## THAXTED COMMUNITY MAGAZINE EASTER 2025





NO

## *Editorial Information Dates for the next edition - Harvest 2025*

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## Latest 3 editions on the website: www.abc-u.co.uk

**Committee Members:** 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.

**Articles:** 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

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

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

## *Thaxted Community Magazine Anglican, Baptist, Catholic and United Reformed Churches of Thaxted*

## Editorial

This Easter edition of our magazine demonstrates how lucky we are to live in Thaxted. Our many churches, organizations, clubs and societies once again report on past and future events and there is information about special events as well.

Detailed information about the two major annual events are a foretaste of what we can expect this year. Morris Weekend will be bigger than ever and we are pleased to have an article from Daniel Kenning the squire of Thaxted Morris. The Thaxted Festival, as well as providing concerts for every musical taste, has even more daytime events for all ages. Make sure you read their contributions carefully. Dog owners there is important advice for you on page 18 if you are attending the Morris Weekend Saturday evening show.

Most significantly we remember the lives of three people who have left a permanent legacy to our community. Simon Latham will be remembered annually as the Christmas tree is erected outside the Guildhall – but this was only a small part of the contribution he made to our lives. Joan Holley worked quietly and tirelessly on many things involving the Parish Church and without her we would not have had the opportunity to visit the many beautiful gardens around the town. Sue Roderick will be well known to many parents and children as their teacher and her contribution to life in Thaxted was significant.

We have included the plans for the events to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V.E. day. The Parish Council along with the Fayre Trust and Royal British Legion are working together on this event. Watch out for news on Facebook and around the town. See the poster on page 62.

Finally we would like to thank our advertisers. They enable us to provide this magazine free to your home. Do support them please.

If you would like to advertise please contact us at adverts@abc-u.co.uk

Cover Photo by Mike

## **The empty tomb** Revd Mark Hayes Thaxted United Reformed Church

John's gospel records how, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went early, while it was still dark, to the tomb. The story is very familiar to us, but as we have watched the dreadful destruction. carnage and killing of so many civilians in Ukraine - in a world that seems increasingly dangerous -Mary's encounter with the risen Christ shows us that the one who scatters the darkness of the grave rises while it is still dark. As we look at the events taking place around us, we do so with Christ, the one who offers hope in the midst of despair.

There are many people who are grieving this Easter, and for all of us the world seems more unpredictable and chaotic as we travel thorough 2025. The voice of Jesus offers us a sign of God's love and an affirmation of the value of every human being, even as we stand by the tomb in the darkness before the dawn.

As we stand by that tomb with Mary, we know that the ultimate sacrifice, made to show that God loves all people, is far from being understood in today's world.

The word 'empty' is usually seen as being negative: Our petrol tank is empty; our bank account is empty. It's about a lack of something. When we see the atrocities taking place in Ukraine, Gaza and so many other places, we are left feeling emotionally 'empty'. At the end of



the day, we often feel tired, we feel exhausted and empty.

But the Easter events – Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection – transform

everything. The emptiness of the tomb is not negative but positive: it is a remarkable event beyond human understanding. Though the tomb is empty, it means that Jesus has not only risen from the dead but conquered death: he is victorious. So, we celebrate the emptiness of the tomb.

Of course, the resurrection does not stop us from sometimes feeling 'empty'. Resurrection happens as it is still dark. In the light of the resurrection morning, so much else stays the same. The darkness is just as real. Wars carry on being fought. People die. Lies are told. Equality is a distant dream. The poor are still with us, and are still suffering. We fail to care for the environment, and we do not love our neighbour as ourselves.

Christ's work is incomplete. Wherever there is hardness of heart, cruelty or fear, the work of Christ is not seen in all its fullness. We continue to reflect on the hope of resurrection in the midst of darkness and of life as we know it. Can we begin to understand resurrection as 'work in progress' - begun in the glorious light of the first Easter Day but worked out in daily life, in each moment and each decision, with the people we meet and those we love?









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## Parish Council News

## Andy Frater - Chairman

## Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the joyous occasion of Easter, it is a fitting time perhaps to reflect on the past year and look forward to the future of our beloved Thaxted Parish. This was exactly what happened at our recent annual Parish Meeting where Councillors spoke about the initiatives, successes and challenges that formed part of the work undertaken by the Council and its officers.

