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EASTER 2024



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**THAXTED COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
ANGLICAN, BAPTIST, CATHOLIC AND UNITED
REFORMED CHURCHES OF THAXTED**

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

DATES FOR NEXT EDITION - HARVEST 2024

Date for copy to Editor: Friday 2nd August 2024
Publication date: Sunday 1st September 2024

HOW TO CONTACT US

Editorial Mike Collins editor@abc-u.co.uk
Adverts: Emma Fearnhamm email: adverts@abc-u.co.uk
Committee: Peter Archibald, Julie Barnard, Yvonne Baccush, Michael Culkin, Andy Frater, Stephanie Hughes, Jill Jones, Dena Oxley, Glyn Pritchard and Richard Till.

LATEST 3 EDITIONS ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.ABC-U.CO.UK

We would welcome more members on the magazine's editorial team. In particular we are looking for people to help with editorial and layout design aspects. If you have an interest in creating articles or other aspects of this magazine why not contact us to discuss the ways you could help.

We are always pleased to receive articles for inclusion. Write about what matters to you in Thaxted. We also want to include items such as births, weddings, etc. We do need to be told about events and interesting happenings, as we do not always know of them.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

All colour and monochrome adverts are charged at the same rate.

These 2024 rates have risen to reflect the current printing costs.

Full page portrait - £140 for 3 issues - £50 for a single issue

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Quarter page portrait - £47 for 3 issues - £17 for a single issue

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

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THE PROMISE OF LIFE THROUGH CHRIST

Fr Gerwyn Capon

The liturgical calendar is currently taking the church through the drama of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Christians are bidden to use Lent as a way to prepare for the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter. Our lives are preoccupied by so many things; so even if we have failed to notice Lent very much, Holy Week and the observation of the ceremonies of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, will bring us face to face with the dark realities of human brokenness as at the same time we renew our confidence in the transformative light of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.



Christians seek to proclaim that Christ's life is available to us every day; nevertheless it is during Lent, Holy Week and Easter, that the church revisits the story of how it was that God renewed his promise of life through Jesus Christ, and how it is that he invites us in every generation to share in his victory over death. Lent and Holy Week revisits this mysterious drama since there is a power in the telling of that story; it has an ability to stir something deep within us - a spiritual awakening that forces us to confront this

invitation and recognise the gift that God lays before us, giving new hope, for ourselves and the world we live in. That is what the church has always hoped for in this annual ritual of remembrance, that through thoughtful, prayerful engagement with the drama of the cross and Christ's resurrection, we will come to recognise his gentle call welling up within us.

Easter faith, in other words, is a confident assurance that God's promise is true and can be trusted, and it is born in us in different ways. It will always be particular and personal, unique to each of us. It can take time, because we need time: time to absorb the extraordinary truth that overturns all our expectations; time to learn to live with its consequences, for how can life ever be the same if Easter is true?

If it has been some time since you have been to church, or perhaps you have never been, why not come and see whether this is a journey you are being called to take. You will be among fellow travellers, not experts, but seekers. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

WHY DO YOU VOLUNTEER?

'The reason I volunteer is that it enables me to serve the Church and Thaxted Community whilst meeting with families, enjoying helping them to share in the activities we provide and also working with a lovely group of people, now friends, to deliver the sessions.' *JH, Messy Church*

Children are our future, and I feel privileged to be a part of it. *RW, Youth Club*

I volunteer with our school PTA because I love seeing the kids have a brilliant time at our events and knowing that the events also help provide the school with funding to support the pupils' learning is the cherry on the top! *LB, Friends of Thaxted Primary School PTA*

Volunteering within my community has given me so many opportunities to put my learnt skills into practice whilst helping and supporting those in the community - it has been a great way of meeting lots of new people of all ages. *JP, Thaxted Parish Council & First Responder.*

I get so much back from being involved with various projects in Thaxted. We are so lucky to have a such vibrant community and I would recommend anyone who can, to get stuck in to all the things happening in the town. *PM, Thaxted Parish Church*

To help support the school, to nurture and develop the education of our children at a time when schools need additional support now more

than ever - to witness the children's delight as they grow and progress is extremely rewarding and a pleasure to be part of. *CS, Thaxted Primary School*

I am a volunteer for Thaxted Festival as it helps to bring good music to a wider audience. *DF, Thaxted Festival*

Helping our local pre-school by being on the committee helps ensure that a low-cost childcare option in our town remains open and thriving. *LB, The Windmill Preschool*

Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and help make it an even better place. It has helped me develop a sense of purpose and contribute back positively to the groups, organisations and events that make Thaxted such a great and unique place to live. *VK, TPC*

I am a volunteer driver for Uttlesford Community Travel, taking people to hospital appointments, because I meet interesting people and I know that the time will come when I will need this sort of support. *DF, Uttlesford Community Travel*

It's an opportunity to make lovely new friends, share ideas and get out of the house! *JS, Threads*

I volunteer to give back to the community and to meet more people in the town I may not normally get to know. *JW, Thaxted Festival*

I volunteer because I can and will only stop when I can't physically do it. *CMC, Pam's Place*

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Andy Frater - Chairman

Dear Parishioners,

In the previous few magazines, I've been trying to keep you up to date with progress on Uttlesford District Council's (UDC) Local Plan. UDC published the draft plan under 'Regulation 18' which gave us all a chance to comment and request amendments.

The Parish Council, would like to share their full response in advance of the next stage called 'Regulation 19' where again, we will be able to comment and make representation before the plan goes for examination by planning inspectors.

We hoped to include it in this edition of the magazine. HOWEVER, it is very large and it would have taken up an unreasonable amount of pages. Therefore it has been turned into the booklet distributed with this magazine. A basic summary of the response is on the opposite page.

This response has been endorsed by the District Councillors, Cllrs Martin Foley, Richard Haynes and Mike Tayler. We hope our response reflects the views of the many people and organisations to whom we spoke. We would like to thank you all for your input and to thank Cllr Nick Weakley for his time and perseverance in producing the document.

Thank you for reading.



***Thaxted Surgery
Participation Group***

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We would like to thank everyone who donated prizes, made a donation, bought tickets, sold tickets or helped in any way to make this raffle a success.

The raffle brought in £2050. This is going towards Blood Pressure machines for home monitoring and equipping admin rooms for future clinical use.

