses. For further information about Thaxted Yoga please contact us at info@thaxtedyoga.co.uk or via our website and social media.

John Law – JL Engineering LTD

1. We are a classic car restoration business specialising in Alpine Renaults. We've been lucky to keep the business afloat throughout Covid thanks to not only our new customers but also our loyal return customers which we are very grateful for.

2. What we have taken away from the last two years of uncertainty is that careful planning, keeping a close eye on cashflow and regularly updating customers helped us through and we will continue to make improvements to aid efficiency.

Will Parker - Thaxted Stoves

We have been very busy through the covid pandemic times. We have opened a new showroom in Lowes' car park so we are now just off Weaverhead Lane.

We have also become registered as a gas stove installation company, Going forward we will be offering a solid fuel and gas stove and fire service.

Debbie – Thaxted Laundry Room.

We had to make changes with only one member of our team in the shop at a time and large screens erected for safety of our staff and customers alike. Opening hours also changed, however we are nearly back to normal there.

Changes for a nicer work life balance are the shop closing at 4 pm weekdays instead of 5.30 and all the team members are in favour of keeping to this, particularly in the dark winter months. We always appreciated our customers and them us. This whole experience has just made us realise it even more so.

Shaun Molyneux - Painter and Decorator

I don't work inside where people breathe now, not unless they go away.

I always wear a mask all day anyway so nothing new to me.

I will be keeping away from the great unwashed though, I have a special stick with a soft end for shoving people away when they trespass upon my space.

Jenny Jones Dance

In March 2020, Covid-19 temporarily stopped our classes that had been running for 6 years in Church Hall, Margaret Street and Village Hall, Finchingfield. However, we quickly adapted our classes and continued to teach from our own home via ZOOM. It was a different experience but the children and adults all took it in their stride. Doing this enabled us to have contact with the students and keep the fun of dancing throughout a truly terrible and worrying time. We even continued through the summer holidays due to no one going away.

Now, we are back and holding our classes face to face in our regular Church Hall in Thaxted on Tuesday evenings and Finchingfield on Wednesdays with new covid-19 procedures in place.



Children enter one at a time, sanitise and are dancing in their own 2m boxes so are socially distanced at all times. That way we know we have a safe environment where they can have fun!

We will keep these measures in place until we feel the time is right to relax them.

Sarah Crossman – Seated Acupressure and Reflexology – Mobile therapist

I am re-building my massage and reflexology business.

During lockdown I was unable to treat my clients which was hard. I managed to speak to them and send self-help videos and hand reflexology techniques for them to use at home, but it is not the same as a hands on treatment. Thankfully when lockdown lifted I was able to treat again. My hygiene and safety standards have always been of the highest level, but since covid it has been up-graded even more with wearing a mask and visor.

Paperwork has been increased with regards to clients having to complete a covid risk assessment form 24 hours prior to every treatment. I have been taking a lateral flow test before seeing clients. All these procedures will remain in place for the foreseeable future in line with national government guidelines.

Ray Bullett - Prestell & Co

During the first few weeks of the initial lock-down our main aim was to communicate with vendors and their purchaser's, landlords and their tenants. We then moved on to assisting a local doctor's surgery with providing scrubs.

Once viewing began taking place again the market really opened up and we are busier than we have ever been. We are seeing all areas of the market having a strong appetite for moving from renting 1 bed apartments to selling prestigious properties. I believe our main reason for surviving covid was that we were approachable to discuss people's requirements and have communication with all parties to find solutions.

The changes we will keep. Technology and the way people viewed property, along with accessibility. We have moved into a more visual area of marketing to include video marketing. This has assisted, initially during the lock-downs for viewings without attending, and now into marketing for Facebook and Instagram. People feel they can connect with the properties better before viewing. Accessibility, with emails and property files being available in the cloud we can access these whilst on appointments or away from the office to assist with communication at all times.

Paul Linwood - VRVE

Whilst Covid-19 hasn't been 'good' for VRVE, we have been able to stay operational and look after our clients throughout. Our flexible team of designers, web developers, copywriters and marketing experts have all been working remotely from home, with regular get-togethers on Zoom - with the same technology enabling us to hold important meetings with clients existing and new. We are now steadily returning to the office to resolve challenges as a team and enjoying some banter like we used to.

2. Like all forward thinking businesses, the pandemic has encouraged us to take a good look at ourselves - what do we do well, what can we do better, can we make changes to strengthen our business? We have made changes, and we continue to improve our service - to local and national businesses, small, medium, start-ups. We're here to help and would love to have a no obligation chat to see if we can help you bounce back better too.

Kathy and Helen - Gifted.

Having to be closed during "lock-down" gave us the opportunity to set up a new selling website and link it to a new stock system and till. This would have been very difficult to do if we weren't closed for a long period. When we have been open over the last 18 months we have been really busy. Whilst it has been challenging managing the Covid Restrictions (we have been visited/called many times by Government agencies to ensure we were sticking to the rules) we have met lots of new residents of Thaxted, who perhaps were spending more time in the town - and of course, we continue to be supported by our amazing regulars. The website will stay of course, and we hope the new customers will too!