Cllr Ray Williams spoke about the clean audit of Council finances and how the coming year's Precept, or Council Tax, was arrived at. Cllr Jenna Perkins reiterated our drive to improve our open spaces while Cllr Terry Frostick explained how our assets committee works to maintain parish owned buildings and infrastructure. Cllr Alex Young had a dual role as chair of planning committee and chair of the Neighbourhood Plan #2 steering group, letting attendees know about progress on both. More on the updating of our Neighbourhood Plan on page 45. See also the consultation notice on the next page.

I took the opportunity to publicly thank our councillors, Clerk and our other officers for their dedication and support, with their ideas and enthusiasm, the Council adds to the vibrant community spirit that defines our town.

Talking about officers, I'd like to welcome Amanda to the Thaxted fold. Amanda is our new Assistant Clerk, taking the role vacated by Robert Silver who has recently been co-opted onto the Council, we wish them both much success.

As usual, we've seen lots of communications related to our roads and through our County Councillor, Martin Foley, the Parish Council delivered a petition to ECC demanding focus on our rural roads and with the backing of Martin, that seems to have made some difference with quite a few potholes repaired, planned fixes for those annoying loose ironworks that constantly clank in Town Street and a resurfacing of the Tanyard gaining funding.

The council, thanks to efforts by the clerk, has also secured funding by way of a grant to install solar panels on the Pavilion which is soon to also be refurbished, making the building more of a community space giving the opportunity for broader use by all.

Continuing to look forward, the VE Day commemoration plans are well underway, ably led by ClIrs Victoria Knight and ClIr Jenna Perkins and supported by the Thaxted Fayre Trust and Royal British Legion. A poster for the occasion is on page 62. The main event on 8th May will be a celebration in Thaxted Parish Church at 6.30 pm finishing at the Windmill with the lighting of the Beacon. On 11th May there will be a "Fun Day" in Clarence House garden from 12 noon to 4pm. Lots of entertainment including live music and a bar. You are encouraged to bring a picnic.

Finally, the Council would like to heartily congratulate the trustees of John Webb's windmill for securing a huge amount of funding to repair and enhance this iconic building.

Thank you for reading this far and Happy Easter all!

Andy



## "Rooted in Tradition, Growing into Tomorrow" The Neighbourhood Plan Review PUBLIC CONSULTATION SATURDAY 26th APRIL 10 am - 4 pm THAXTED CHURCH

We Want to Know What You Think – Come and Talk to Us Saturday, 26 April

You are a valued parishioner, and we want to know your views on the future for our Town. We are hosting a public consultation on Saturday, 26th April, to be held in the church. Information will be there detailing the existing plans and policies.

Members of the Neighbour Plan Steering Group will be present to talk to you directly, to explain we want to achieve in the new plan, and to listen to your views.

The plan should reflect the preferences and priorities of Thaxted residents, businesses and local organisations. What do you think works well in Thaxted? What do you think needs improving?

Please come and talk to us, so can we understand your ideas for the future of our Town....

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## Thaxted - NEWS - Society

#### WHEN THE TRAINS RAN.

#### Pros and cons of infrastructure.

This picture from the 50's attests to the train service that once called at Thaxted. The famous gin and toffee line, so called. Last train 1952.



Departure board showing train to Thaxted.1950's

At the time sustainability was not an issue. The infamous Dr Beeching put paid to many such lines and few survive. However, its existence once, gives rise to an important issue today. Sustainability is now a cornerstone of much planning, with infrastructure very much a building block in creating sustainable communities. Transport, health-care. schools. roads and services all form part of a sustainable community. But here's the rub, sustainable communities are ripe for 'growth'!

Thaxted, whilst a key settlement, falls short in public transport and as such it may be argued 'unsustainable'. So, if the trains ran again, or our buses were more frequent, the knock-on effect might be that Thaxted became sustainable, and ripe for more development. It's a delicate balance which the renewed Neighbourhood Plan will hope to maintain

#### ELERS WAY DETAILS AND LOBBYING

Having obtained Outline Planning permission to build houses off Wedow Road at Eler's Way, the developers Countryside have now submitted their detailed application to UDC for consideration.