Subject headings of the TPC's Response

Sustainability *The DLP justifiably recognises Thaxted as less sustainable than other key settlements within Uttlesford.*

Transport Infrastructure *The assumption is that a significant number of additional cars will be required to get people to work, school, shops recreation, in an already recognised un-sustainable environment.*

Housing *Thaxted has significantly contributed over the years to the increase in housing within the District.*

Education *The DLP proposes a new (replacement) Primary School on the site off Sampford Road.*

Landscape and Heritage *TPC note that a major policy from the 2005 plan has been omitted and not adequately replaced by a suitable equivalent.*

Services *The DLP, with its proposal of a major influx of housing makes no reference for any additional services.*

Economy *TPC note that the DLP identifies no proposals for developing the Thaxted economy.*

Flood Risk *Thaxted has a documented history of flood events.*

Neighbourhood Plan *TPC have referenced within the Landscape and Heritage Section how the detailed information and justification for Thaxted's neighbourhood Plan has not been included.*

Proposals *TPC list a series of proposals which we believe could help mitigate the concerns raised within our response and assist in suitable drafting of the DLP to meet its intended aims.*

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THAXTED PLANTERS

Cllr. Alison Howells



This is a picture of last year's tulips in full bloom and I hope you'll agree, they looked wonderful. This year's flowers are just beginning to show above the pansies and I'm sure they will just as spectacular.

This show is not achieved without a great deal of hard work and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who bought and planted the tubs, Michael and Julia Robinson, Veronica Charter, Sandra Bass and Sue and Rob Faulkner, Nick Elcombe and Hitesh Mistry, plus all the people who watered the tubs so assiduously last summer (they've not needed any so far this winter!), Michael and Julia, Margaret Caton, Kathy and Helen from Gifted, Lorna and Ed Burkle and Nick and Hitesh. Without their hard work the summer flowers would very quickly look awful.

Finally, although the Parish Council pays for the flowers, the tulips are extra and are paid for by our generous sponsors. So my thanks go to Kathy and Helen at Gifted, Rachel Wicks, Jean Knight and Nick and Hitesh, Cannon Architecture, Thaxted Society and Yvonne Whiteley. Everyone I have spoken to agrees that they make the tubs extra special.

If anyone would like to join us we'd be delighted to hear from you; please contact alison@thaxted.co.uk.

Thaxted - NEWS - Society

At the Society so much of what we do and sometimes achieve is entirely due to two fundamentals: first, the best outcome for everyone, and second, the volunteers who work tirelessly to make *that* happen.

Often what goes on at meetings is considered non-action, but that is not the case. Discussion and strategy are important in preparing for any action going forward. Much of what affects our lives is both discussed and decided, very often without our input, and even when we are asked to contribute, we may be left with the unerring sense of ‘what was the point’? Were we heard?

Well, here is the point! The accumulative effect of our participation and contributions. Month by month and year after year, repeated responses to consultations and inclusion build a robust picture of an engaged community. At The Thaxted Society we have evidence, based upon responses and our engagement on behalf of Thaxted. The more engaged we have become the more our voice is heard.

Over the years Thaxted Society have developed respected positions and policies. It took the dedicated work of volunteers, to publish the Thaxted Design

Statement in 2010, (the precursor to the Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan), and in 2016 the Thaxted Building Design Guide, republished in 2023. They all have had an impact. You can read them here: thaxtedsociety.com

That impact may be little more than a pause for thought, or a simple reference to the document or policy, but, once that has happened then planners and developers alike cannot avoid seeing that we mean business. Noting that Thaxted cares and expects *that care in return*.

Whilst our oasis of calm may be treasured, we must not forget the bigger picture. Being cut off by snow is less likely than in the 1960’s but being out of step, cut off from what goes on beyond the Parish remains a risk that may increasingly impact our quiet oasis.

Remember that Uttlesford is almost 90% rural and unbuilt. Without strategy and action, we are always at risk, after all, who wouldn’t want to live in Thaxted?



Apparently, Mr Gove thinks everyone does...

We have written to the Minister to disabuse him of the simple fact that what he might wish for is only possible if:

he drives the buses,
mends the sewers,
fills the pot holes,
mends the streetlights,
provides the new sports pitches,
saves the Guildhall,
saves our Library,
slows the traffic!!
contributes to CLT provision of
social housing.

and generally, he funds the required infrastructure, **before his day dreams!**

(NB: The Thaxted Society is aware that this list is not exhaustive and would be pleased to hear from you if you would like to add to the list and join us in working to cross it off! thethaxtedsociety@gmail.com)

We remain focused on the Local Plan process for Uttlesford and will continue to contribute and monitor its progress. The Committee is keen to hear from those who may be inclined to work with us, persons committed to Thaxted's future, with ideas of how we might get there. Please do get in touch.



Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework NPPF suggest some hope for Thaxted. One change is to consider 'out of character' developments that harm the local character of a place. Another makes clear that low grade farmland should be preferred to high grade food producing land when considering development.

Recent planning applications, whilst small in scope, are nevertheless robustly scrutinised by the Society, as well as the Parish Council, particularly where they are within the conservation area. Altering a listed building is a delicate balance and only realistically possible where care has been taken with the building's, history, its narrative, and location.

June 6th will see the AGM of the Society, our sixty first Annual General Meeting, which this year includes a special guest speaker. We hope you will mark your calendar. Further details will be announced online and posted.

Easter is firmly associated with peace, and of course spring, which brings us to bunnies. No matter how you celebrate Easter, fluffy friends, eggs, or church, have a very happy time.

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MIKE MCCOOK WEIR 1932 - 2024

A personal tribute by Caroline Mccookweir

My father died at home in Thaxted on the 17th December 2023.

He was born on 4th June 1932 in St. Saviour, Jersey one of four boys. Most of Mike's childhood was spent on a farm near Sudbury in Suffolk called Eyston Lodge. It still exists and is remarkably unchanged. The boys walked the 4 miles to school in Foxearth, except when they had the use of a bicycle for part of the way. This contraption had no saddle, no brakes and no tyres and 3 of them rode it at the same time. They called it "the Ram" and it could be heard coming for miles.

Henry had hoped Mike would take up farming, but Dad had set his sights, literally higher. He wanted to be a pilot. Nonetheless he completed a year at Writtle Agricultural College to please his father, then he joined the Navy to learn how to fly. His training took place partly in Florida and also in Lossiemouth in Scotland, and at some point during this time he met my mother Mary at a Fleet Air Arm Function. He used to tell the story of "borrowing" a jet to fly from Scotland to the South to meet up



with Mum. They married in 1956. Unfortunately due to Mike being called to sea because of the Suez Crisis, my mother spent her honeymoon with her mother, Dora.

Mike spent 12 years in the Navy, flying fighter jets, particularly Sea Vixens, from Aircraft Carriers. He saw service from the Mediterranean to the Far East, and developed formidable skills as a pilot, as well as the ability to be able to sleep through anything. When he left the Navy, he flew commercially for B.O.A.C., Aer Lingus, British Eagle, and Cathay Pacific. The family all moved from England to Ireland to Wales and then Hong Kong. Dad flew in and out of the infamous Kai Tak Airport for nearly 20 years. When Dad retired from flying, he and Mary moved to Seattle, where Dad worked taking delivery of Boeing Jets for Cathay.