Bharat Keshwala - The Guildhall Stores, Town Street

We were able to keep open throughout the pandemic. We took precautions to keep both customers and staff safe.

(Ed. We all recognise the contribution the Guildhall Stores has made to keeping us fed and watered!)

Clare Wilde Art

1) I am an artist and musician and have lived most of my life in Thaxted. For many creative people, Covid has made making a living pretty much impossible. Live performers immediately lost their income, so most musicians I know have had to do other work and just diversify. For artists, galleries all over the country have closed for good due to not being able to survive, having shows has been impossible, and teaching has had to move online. Most of us have had to make friends with social media and learn how to try and market our work online, but competing globally means the little person gets lost - it is a completely different situation than selling through shops and galleries to actual humans face to face and in a community! Alongside just leaving my fiddle in the case and desperately missing playing, my work as an artist has meant that sales and commissions, which used to keep me busy, have barely ticked over. I have done other writing work (I was formerly a magazine writer and editor) and started working in complementary and holistic therapies again, which is something I used to do for people, horses and other animals 25 years ago and have begun again.

2) What is new is having to find new ways to promote my art - particularly online and through social media. I will continue with that. I will also continue to use my writing as a way to promote my art, and continue with the complimentary and holistic work, as I'm currently training to become a Bach Flower practitioner. I don't miss late nights involved in gigging with my fiddle and all the travelling involved - but I do miss playing and doing the gigs themselves. If Covid ever begins to retreat I look forward to performing again, and to having art shows and open studios in physical life rather than just online!

email: clarewildeart@gmail.com

Other contact details here: You can visit my website at: www.clarewilde.com [facebook.com/clarewildeart](https://www.facebook.com/clarewildeart) [instagram.com/clarewildeart](https://www.instagram.com/clarewildeart)

The Magazine committee would like to thank all who have contributed to this article.

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THAXTED CLUBS AND SOCIETIES FAIR 2ND OCTOBER 2021

The Friends of Thaxted Church will be holding their second Clubs and Societies Fair on Saturday, 2nd October, 2021 in the Parish Church from 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

We hope to repeat the success of the Inaugural Fair held two years ago, where over 35 Thaxted clubs and societies show-cased what they do and encouraged new members. The range of activities was amazing and catered for all ages. Did you know you could start karate at 3? And there is no upper age group for most of the adult activities - you are never too old to sing, train your dog, help to protect wildlife or join the Thaxted Society.

The pandemic has shown us how important all our social activities are to our own personal well-being and to our community. The lockdowns over the past months have hit clubs hard so there could not be a better time to re-start doing the things we love, whether it be furniture restoration, Morris dancing or getting involved with Guides and Scouts. There will be presentations from some clubs throughout the afternoon, and delicious home-made cakes and tea. Everyone is welcome and entry is free.





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GARDEN AND CRAFT SHOW

Jo Legge

After having to cancel last year's show we are extremely happy to announce that this years Thaxted Garden and Craft Show will be returning in September.

There is something for everyone at the show and it's a fabulous way to bring the community together and shine a light on the talents and creativity we have here in Thaxted and surrounding areas.

If your happy place is in the garden and you grow vegetables, fruit and flowers there are lots of different categories for your prize produce to be shown. We have trophies for beginners as well as the more experienced horticulturist.

There are numerous home brewing sections and as you can imagine it's one of the most enjoyable categories to judge! We would be very happy to sample your best homemade wines, fruit liqueurs and beer.

For those who prefer to create in the kitchen we have mouth-watering baking, jam making and pickling categories for you to get your teeth into.

Our arts and craft sections are numerous. Photography, jewellery, bead-work, woodwork, metalwork, painting, drawing and mixed media all have a position in our show.

The textiles categories always prove to be a colourful display of tapestry, cross-stitch, knitting, crotchet and embroidery.

Plus, if you love to quilt, hand make garments or patchwork then there is place for your exhibit.

For the younger members of our community there is a chance for them to show off their talents handwriting, dressing a wooden spoon,



modelling, designing a website plus lots more ways to get creative. The children and teenagers' sections are the only ones that have CASH PRIZES!

For all of the exciting categories, how to enter, timings and dates please go to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Thaxted-Gardening-and-Craft-Show-467594413312306/>) or our website <http://www.thetrumpet.co.uk/communitydetail.cfm?communityid=42>. We really pride ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming show, so please feel free to enter any of your produce or creations. All entries are accepted from beginners to the more experienced and everything in-between.

We look forward to seeing you 25-26th September.

THAXTED MORRIS MEN

Jonny Cope Squire Thaxted MM

After a difficult couple of years Thaxted Morris Men will be resuming practice on the 4th October in the Church Hall, between 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. New dancers and musicians welcome.

We will also be dancing out in public on the following dates.

Monday 30th August.

Celebration day of dance around Thaxted with guests.

Starting at 11 p.m. in the church yard.

See posters for further details.

Wednesday 1st September.

Prince of Wales Broxton 8 p.m.

Saturday 4th September.