A detailed application is the moment at which Thaxted Society policy may be restated robustly, to both the planners and the applicant. In our case we had much to say about the details proposed. There were FEW! A grudging nod to Thaxted's vernacular and fulsome ecology. Doing the bare minimum does not make good neighbours and surely a developer knows about good neighbours.

It is too easy for AI assisted technology to produce detailed and lengthy documents, as required, in support of such applications, but even a cursory glance will show errors and omissions a tell-tale sign of AI. We found the proposed plans lacking in a fair and proper response in these areas.

- No proper response to the evident Thaxted vernacular and detail.
- An inadequate response to ecology. (Wild Thaxted points also)
- An anodyne and one-size-fits-all house design.
- A disregard, beyond mere words, for Thaxted's heritage and setting.

The Thaxted Society has made these points repeatedly in the past and we are pleased by some small results. Sometimes small details can make all the difference in caring for Thaxted's uniqueness and the planet it sits on.

#### **GUILDHALL RESEARCH A.R.U.**

Anglia Ruskin University has undertaken a research project at Thaxted, focussed upon the Guildhall. The building owned by Essex County Council is an important listed guildhall once the commercial heart of Thaxted and home to the original Council Chamber. This research entitled This is our space/Thaxted, focuses on understanding how a public space can support a safer and more inclusive community. The Society energetically supports this work. The surety of a future for Thaxted's iconic Guildhall will benefit from such research, alongside further professional advice and guidance for the next hundred years of Thaxted's Guildhall.

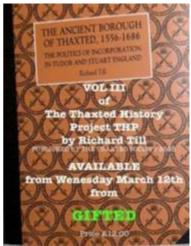
#### THE THAXTED SEASON 2025

The Society will be front and centre in supporting and participating in the Thaxted Season, which this year promises to be a bumper season. We send our congratulations to Rob Evans, Bag Man for The Morris Ring!

## LAUNCH OF VOLUME III

March 11th saw the release of Vol III of the Thaxted History Project by Richard Till and published by the Thaxted Society. It deals with the origins and demise of The Borough of Thaxted 1556- 1686.

Now available from GIFTED.



## Baptist Church News Peter Archibald

## **Our Church Hall Activities**

## 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 between 10.00 and 12.00 For details visit www. thaxtedbaptistchurch.com : or ring Debbie on 01371831548

## Men's Breakfast

The Men's Community Breakfast held on the second Saturday of each month continues to have a good attendance

For further details please contact Paul Tingey on 07494 757114.

## Exercise Classes

Armchair excercises for the elderly are held every Thursday starting at 11.00 a.m, All welcome.

## **Community Choir**

The Thaxted Ladies Community Choir continue to meet regularly. We sing for companionship and pleasure. If you enjoy singing come along and join us. For more details please ring Jill Jones on 01371 830 104.

## Friday Coffee Morning

We have a Coffee Morning every Friday between 10 and 11.30 am in our Church Hall. After your market shopping come and enjoy a good chat together with a tasty beverage.

## Humphrey Lodge Service.

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

## Thaxted Surgery PPG

A big thank you from the Patient Participation Group at Thaxted surgery. Your generosity in contributing prizes and buying tickets for the Christmas raffle is much appreciated, we raised £1500.

## THAXTED PARISH CHURCH LINCOLN ORGAN OPEN DAY

## **3rd MAY 2025**

Come to the Church to discover how an organ works Have a go at playing it (no experience necessary!) All Ages Welcome 10.00 - 12.30 Workshop/talk/play 2.30 4.00 Professional Recitals Refreshments available For further information see Facebook -Thaxted Residents and Thaxted Online