They finally retired to Blandford in Dorset, then Lichfield before moving to Thaxted in 2003. Tragically, in July 2004, my mother, who had long battled with appalling depression, took

her own life. Part of my father's coping strategy was to start going to church. There he met Patricia. They married in 2005 and had a very happy 15 years together. Both were Gemini, both inveterate travellers and they must have circumnavigated the globe many times on their numerous cruises. During this time Mike was also active as a volunteer in many different organisations, including Rotary, Probus and the Parochial Church Council.

In his eighties, Mike's memory started to decline and eventually he was diagnosed with Dementia. He lost his only son, Michael, himself a pilot in 2016 to lung cancer, which didn't help his mental state. That said, he retained his humour, scrabble skills and long term memory to the end. I shall remember his kindness, patience, generosity, sense of duty and daft sense of humour.

LORD MAYNARD'S CHARITY

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

The charity is in the care of five Trustees and is administered by the Trustees together with the Vicar and Churchwardens of Thaxted, 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 2024. Please give the names and dates of birth of the qualifying children.
2. Couples - one or both being resident in Thaxted - who were married in Thaxted Parish Church within the previous twelve months of the qualifying date - 31st August 2024. 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 2024. They will be reviewed at a meeting of the Trustees and Administrators to be held in September 2024.

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Founded 2021

It's been an exciting few months over here at TCLT HQ, both busy and productive, with the board continuing to work hard to deliver for our community.

Excitingly, this month has seen our plans finally put down on paper. Having closely collaborated with English Rural, they have now worked with their architects to put together a scheme they feel will work well on the plot of land we plan to develop. This will provide four affordable homes for rent, for LOCAL people/families. We are extremely excited at the prospect of this first scheme, and to finally be at the point of a planning application.

All being well, February will see the launch of our consultation website, and so we hope that by the time of reading this, many of you will have engaged in this process. This will be followed by our AGM, which will hopefully coincide with some longer and warmer days! It will be a great opportunity for you to come along, hear more about us, and participate in the process. Do keep your eyes peeled for further information on the date and time.

If you'd like to keep up to date with our news and events, then do give us a follow on our social media pages. You can find us at:



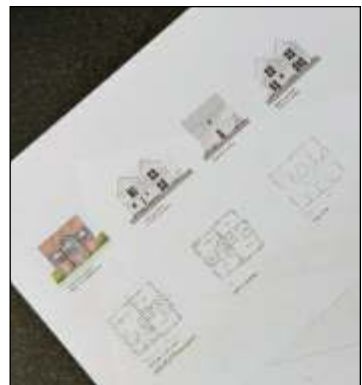
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ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT THAXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, BOLDFORD STREET

SUNDAYS

We usually meet for Morning Worship on Sundays at 9.30 am, sharing coffee after the service. On the first Sunday of the month our service includes Communion.

BREAKFAST CHURCH

On the second Sunday each month, "Breakfast Church" at 9.30 am starts with a light breakfast of bacon rolls, croissants and pains au chocolat, followed by an informal, family friendly service. This service is especially suitable for families with children. Everybody welcome! Breakfast Church will meet at 9.30 am on Sundays 10th March and 14th April.

THE STORY

On the first Sunday each month we also meet for an informal service exploring "the Story" focussing on each book of the Bible. The services are followed by light refreshments and an opportunity for discussion. The Story will be on Sundays 3rd March and 7th April at 3 pm.

MESSY CHURCH

"Messy Church" meets on the second Wednesday each month from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm and is probably best described as "Church, but not as you know it"! Ideal for families, we have fun exploring stories through craft,

songs and sharing tea together. Messy Church meets again at 4pm on Wednesdays 13th March and 10th April.

SECOND SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

We meet for tea, coffee, cake and chat on the second Saturday each month from 10.00 am to 12.30. Everybody welcome and we have activities available for children. The next Second Saturday Coffee Mornings will be on 9th March and 13th April.

OUR GARDEN

We are working on a "wild garden" at the rear of our church: a space to sit, reflect and also provide a home for birds, insects and other wildlife. If you'd like to get involved in this project, please get in touch.

EASTER 2024

Everybody is welcome at our family friendly communion service on Easter Sunday, 31st March, at 9.30 am. We'll have activities available for children and will share tea, coffee and light refreshments after the service.

For more information about all our activities, please contact our minister, Revd Mark Hayes.

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Heritage
Fund

The Development Phase of the project 'Thaxted Windmill - Conserved for its Community' is being helped by a group of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. Some were recruited through Facebook; others through articles in the Press; by attendance at the Thaxted Community Fair or by individual contacts.

So that the Windmill could be fully assessed for repair, the artefacts which have been displayed in the building for many years needed to be removed and placed in safe storage. This was done on 23 and 24 November 2023 by sixteen volunteers who gave 90.5 hours to the task. Four members of Saffron Walden Camera Club generously attended to make a visual record of the work.

On Saturday 13 January 2024, seventeen people came to learn about the opportunities for volunteering until June of this year, when the Development Phase ends. Anne Mason, Project Manager, gave a presentation about the project, explaining the structural and Millwrighting machinery work needed to conserve the Windmill and then describing the tasks that volunteers could undertake to gather vital information which will help in planning the Delivery Phase. As a result, working Mills are being visited to assess the feasibility of Thaxted Windmill's producing flour; a Resources Directory is being compiled, listing the archives which relate to the Windmill; research is underway to find Mills in other parts of the world undergoing restoration, to compare knowledge,

expertise and experiences and to set up a web-based Mills community; in addition, educational providers are being consulted about learning materials.

A consultation evening on Friday 9 February, held in the Church Hall, Margaret Street, was attended by forty-seven people, evidence of the interest there is in the Windmill. They heard about the plans for the structural repairs from Ed Morton, Managing Director of The Morton Partnership and the Lead Consultant to the project. He also described the work needed to the sails and Millwrighting machinery, on behalf of Luke Bonwick, Consultant Millwright. Trudi Hughes, Historic England's Heritage at Risk Surveyor spoke about the importance of promoting the conservation of heritage buildings and Millwrighting as careers for young people.

Anne Mason, Project Manager, gave an overview of the work currently being undertaken for access, interpretation, learning materials and the care of the artefacts. She also talked about the opportunities for day schools, workshops, family and other events which need to be planned now and then included in the submission to The National Lottery Heritage Fund in June for funding for the Delivery Phase. There will also be a further application for funding to Historic England.

To help ensure that the activities will appeal to the widest range of people and increase interest in the Windmill, those attending completed a consultation form. This form is also available as a paper copy at the Community Centre / Library or it can be requested by emailing johnwebbswindmill@gmail.com.