The Maypole Thaxted, beer festival, afternoon.

Wednesday 8th September.

The Three Horseshoes Dutton Hill 8 p.m.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Thaxted for their support of the Morris over the years.

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**JOHN WEBB'S WINDMILL
– AN UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES**

Investigations and monitoring continue at the Windmill. Historic England and the Trust's Conservation Accredited Engineer are now getting a clearer picture of what repairs are needed to restore this iconic building. Costings for restoration are also now taking place.

As part of the preparations for fundraising applications the Trust has created a short survey to gather views from the local community and visitors to the Windmill. The survey is available through a link on our Facebook page or directly online: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RVPZRS9>

Cards with the link information are available from The Giddy Up Teacup when at the Windmill and from the CIC and Library in Town Street. For those with no internet access, paper copies are also available at these venues. If you have time to spare, the Trustees would be very grateful if you could complete the short survey as this will greatly assist with future plans.

Thank you all for your continued support.

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PARISH CHURCH ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Saturday 16 October 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

It's eleven years since Thaxted Parish Church held its very first annual Craft Fair in the Church and over the years it's grown into a special event that offers an amazing selection of stunning offerings from a wide variety of Artists and Craftspeople.

This year the Fair will be held on **Saturday 16th October** and we would be delighted if you were able to join us again to celebrate our tenth Fair with balloons and cake.

In view of possible Covid-related restrictions for this year only we intend to restrict the number of tables (or the equivalent area) available to each exhibitor to one table each. This should enable us to achieve a wide variety of arts and crafts represented whilst maintaining a degree of social distancing as we head into the winter months.

We will continue, as in past years, to invite stalls selling high class, good quality handmade crafts and we are achieving our aim each year of gradually increasing the range of crafts represented. And this year we will be organising a different children's activity – a Children's Trail to follow with a small prize for those who successfully complete the Trail – together with an exhibition of patchwork and quilting.

So come along and join us and take the opportunity to purchase early Christmas presents and/ or treat yourself to something that is unique from a wide selection of arts and crafts including:

- textiles
- jewellery
- ceramics
- watercolours
- letter carving in stone
- calligraphy
- honey and beeswax products
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- wildlife photography
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THAXTED FLOWER CLUB

Marianne Porter

We are back! After what has been the most awful 18 months for all of us THAXTED FLOWER CLUB are back and doing what we love most – inviting top notch flower arrangers to our meetings to demonstrate exquisite designs, learning how to translate them for our own homes, practical workshops, garden visits and having fun with friends.

This year we celebrate our 30th anniversary. We have enjoyed many happy times and made lots of friends along the way. Our programme is varied, our demonstrators are some of the best in the country, we are extremely lucky to have two Chelsea Gold Medal Winners in our group (and on our committee!)

Why don't you come along and find out what we get up to? We meet on the first Tuesday of the month (with a few exceptions) in the URC church in Bolford Street at 7.30 p.m. Parking is available. There is an annual membership or you can make a guest visit for £6. We promise you will be met with a warm welcome.



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THAXTED COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Lauren Barham



Thaxted Community Land Trust was created as a result of a need identified in the Neighbourhood Plan and has now been registered as a Community Benefit Society for the business of acquiring, holding, and campaigning for *community-led* development in Thaxted.

The Trust operates as a not-for-profit Organisation with the stated purpose of community development and relieving poverty. We know that those living in low or modest incomes in rural communities face real difficulties when trying to find a home in their own town/village and we want to help by providing *local homes for local people*. As a Trust we want to ensure:

- fairer access to stable and secure housing that enables well-being and is genuinely affordable and protected in perpetuity
- a variety of housing tenures which reflect the multiple housing needs of our community, enabling residents to continue living and/or working in Thaxted should they wish to do so
- community assets (buildings, land and facilities) that fulfil the growing needs of the local community.
- vibrant and diverse neighbourhoods that play a positive role in our local and wider communities.
- positive contributions to the environment, and low carbon housing solutions that limit our impact on the planet.

We recently undertook a new Housing Needs Survey to help us establish exactly what kind of affordable homes the community here feels they need and this will help shape our decisions as we move forward.

We would love to get more people in Thaxted involved with this project. If you are over 18, and support the interests of the CLT for the benefit of our community then you can apply for membership of the Trust for just £1.

If you'd like a form or more information then please email lauren@thaxted.co.uk, or alternatively, pop into the Information Centre on a Friday and collect a hard copy. We would love a diverse membership base to ensure all groups are well represented, so please do get in touch.

For more information and regular updates, you can also follow us on our social media pages: facebook instagram or twitter -ThaxtedCLT



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ABC & U EDITORIAL INFORMATION
DATES FOR NEXT EDITION
CHRISTMAS 2021

Date for copy to Editor: Monday 1st November 2021

Publication date: Sunday 28th November 2021

COMMITTEE

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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

Full page -	£110 for 3 issues -	£40 for a single issue
Half page -	£60 for 3 issues -	£24 for a single issue
Quarter page -	£37 for 3 issues -	£15 for a single issue

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: . Seasonable vegetables - Mike.



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