## Saffron Upcoming Highlights Hall



Sat 10 May, 7.30pm Kirill Gerstein



Sun 18 May, 7pm Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra



Sun 25 May, 7pm Penguin Cafe

www.saffronhall.com or 0845 548 7650 0p per minute + accese chargel

## Discover Bushcraft 2025 programme



Archery in the Garden Clarence House Conservation Garden

13th July

Foxys Bushcraft Club

**Bushcraft Club** 

Holiday Club

Grass Coil Basket work- 5th July-Chatham Gn shop

Introduction to Flint Knapping

Bone Carving

10am to 12.30pm

of the month

14th to 18th April 25th to 30th May

of Easton Lodge

5th September

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**K.R.**W



## 20 June - 13 July 2025

If spring is really here, then summer with the Thaxted Festival can't be far behind. You can see full details of all our events online now, and book tickets from 31 March at www.thaxtedfestival.co.uk. Thaxted Festival is renowned for its accessible and relaxed classical music concerts. Once again these are led by major orchestra the **London Mozart Players**. Also heading right to the heart of our town are leading artists including **tenor Nicky Spence OBE**, **countertenor Alexander Chance**, **baritone Neil Balfour**, and choral performances from the **Gesualdo Six and the Choir of St George's Chapel**, **Windsor Castle.** Opera lovers won't want to miss **Wild Arts'** fully staged performance of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*.

There's a pulsating evening of jazz/blues with **Mighty Like the Blues**, including legendary guitarist Jim Mullen. **The London Tango Quintet** with Craig Ogden bring the excitement of Latin America to Thaxted. And there's an afternoon of mid-century song with **Let's Do It!** 



London Tango Quintet, with Craig Ogden, guitar. Saturday 28 June at 7.30pm Image © Olivia Wild Digital



Our newly popular Festival Extra events include **a morning with Thaxted Singers**, who are joined by a number of other local community choirs to celebrate local music-making. And with **John Webb's Windmill** having secured major funding for its restoration, hard-hat tours will be offered on two mornings to bring alive the potential of this significant project. There's a film at **Saffron Screen**, a private view at the **Fry Art Gallery**, a family event at **Audley End Miniature Railway**, and a repeat of Ken Baker's ever-popular **Thaxted Ghost Walk**.

Educational work has always been at the centre of Festival activity, and we're delighted that this year we have secured sufficient funding from local charities and from Essex County Council Cultural Fund to be able to extend our activity across **Thaxted Primary School**, **Great Easton Primary School**, **Helena Romanes School and the Joyce Frankland Academy.** And this year there's a special price of £5 tickets at many concerts for those aged 18 and under, as well as £10 for those aged 30 and under.

Although Thaxted Festival is a major annual event which draws audiences from far and wide, it is rooted in our local community where it is organised and run by teams of dedicated volunteers. If you'd like to join us, either during the Festival itself, or in an organisational role during the whole year, please don't hesitate to contact us on 01371 831421 or music@thaxtedfestival.co.uk. With everyone's help we will enjoy another successful season this year, and go forward into our 40th anniversary year in 2026.

We look forward to welcoming you to our summer season.

Peter Donovan, Chairman, Thaxted Festival Foundation

## Morris Weekend 2025

### Daniel Kenning, Squire of Thaxted Morris Men

#### Morris Weekend this year is 30th May to 1st June; this is the

98th anniversary of the first meeting of Morris dance clubs in Thaxted in 1927. Thaxted Morris Men will again host visiting Morris dancers from far and wide to entertain you in and around Thaxted from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.

There will be Morris dancing in Thaxted on Friday evening, and in surrounding villages on Saturday. The massed shows will be in Town Street as usual on Saturday evening. On Sunday the Morris dancers will be at the church service at 10:00am (earlier than usual), there will be Morris and Country dancing in the churchyard afterwards, and then Country Dancing in Margaret Gardens in the afternoon.

**Earlier Saturday starting time 5:45pm** – starting with the Fellowship Bell.

This year we are starting the processions 15 minutes earlier than in recent years. The proceedings will start with the sounding of the *Fellowship Bell*, inscribed *I Ring for the General Dance*. This bell was cast in 1949 to recognise the role of Thaxted in the revival of Morris Dancing. If you listen carefully at 5:45pm you will hear the Fellowship Bell Ringing for the General Dance, and then the dancing shall begin!



Photo credit: EFDSS English Folk Dance and Song Society,

**Marshals – can you help?** Our Marshals do a tremendous job: without this team of volunteers supervising the road-closures and diversions, the massed Morris shows in Town Street would not be possible. We are looking for some more volunteers to spread the work out. The work is vital but not too onerous, and we thank Marshals with a modest gift afterwards, and an invitation to our feast in November. If you can give 1-2 hours on Saturday evening, please contact Tommy Bassett on 07452 976023 / tommyb1234@icloud.com.