Mark Rickards, Secretary to Thaxted Windmill Trust CIO, who led the consultation evening, was delighted at the range of organisations who attended and would like to extend the thanks of the Trustees for the support demonstrated by the community.

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THAXTED FESTIVAL
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Thaxted Festival 21 June - 14 July 2024



Nadine Benjamin, soprano.
Image © Teresa Elwes

General booking for our summer season opens on Monday 18 March, and we look forward to welcoming you to this year's wide-ranging programme. The Festival is proud to bring internationally renowned musicians right to our doorstep here in Thaxted, attracting audiences and critical acclaim from far and wide.

This year is particularly special, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of composer Gustav Holst, who lived in and around Thaxted in the early twentieth century and played such a part in the development of its musical and cultural life. His belief that music-making can enrich everyone's lives is our inspiration for the Festival, and our programme this year will feature many of his works across four weeks, including some that are less often performed and will be a revelation as they come to life in the church and town he loved so much.

You'll find full details of all our events on our website - www.thaxtedfestival.co.uk - together with details about the artists, their programmes, and video and audio tasters of their work. You can book online and receive your e-tickets immediately. There's everything from full symphony concerts with London Mozart Players, the amazing vocal talents of VOCES8, an evening with British star soprano Nadine Benjamin MBE, opera with a fully staged *Magic Flute*, chamber and choral music, plus smooth jazz vocals and piano from Joanna Eden, and an intriguing folk take on Holst's music. There's even a world premiere of a symphony we have commissioned from young composer Noah Max,



Joanna Eden. Image ©
Graham Pattison

part of our support for our Developing Artists Programme.

Not only all that, but we've extended the series of popular Festival Extra events which we began last year. There are recitals, talks, discussions, recordings, workshops, art and more throughout our season, not to mention a return of Ken Baker's popular Thaxted Ghost Walk, which sold out in days last year!



Noah Max



Stephens and Pound.
Image © Alex Moldovan

All of our events are on sale at a range of prices to suit all pockets, and with the superb acoustics in our glorious Parish Church everyone can enjoy the performances no matter where you sit. And don't forget that there's a special price of £10 for any available seat for those aged 30 and under.

None of our ambitious programme would be possible without the dedication of our volunteer teams who bring our events to life.

We're invigorating our catering offering for 2024 and we'd love to hear from people who could volunteer to assist with this. For an informal chat, just email music@thaxtedfestival.co.uk and we'll get back to you.

We look forward to welcoming you to our summer 2024 events.

Peter Donovan, Chairman, Thaxted Festival Foundation
www.thaxtedfestival.co.uk



London Mozart Players

TH
THAXTED FESTIVAL
• EST. 1918 •

Patrons: Marijke Curtis, Zeb Soanes

Fri 21 June, 7.30pm: London Mozart Players; *Iyad Sughayer, piano*

Sat 22 June, 7.30pm: Nadine Benjamin, *soprano*; Jan Karl Raufio, *piano*

Sun 23 June, 7.30pm: Joanna Eden, *piano*, and her band

Fri 28 June, 7.30pm: Stevens and Pound

Sat 29 June, 12 noon: Lincoln Organ Recital, *Peter Holder*

Sat 29 June, 7.30pm: The Nash Ensemble

Sun 30 June, 5.00pm: Wild Arts, *Mozart: The Magic Flute*

Fri 5 July, 7.30pm: Echo Ensemble, Zeb Soanes, Selina Cadell

Sat 6 July, 7.30pm: Armonico Consort, *Purcell: The Fairy Queen*

Sun 7 July, 6.00pm: Choir of King's College London,
English Chamber Orchestra

Fri 12 July, 7.30pm: VOCEs8

Sat 13 July, 7.30pm: Iyad Sughayer, *piano*, Armand Djikoloum, *oboe*

Sun 14 July, 3.00pm: Sirinu: *Family Concert at Saffron Walden Museum*

Sun 14 July, 6.00pm: London Mozart Players

*In addition to these concerts, there is a wide programme of **Festival Extras**, listed inside. Our website has full details of all artists and their programmes, including additional events not listed here, together with online booking.*

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21 June to
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THAXTED MORRIS MEN

Thaxted Morris Men will soon be back dancing after their Autumn and Winter practices, though you may have seen them out on Boxing Day and Plough Sunday. They are preparing the summer programme and you will be able to find it on the Thaxted Morris website and on their Facebook page.

Dates when you can see Thaxted Morris Men dancing in Thaxted:-

Thaxted Morris will, as usual, be dancing on Bank Holidays at 11 am in Thaxted Churchyard. The first one this season is **Easter**

Monday - April 1st, which is All Fools' Day - so be prepared. The other Bank Holidays to put in your diaries are:

Monday 6th May

- Early May Bank Holiday

Monday 27th May

- Spring Bank Holiday

Monday 26 August

- Summer Bank Holiday

Thaxted Morris Men's Annual Weekend is on June 1st and 2nd and will follow the traditional pattern - tours around the villages on Saturday returning to Thaxted for two massed shows in Town Street ending at about 10.15 pm with Thaxted Morris Men dancing the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance. On Sunday, one of the visiting

sides will dance in church as part of the Sung Mass. The service is followed by dancing in Thaxted Churchyard. The weekend ends with Morris and Country Dancing in Margaret Gardens.

The special programme with all the tours and which sides are coming together with the timetable will be available in May but we do know that we will have about 200 dancers visiting Thaxted including Claro Longsword and Saddleworth Morris Men.

As usual Town Street will be closed on Saturday 1st June from 5.45 pm to 10.30.

The alternative route will be Bell Lane, Margaret Street, Weaverhead Lane and The Tanyard, with parking restrictions along the diversion especially in Margaret Street and Bell Lane

Thaxted Patronal Festival is on Saturday 22nd June with Morris and Country Dancing through the town from 7.30 pm ending with the Abbot's Bromley Horn Dance at about 10.15 pm in Thaxted Churchyard

You will be able to find more information on Thaxted Morris website - thaxtedmorris.org - or on their Facebook page - just search for Thaxted Morris Men.



BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

Peter Archibald

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Community Breakfast is now held on the **second** Saturday of each month and continues to have a good attendance. For further details please contact Paul Tingey on 07494 757114.

HUMPHREY LODGE SERVICE

As part of our community activities we continue holding a service at Humphrey Lodge every month on the 1st Monday of the month at 10.30 am.

COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Thaxted Ladies Community Choir meet fortnightly on Mondays at 7.15 pm in our Church Hall. We sing for companionship and pleasure, and If you enjoy singing come along and join us. For more details please ring Jill Jones on 01371 830 104.