**Massed Shows, Crowds and Dogs.** During the massed Morris shows on Saturday evening Town Street will be crowded and full of strange noises, strange people, bells, sticks, and children. It will be no place for a dog, so please leave them at home. Space will be at a premium so please make sure you and the children give the dancers plenty of space.

Many thanks from all of us at Thaxted Morris Men, and we look forward to celebrating with the Community of Thaxted at another Morris Weekend.



To keep in touch please click the QR code:

## Thaxted Lecture Society

#### Sue Collins - Chair

## "Wow – invite him again".

## *"Thought I wasn't going to enjoy this evening, but I've learnt a lot and I am glad I came" .*

These are just two of the positive comments made during our Spring season. We aim to provide something to please everyone and judging by our numbers this last season we are succeeding. We will be holding our AGM at 7.30 on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Pam's Place.

Our Autumn series starts on October 8<sup>th</sup> and finishes on December 17<sup>th</sup> with a "half term" break. Juggling dates and speakers can be complicated and time-consuming. We can promise, however, that one evening will be devoted to Kate Butters – a well-known and much-loved teacher at Thaxted school. Having learnt many fascinating facts about our iconic Guildhall and the Recorder's House in the Spring, we shall learn more about our beautiful windmill. The Harvest edition of the ABC&U will have more information.

Lectures last for about <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of an hour followed by questions, refreshments and a time to socialize. They are held at Pam's Place on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 and cost £5 per session. If you would like more information please contact our Publicity Officer (perry@unicorn.ndonet.com).

If you wish to be added to our mailing list, please contact **simmons.peter@btintermet.com**".



Thaxted has been twinned to the French town of Saint-Vrain, just south of Paris, for over 25 years now! The Twinning Association '*exists to promote friendship and cultural understanding and to foster an ongoing relationship with Saint-Vrain and its people.*'

Our French Twinning Families from St. Vrain Jumelage will be visiting us once again between Thurs 29 May and Sunday 1 June 2025. These short stays are for 4 days and normally at the end of May. In 2026 it will be Thaxted Twinning group's turn to go to St. Vrain. The only cost involved for adults is the return journey by Euro Star or members can make their own travel arrangements. Members' children travel free with us on Euro Star. We are looking for New Members & Host Families in Thaxted and surrounding areas who would like to join us and take part in our future Exchange Visits.

During these visits we hold social get-togethers and meals, trips out to see the surrounding area and visit historic places and fun places for younger members. In addition to the annual visits many of our members make private visits to France and stay with the friends they have made through twinning. There is also a good deal of regular contact by emails, WhatsApp, Zoom etc.

During the year, to raise awareness and money to help us entertain our French Twinning friends, we hold Quizzes, Dinners, BBQ's, Free French



Lesson Evenings, Boot Sales, Children's Competitions, Antique Valuation Days. In fact, the Twinning Association is perfect for families to get involved in. It is not necessary to speak French, however, it is a brilliant chance to have a go or improve!

#### To find more information about our activities visit our website www.thaxtedtwinning.co.uk and our Facebook page https://engb.facebook.com /thaxtedtwinning/

Many Thanks & Kind Regards (Amitiés) Theresa (Chair TTA) - 07740610213

## Pam's Place Vicarage Mead, Thaxted, CM6 2RL



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Contact information: Phone: 01371 830094 email: info@pamsplace.org.uk, website: pamsplace.org.uk Cassy - Facilities Manager, Cally - Catering Manager Charity no: 1197612. Charity name: Thaxted Day Centre

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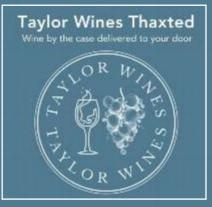
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## **THAXTED LIBRARY NEWS**

Janet Easterbrooke - Senior Customer Services Assistant

## CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Well done to all those children who joined the 'Dragon's Adventure' Winter Reading Challenge this year. It was our best year so far with 32 children taking up the Challenge!

**Lego Club** has been going well with some brilliant creations on display in the children's library. The Club will now take place on the first Tuesday of the month, 3.30 – 4.30pm, to make it easier to remember the date! To celebrate Easter there will be an **Easter themed Rhymetime** on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April (come and show off your bonnets!) and a free Easter craft event on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

#### ADULT EVENTS

*Our drop in coffee and chat sessions are still running through the cooler months on the third Saturday of the month from 10.30am* – *12.00pm*. Pop *in to have a cuppa*, *natter and browse our books and information! Library membership is free*, *all you need to join as an adult is some photo ID*. *Membership gives you access to all 74 Essex Libraries*, *6 million books on the library catalogue and a wealth of digital resources and reference material*.

#### LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 2.00pm – 5.30pm Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm (and staffed by volunteers 1-4pm most weeks) Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm

## FACILITIES AND SERVICES

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## LOCAL WINDOW CLEANER

I have been around Thaxted for many years. I use traditional and modern techniques. Happy to take on new jobs anytime.



## Thaxted Windmill Trust CIO Registered Charity No 1199545



The 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 was a celebratory day for Thaxted Windmill Trust CIO as it was able to announce that John Webb's Windmill has received the funding needed to repair and conserve the building and its Millwrighting machinery and to involve the community in the project.

From April 2025 to April 2027, there will be opportunities for you, as Thaxted residents and for others who live in Uttlesford District and for those visiting, to take part in a wide range of activities, including day schools, workshops and family events.

## *Learn about Heritage Building Skills*

Bookable 'hard hat' tours will showcase the traditional skills of the conservation builders and the millwrights. There'll be information about careers too, it's so as important that young people acquire these skills, if buildings such as the Windmill are to survive.



## Discover the History

You can discover more about the history of the Windmill and its links to Thaxted's medieval farming and the six other mills, their owners and workers and how to carry out your own family history research.

## *Care for the Archives and Artefacts*

Many of you will remember the collection of objects in the Windmill, some linked to milling and some to Thaxted itself. These are now in safe storage but need cleaning and repair – you will receive training from professional conservators to help you care for these artefacts and how to effectively display them.

Similarly, there are boxes of documents and photographs that require sorting and cataloguing and a selection made to add to the new displays in the Windmill and to use in learning materials for schools and for families with children. No previous experience is needed; as with all the volunteering opportunities involving new skills, full training and advice will be given.

## Improve the site for wildlife.

Work with an Ecologist to identify species and carry out wildlife surveys, linked to the other green spaces in Thaxted. With guidance, create and enhance the surroundings of the Windmill to aid nature recovery and biodiversity.

#### Be creative.

Art and photography workshops delivered by experts will cater for beginners and the more experienced, based on the Windmill but also taking advantage of Thaxted's stunning streetscape.

For the full list of activities please keep an eye out for updates on our Website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

**Please also visit:** : https://www.thaxtedfestival.co.uk/events for hard hat visits to the Windmill during the restoration period. More dates will be announced as the project progresses.

The project is still in need of funds and to finance the insurance and maintenance of the building over the restoration period and beyond. Donations will therefore be very gratefully received. Please visit our Website https://www.johnwebbswindmillthaxted.com or scan the QR code on the opposite page.

This project's title is '**Thaxted Windmill – Conserved for its Community' –** please make it an outstanding success by taking part, whether by attending day schools, workshops and events or by volunteering and giving your time or doing all of these! Together, we can ensure that the Windmill, along with the Church and the Guildhall, is once again at the heart of Thaxted's rich and very special heritage.



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## The Fool on the Hill A meditation on Calvary?

7:30 am. I enter my front room to pray. Sun streams through the blinds. Birds chirrup loudly as they herald the beginning of Spring. I sit comfortably before God with my Bible open ready for an hour of bliss and comfort in the divine presence. As usual I review my spiritual life just to ensure that all is spick and span. A nice warm feeling comes across me. Everything is well. I pray and read my bible every day. I am a fairly nice guy. Friendly, approachable, and ready to help those in trouble if I can (within reason of course). A church minister (accredited no less!), preaching God's word and pastoring a church (that surely must give me extra brownie points!) Of course I have flaws and faults (though do be a bit wary in pointing these out, depending on what mood I am in). While perhaps not a saint, I am surely far from being the worst of sinners.