COFFEE & COMPANY

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one and would like to chat and also have mutual support with people who understand, please come and join us for coffee/tea and cake. We meet on the last Saturday of every month in our Church hall between 10 and 11.30 am. For details visit www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com or ring Debbie on 01371831548

EXERCISE CLASSES

The armchair exercise for the elderly have now recommenced and are held in our Church hall every Thursday starting at 10.30 a.m., All welcome.

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING

We have a Coffee Morning every Friday between 10 and 11.30 am in our Church Hall. Come and enjoy good beverages and company.

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Palm Sunday 24th March	8 am	Mass
	11am	Sung Mass
Monday 25th March	7.30 pm	Compline
Tuesday 26th March	7.30 pm	Compline
Wednesday 27th March	10.00 am	Low Mass
Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm	Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altars
Good Friday 29th March	10.00 am	Reflections on the Passion
	11.00 am	Thaxted Walk of Witness
	2.00 pm	Proclamation of the Cross
Holy Saturday 30th March	8.00 pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Day	8.00 am	Mass
	11.00 am	Sung Mass

THE BAPTIST CHURCH, PARK STREET

www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com

or [facebook.com/thaxtedbaptists/](https://www.facebook.com/thaxtedbaptists/)

Contact : Jim Ford Tel 07889758285

Good Friday	9.30 a.m.	Morning Service
Good Friday	11.00 a.m.	Walk of Witness
Sundays	10.30 am	Church Service
Thursday	8.00 pm	Bible Study
Friday	10 - 11.30 am	Coffee Morning
Saturday	8.45 for 9.a.m.	Men's Breakfast

[Held on the second Saturday of each month]

Please see the Baptist News section for our community activities.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

For information contact : Patrick O'Brien 01371 830 480

Regular Thaxted Services SATURDAYS 5 pm in Parish Church

All other Services will be in Bardfield.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BOLDFORD STREET

For more information about all our activities, please contact our minister, Revd Mark Hayes.

Phone 01799 524944 or email markhayes@hotmail.co.uk

Sundays 9.30 am Service with Communion on the first Sunday of the month, with coffee following all services.

For full details of ALL our activities and events please see page 38.

BAPTISMS.

21 January 2024 Charlie Peter Stephen Matthews, son of Lucy and Paul Matthews.

IN MEMORIAM

Derek Bush, Norma Johns, Mike McCook-Weir, Patricia McCook-Weir, David Petchey, Sybil Padfield, Sheilah Rengert, Shirley Richardson, Mavis Vonderahe, Rachel White.

SOME DATES

Mon 1 April	11.00 Thaxted Morris Men in Churchyard
Sat 6 April	Eco Thaxted Open Day
Sat 20 April	International Organ Day
Sat 27 April	Friends of Thaxted Church Opera Evening
Sun 28 April	Granta Chorale - Holst in Thaxted Anniversary Concert
Mon 6 May	May Fayre with Moorcroft
	11.00 Thaxted Morris Men in Churchyard
Sat 15 May	9.00am-12 noon Churches Together BIG BREKKIE in support of Christian Aid
Sat 25 May	Fayre and Fun Dog Show - Recreation Ground
Mon 27 May	11.00 Thaxted Morris Men in Churchyard
1st - 2 June	Morris week-end - See thaxtedmorris.org for details.
Sat 1 June	Friends of Thaxted Church - Cream teas in Church
Sun 16 June	Thaxted Open Gardens based at the Church Hall Margaret Street. Collect your map and tour the town.
Fri 21 June-Sun 14 July	Thaxted Festival (weekends)
Say 22 June	Patronal Festival 7.30 at Primary School - 10.15 Abbot's Bromley Horn Dance in Churchyard.

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ISN'T IT TIME TO LET GO?

Jim Ford

About ten years ago in Scotland I had the most remarkable conversation for all the wrong reasons. It was a cold winter's morning and I was standing at the entrance of the care home where my mother was living.



Conscious of a presence I turned and engaged in conversation with the man behind me. Indulging in that well-loved British topic “the weather,” I happened to say that it was even colder in England. To which my fellow Scot remarked, “I don’t care about the English. They beat us at Culloden. Just to put this statement in context, the previously mentioned “Culloden” was a battle fought in April 1746. My “patriotic” friend was obviously unaware that the Scots actually fought on both sides as it was less a Scottish/English battle and more a Protestant/Catholic conflict. Known as “the 45” it was the last attempt of the Catholic Stuarts to wrestle the throne from the Protestant Hanoverians. To my amazement the same conflict generated another explosion of feeling in Scotland this week. Edinburgh Castle has just re-

opened its cafe and named it “The Redcoat Cafe.” It was Redcoats who fought on the Hanoverian side at Culloden and garrisoned Scotland in 1746. Once again feelings are running high over a close to

300-year-old battle. Resentments run very deep.

As I reflected on this quite bizarre state of affairs my thoughts turned to two incidents at the cross where Jesus offers forgiveness. Both are found in Luke’s gospel. In the first incident the crowd, including the religious leaders are mocking Jesus for his apparent helplessness. Instead of anger Jesus responds with a prayer to his Father in Heaven: “Forgive them Father for they don’t know what they are doing.” In the face of hatred and mockery he responds with forgiveness. Far from being angry he is full of compassion for his enemies. The second incident involves a convicted thief hanging next to him who pleads, “Jesus remember me when you come in to your kingdom.” A man with no hope of

making amends cries to Jesus for mercy and amazingly he responds with “I tell you, this very day you will be with me in Paradise.”

National and personal resentments destroy lives. Whether it is Israeli and Palestinian in Gaza, Catholic and Protestant in Northern Ireland, Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda or Harry and William the refusal to forgive tears people apart. Yet a key message of Easter is surely that forgiveness mends. A preacher once said that it was no accident

that Jesus was a carpenter. Carpenters mend things that are broken. Jesus’s death on the cross mended the relationship between humanity and God. For those who believe, the pathway to God is opened up through Jesus and human beings can come home. Christ’s forgiveness of us allows us in turn to forgive others. The terrible burden of hatred and resentment can be lifted.

Perhaps if I spoke to that man again, I would say to him, “Isn’t it time to let go”?

Thaxted Lecture Society

The Lecture Society is pleased to announce its AGM will take place on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30 pm. at Pam’s Place.

ALL Welcome. Refreshments will be served.

You would be especially welcome if you are willing to consider joining our committee and helping to shape our future programme.

The Lecture Society presents weekly talks on a variety of subjects between October and Easter each year. For more information or to join our mailing list contact Peter Simmons simmons.peter@btinternet.com

Thaxted Bridge Club

We are a small friendly club for people wishing to improve their game (at any level).

We meet at 1.30 pm on Mondays at Thaxted United Reformed Church in Bolford Street and deal and play random hands and then discuss what should have happened.

For more information, please contact Helen and Stuart Walker.

Email : brickhousecm6@btinternet.com or tel: 01279 850862

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UPDATE FROM THE THAXTED FAYRE TRUST BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER THROUGH FUNDRAISING

COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

We are thrilled to announce this year's Community Grants have been awarded to:

- **Thaxted Live £250** to host a collaborative free live music event in July 2024 with Thaxted Festival.
- **Thaxted Rangers Football Club £500** to purchase equipment (i.e. new goals, corner flags, training gear)
- **Thaxted Gardening & Craft Show £132** to purchase equipment to help make the event greener and more sustainable.
- **Thaxted Society £500** to go towards the restoration of the town entry signs, Society publications of planning guidance, annual report and Guide.
- **Thaxted River Wardens £300** to purchase 2 trail cameras to monitor otter sites in Thaxted (and other wildlife)
- **1st Thaxted-Carver Scout Group £TBC** to support the Group this provides young people with that first intervention to deter away from crime, whilst gaining essential transferable life-long skills and making new friendships.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The community grant cheques will be presented to recipients at our Annual General Meeting at the Swan Hotel, Bullring, Thaxted on **Monday 4th March from 7:30pm**. Our AGM is a public meeting and we are therefore happy for members of the community to come along and find out more about what the Trust does for Thaxted.

THAXTED MORRIS WEEKEND - 1 - 2ND JUNE

In addition to the Annual Community Grant Scheme, Thaxted Fayre Trust will also be paying for and organising collection of 4 large rubbish bins to be located on Town Street for Morris Weekend. We would therefore encourage all residents and visitors to use these for any waste disposal to help keep our town clean and tidy whilst enjoying this traditional event.

ANNUAL FAYRE & FUN DOG SHOW

This year's **Fayre & Fun Dog Show** will be held on **Saturday 25th May** at the Recreation Ground. Join us for a fun filled day out for all the

family. Don't forget to bring your four legged friends as we have a fabulous fun dog show starting at 1pm with lots of different classes and a few games. This is all along side local stall holders and much more...

If you are interested in being a stallholder or Food Vendor at this event, please contact us via our Facebook page, email thaxtedfayretrust@outlook.com or write to TFT Secretary 4 Watling Street, Thaxted CM6 2PE

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THAXTED SINGERS

Maggi Griffiths

The start of 2024 has been a very encouraging one for Thaxted Singers, with well over 40 singers signed up for the new term. We have also welcomed some newcomers into the choir and are always open to receiving new members. There is no requirement to read music and no auditions to join. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to come along for a free taster rehearsal before committing.

Following on from our very successful summer concert in June, conducted by Steve Griffiths, we took part in the Thaxted Town Carol Service in Thaxted Parish Church in early December. Later in the month we put on our very own Seasonal Concert, conducted by Maggi Griffiths and were delighted to be singing to a very large audience in Thaxted Parish Church. At this concert we were pleased to welcome back Annabel Crossman, who not only sang in the choir, but also performed two solo items. Annabel has recently graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Vocal Performance from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, so we are delighted to welcome her back to the choir.

Our next concert is scheduled to take place on Sunday June 9th in Thaxted Parish Church, when we will be performing a wide variety of music ranging from Handel to the Beatles.

We also now have our very own website: <https://www.thaxtedsingers.co.uk/>

Please contact Maggi Griffiths maggigriffiths@gmail.com for any further information about our choir.



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in Dunmow

Are you looking for a new hobby? Maybe you are new to the CM6 area and want to meet local people. If you are also **no longer in full-time employment** then **Dunmow u3a could be for you**.

We are part of the UK-wide u3a movement and offer opportunities for members to learn a new skill, expand existing interests and share knowledge with other members in a friendly and informal environment.

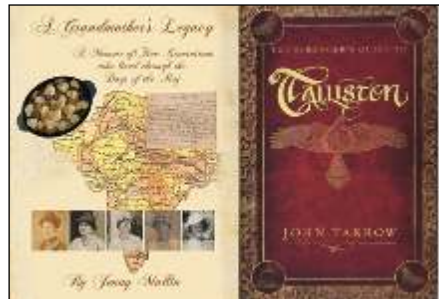
Dunmow u3a has **over 35 member-led interest groups** from arts to exercise and languages to sports, with indoor games, discussion groups and outdoor activities in between.

On Wednesday 27th March, Dunmow u3a will be welcoming Patricia Pearce MBE to tell us more about her book "**My Dream Flights**". The first part of her book is about Pat's 39 year flying career as cabin crew for British Airways including flying the Queen. The second part is about the charity she founded in 1987, called Dreamflight. They take seriously ill and disabled children to Orlando every October for 10 days with a huge team of volunteer doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and other helpers.



Wednesday 7th March - 1.30pm for 2pm start. Foakes Hall, Dunmow CM6 1DG

Looking ahead, at the end of April, Jenny Mallin will be telling us about "My Grandmother's Legacy - My British Raj family" and in May, we will be learning about Talliston House - the unique property on our doorsteps in Dunmow. Tony Harris will be back by popular request, at our AGM in June, entertaining us, this time as William Shakespeare.



Our monthly meetings are a great opportunity to **meet up with other members**, find out more about our 35 **Interest Groups**, book a place on one of our popular **Outings**, choose a few magazines from our **Magazine Swaps** table, pick up a copy of our **latest newsletter** or just enjoy a cup of tea (please remember to bring your own mug) and enjoy the speaker.



in *Dunmow*

These monthly meetings are free and **open to non-members** as well as members, so do come along and see for yourself.

To find out more, contact us on 07385 879846 or go to Du3a's website <https://u3asites.org.uk/dunmow/welcome>
Registered charity number: 1168310

THAXTED LIBRARY NEWS

Janet Easterbrooke - Senior Customer Services Assistant

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Our popular, friendly *Rhymetimes* for babies and pre-schoolers run every Friday, 9.30 – 10.00 am and our *Family Storytime* sessions take place on the last Saturday of the month at 10.00 -10.30 am. It has been lovely to see lots of new babies coming to our Friday session this year.

An Easter themed *Rhymetime* will take place on Friday 22nd March, Easter bonnets encouraged! There will also be an *Easter Crafts* session on Saturday 30th March between 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. There is no need to book for any of these sessions.

It has been fantastic to welcome so many children from Thaxted Primary School who have come to the library for topic themed class visits during this term. I have learnt so many facts about Dinosaurs and Plants!

ADULT EVENTS

We are launching a Knit, Crochet and Natter session, run by our volunteer Nicole, starting on Saturday 17th February between 10.30 am and 12.00 pm and continuing every third Saturday of the month through the year. Please come along for a chat, cuppa and crafting!

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Friday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Friday 1.00 - 4.00 pm Information volunteer staff most weeks

Saturday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

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SHEILAH RENGERT

A personal tribute by Sybil King

Sheilah was a registered nurse right up to the day she died! Sybil met her in 1964 at that time when she was expecting her first baby. In those days, such matters were not discussed openly as they are now and a certain amount of mystery surrounded the whole proceedings. Late I opened my door, there in full uniform, stood this wonderful Health Visitor, Sheilah. She was kind, efficient, chatty and, over the weeks, particularly helpful in the matter caring for a new baby. Later, Sheilah came to me and said "Sybil, I need some advice now! What's it really like?!!"

Sheilah was born in Norfolk on 9th June 1936. During the second World War, the whole family moved to Talybont in North Wales. The little girls went to Infant School there and learned the Welsh language. They thoroughly enjoyed being able to make comments which their parents could not understand!!

After the war, Sheilah's father became a manager at Heinz Foods. He maintained that no soup could compare with Heinz Tomato Soup, even when home made from

freshly grown tomatoes, it was never as good as Heinz!

Sheilah needed an operation on her eyes and was fascinated by the care taken by the nurses. This was the inspiration for her future life and career!

Sheilah qualified as a Nurse in Norwich Hospital, then as a Midwife in St Thomas Hospital, London and as a Health Visitor at Southampton.

Sheilah met Chris at a meeting both were reluctant to attend. A fortnight later came a first date. Not long after they were married in September 1963 so reaching their Diamond Wedding in 2023!

They moved to a bungalow in Thaxted and continued their careers, Sheilah becoming a Health Visitor for the Elderly, attached to Addenbrookes. She played a significant role in the introduction of a scheme to relieve the pressure on Carers, and to improve the level of provision of hospital facilities.

Sheilah was a Lay member for various committees at the Royal College of Physicians, a member of the Health Ministry Clinical Standards Advisory Body and an



active member of the Committee of the British Nursing Association. After retirement she became legal adviser, offering litigation advice to the Court in cases of elderly health care.

Her main interest at home was her garden. Being generous hosts and good cooks, Sheilah and Chris held many very jolly Christmas parties, both for friends and for more fund-

raising events. Chris became involved with the restoration of the Lincoln Organ so Sheilah gave full support to all the fund-raising events held for that. We thank her for all her compassion and loving care.

So much passion to make a difference to people, is so evident from this short piece. The memory of this dedicated health professional will last for a long time.

HOLST IN THAXTED – A CONDITION OF ETERNITY

For those of us who live in Thaxted, it may be unremarkable that composer Gustav Holst lived among us from 1913 to 1925. I sing in local amateur choir Granta Chorale (<https://www.grantachorale.org.uk/>) and, in researching a concert to celebrate Holst's 150th anniversary year in 2024, it has surprised me what a remarkable period of war, revolution, art and religion this time was. I hope fellow Thaxted residents can join us at our celebration concert at **4pm on Sunday 28 April in Thaxted Church** and experience something of Gustav Holst's musical life in Thaxted.

Our concert features his compositions, music that inspired him, and music inspired by him. We trace Holst's arrival in Thaxted, his founding of the Whitsun Festival and his later life. From his inaugural Festival programme we sing Bach's Kyrie in A, along with Kyries by his great friend Vaughan Williams, and by his daughter Imogen. Organist Richard Carr plays the Jig from the St Paul's Suite on the Lincoln organ which Holst himself played, and we sing Holst's Nunc Dimittis, folksong arrangements and festival Choruses. Janet Wheeler's Ceaseless Round of Circling Planets, written for the centenary of the Planets Suite, uses solo waterphone to create otherworldly sounds. Between the varied music we hear words from Holst and his contemporaries that evoke the extraordinary time of England in the 1910s.

Holst said of choral singing in Thaxted, "Music - being identical with heaven - isn't a thing of momentary thrills, or even hourly ones. It's a condition of eternity." Join Granta Chorale on 28 April to share that experience of eternity in our glorious church.

See our poster on the next page for details of the event.

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directed by Janet Wheeler

Holst in Thaxted

A condition of eternity

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THIS BLESSED WHAT?

Maggie Catterall

It started like any other Wednesday morning in early Spring with mass in church at 10am. I engaged briefly, thereafter, with some visitors who were asking about filming in and around the church. Having introduced them to a Church Warden, who could give them accurate information, I retreated down Stoney Lane to continue with the business of my day.

No sooner had I brewed coffee, than someone knocked on my door. I later learned that 'they' had been at various doors and had been met with varying degrees of enthusiasm. I suspect that the slightly comical display of teddy bears in my large bay window sparked interest. Perhaps I would be a slightly eccentric resident who would engage with their ideas.

My outlook on life is to say yes to most new experiences if they intrigue me. Living in a little cobbled street in a small rural town in Essex, this was an opportunity I had not expected to come my way. I was being invited to participate in a film to be shot mainly in Thaxted. Even without a clear idea of the storyline, I was fascinated to be part of the process.

Marc the Director and Adam the Script Writer had conversations with me to explain the process in more detail. It transpired that they teach young people the craft of film making and several of their advanced students would form part of the team. They handled sound and lighting, scene setting and props. One of them, delightful Lori, was the real star of the show. This young Chinese girl would be filming within the film; an absorbing technique for revealing parts of the story. As a group of differing nationalities, they worked together wonderfully as a team. They were helpful, courteous, respectful of my belongings and fun.

After the initial briefings, all went silent, and I began to wonder whether 'they' had had second thoughts about me. Suddenly a message would indicate everything was springing into life. The gang would pile into my little house with lights, boom, cameras and more. Before I knew it, my room would be transformed into 'the set'. If I had been panicking about learning lines or wardrobe, hair or make up I need not have worried. It was a matter of wearing my own clothes, styling my own hair, and making up as normal. Occasionally a photo would ping up on my phone showing

a particular outfit I had worn, with a request to wear the same again. I almost gave Marc a heart attack part way through filming by announcing that I was off to Edinburgh to visit my tame hairdresser for my annual haircut. He prevailed upon me to delay this.

There was no written script to learn. For each scene Marc would give me the main thread of what was happening and the gist of what he wanted me to say. I then had to speak in my own voice, using my own language, to bring out the sense of the story. If I failed to achieve sufficient authenticity, then we would do it again. For much of the filming, Marc shot the characters at very close range. Nowhere to hide. Each conversation took place twice over. He would focus the camera on one of us at a time. Part of his skill lay in editing the material, so it flowed in conversations. Sadly, I did not have the opportunity to review the scenes during the process. This meant that, the completed film, did not always come across exactly as I would have liked either in speech or facial expression. I must simply remind myself that I am a part of the process, playing a character the director has imagined. The success or otherwise of this will lie with whether I portray the landlady to Lori in the way he has envisaged for the purposes of this story and whether the traits and eccentricities I display through the character are convincing in context.

Some scenes were filmed in church when I was in my server's outfit carrying the crucifix. I didn't even realise these had been filmed. At least in church it was cool which is more than can be said for the churchyard. The summer of 2022 saw some fiercely hot days and filming in the heat of the day was less than comfortable. We worked one day around a fake but realistic grave which was created, with permission, to fulfil the requirements of the film. At the end of the day's filming, this fabrication was removed and left no visible trace.

A couple of scenes were filmed at the grave of Jim, my late husband. Initially I felt unsure about participating in this. Yet it was somehow comforting to be including him in a story set in the place he loved so much. I have lived here since 1993 and have developed a lively interest in Morris Weekend which was one of the highlights of Jim's calendar. I was sensitive to respecting the space



and complying with the etiquette of the weekend. Local people should have as good a view as possible and all must stay clear of the main street during the dancing. The filmmakers, with their compulsion to document, had to have their enthusiasm curbed at times. At one stage, I simply refused to push forward. Occasionally I did check they had permission to film if I felt this might be in doubt. Mostly they respected boundaries and conformed to the spirit of the weekend. One special and unexpected moment captured the toast I drink to Jim with his friends on the arrival night.

As the months passed, I looked forward to their whirlwind visits in which my room was transformed for a scene with good humour and attention to detail. Within a couple of hours filming would be complete and the room reinstated. I enjoyed the company and the activity and missed the little gang when the job was done. I have maintained a friendship with Lori the Chinese girl whose company I particularly enjoyed.

After filming was complete, signified by my receiving permission to have my hair cut, I was left initially in limbo. I had no idea how much of what had been filmed would appear in the finished piece of work. Just because of the way the film was created, I could not really figure out how it hung together as a story. The scenes were not filmed sequentially, and some, in which I was not involved, were filmed elsewhere. Finally, *This Blessed Plot* was released, has been to festivals in Amsterdam and Germany and is starting to be shown in small cinemas in and around London.

Marc brought the finished disk to me late last year and I had a first viewing, though not on a cinema-sized screen. That opportunity was mine about a fortnight ago in London. Seeing it on a full screen is a very different experience. I was surprised by how many of the scenes in which I appeared had been retained. Watching it stirred up such a cocktail of emotions from surprise, sadness and joy to relief, embarrassment, and pride too in something achieved.

I have deliberately avoided telling you the story of the film. It took me considerably by surprise, even though I had been participating in chunks of it. Yet when I did watch it, all came together beautifully and made so much sense. It is interesting, quirky, moving, and funny. If you don't believe me, form your own impression when it is screened on Sunday March 24 at 7.30pm at Saffron Screen followed by a Q & A session with Marc and Adam.

February 2024

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ODE TO THAXTED SPIRE BY J. T.

Bruce tells us that J.T. could be John Tredgatt who farmed was there in 1860s - 70s, He was a Church Warden so was presumably educated and perhaps a poet! J.W Savill was in business in Dunmow in 1878 and so this poem is of that date.

*Majestic giant - lordly spire.
What joys thine aspect doth inspired,
When absent long from home and thee,
Thy towering beacon, first I see.*

*The glittering vane - seen many a mile,
Proclaims my welcome with a smile:
And tells of home an evening fire,
Not far from thee, dear Thaxted Spire!*

*On Sabbath morn thou greet'st mine eyes,
I see the "pointing to the skies",
And thoughts of Heaven my breast inspire.,
Aided by thee, thou sacred Spire.*

*What lovely views of fairy land
Thy lofty summit can command:
All that a poet could desire,
Meets thy far ken - proud Thaxted Spire.*

*And I would wish when e'er I die,
Beneath thy shade in peace to lie;
And greet, when human joys expire.
Thine hallowed precincts - Thaxted Spire.*

Thaxted - J. T.

Printed in Dunmow by J.W.Savill



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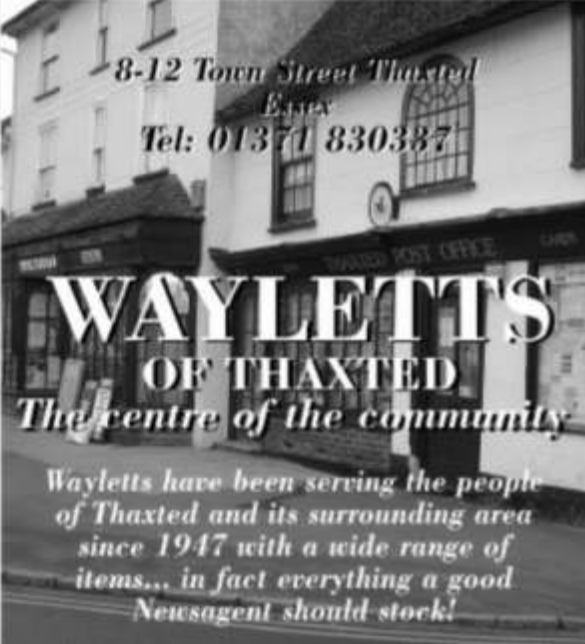
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Sue Hagen Tonkinson on 01371 831115 Thank you.



Sense of responsibility!

This is the story of four people; their names were,

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Anybody could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job.

Everybody thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realised that **Everybody** wouldn't do it.

It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done!



BIGGEST SLEEPOVER – BEST NIGHT EVER!

85 children from Thaxted and surrounding villages, all members of 1st Thaxted Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts headed to AirHop Adventure Park in Chelmsford (formally Jump Street) for a memorable night of trampolining and even trying out the UK's largest air-slides.

After 3 hours of jumping, sliding, playing dodgeball and slam dunking, the children were treated to pizza and refreshment before watching a movie on the trampolines and then heading to the party rooms for a massive camp out and sleep-over. The next morning was breakfast supplied in the venue's café and back onto the trampolines for more jumping and fun.

Leanne Kell, organiser and unit leader said "What an experience! We all had so much fun. For some of the younger members of Girl Guiding or Scouting this was their first night away from home and they all absolutely loved it. Couldn't have been prouder of how they embraced all the activities, got involved in the action and had the best time. We are very active units who love adventure and we have a very full year ahead of fun, learning new skills and challenges. The children all declared it the best night ever!"

The children, whose ages ranged from 4 to 14, had complete private access and free run of the Chelmsford's trampoline park which has an awesome main court arena full of varying sized trampolines, slam dunk, two big bags, two dodge ball courts and two wall trampolines. It was a great opportunity for them to spend time with friends, get active and gain independence.



It was noted on local social media page, Thaxted Residents, that The Swan Hotel was particularly busy that night, as many Thaxted parents enjoyed a child free night!

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