Then as I pray God suddenly whispers into my ear, "Take a look at the fool on the hill." Startled at the sound of his voice I stop in my tracks and open my eyes. But when I do so I am no longer in my nice comfortable room. Instead I am standing at the foot of a hill. Around me people are laughing, jeering, catcalling, and taunting. The crowd is in festive holiday mood. The object of their mockery hangs a few feet away. His face is streaked with blood. A sharp crown of thorns is pressed down on his head. His wrists and feet are stuck to the cross with six-inch nails. Beside me the crowd continues to jeer, calling



out insults and generally treating the victim as a fool. Then God whispers in my ear again "Take a look at the fool on the hill."

As I do the man on the cross lifts his head wearily, groaning in barely concealed agony as he pulls himself up in order to breathe. He looks at me and his eyes seem to pierce into my very soul. Something like a cloak falls on me smelling like sewage and nearly choking the life out of me. I struggle, trying to loosen its grip and tear it off, but it just gets tighter. God whispers to me, "take-off that silly mask of yours and look." I suddenly see myself for the first time as I truly am rather than who I think I am. The selfishness, the greed, the hypocrisy. The people I have mocked, despised, judged. The needs I have ignored, the people I have treated cruelly or thoughtlessly. Most of all I see how I have treated the God who loves me and who made me. I have simply ignored him. I try harder to wrestle the cloak off, but it sticks there like solid concrete. Then the man on the cross whispers gently to me, "You can't take it off, but I can." I pause in confusion and say, "But if I can take it off, I can wash it." He just smiles and says, "There's no soap in the world big enough to wash that clean." Still I struggle to tear at it again and again until exhausted I slump to the ground in despair. He smiles again, "Are you done? Had enough? Mutely I nod, my face to the ground. "Then but let me take it off. In fact let me give you a new one".

As I lift up my eyes, he takes off the foul cloak and drapes it around himself. Then he puts a clean white robe over me. A beautiful fresh smelling robe. All that shame and evil gone from my life. He smiles again and says, "Now you're sorted. Now come and follow me"

As the scene recedes in my mind I have two thoughts. Firstly Jesus isn't the fool. I am. Second, I'm not the nice guy, but I **am now** the loved guy".



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## Regular activities at Thaxted United Reformed Church, Bolford Street

## Sundays

We usually meet for Morning Worship on Sundays at 9.30am, 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 9.30am starts with a light breakfast followed by an informal, family friendly service. This service is especially suitable for families with children. Everybody welcome!

## The Story

We also have occasional informal Sunday afternoon services at 3pm exploring "the Story", focussing on seasonal themes or a book from the Bible. The services are followed by light refreshments and an opportunity for discussion.

## Messy Church

"Messy Church" meets on the second Tuesday each month from 4.00pm to 5.30pm 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.

## Second Saturday Coffee Mornings

We meet for tea, coffee, cake and chat on the second Saturday each month from 10.00am to 12.30. Everybody welcome and we have activities available for children.

## 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.

For more information about all our activities, please contact our minister, Revd Mark Hayes. Phone 01799 524944 or email markhayes@hotmail.co.uk

## Church of St. John The Baptist, Our Lady and St. Laurence

www.thaxtedparishchurch.co.uk

Contact: Benefice Administrator, Maryanne Fleming admin@ttsrh.org or 07958 629506

Sundays 8 am Said Mass on the first Sunday of the month Sung Mass except on the first Sunday of the month 11am when we celebrate at 10am Open Doors - an All Ages service.

Wednesday10 am Low Mass followed by Coffee Corner – all welcome!

See next page for Easter Special services

## The Baptist Church, Park Street

www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com or facebook.com/thaxtedbaptists/ Contact : Minister Jim Ford Tel 07889758285

Good Friday	9.30 am	Morning Service
	11 am	Walk of Witness
Sundays	10.30 am	Morning Service
Thursday	7.30 pm	Bible Study
Friday	10 - 11.30 am	Coffee Morning
2nd Saturdays	8.45 for 9 am	Men's Breakfast

For details of our other activities and events please see page 12.

## United Reformed Church Bolford Street

Contact our minister, Revd Mark Hayes. Phone 01799 524944 or email markhayes@hotmail.co.uk

Palm Sunday, 13th April	9.30 am	Breakfast Church.
	3.00pm	The Easter Story.
Easter Sunday,	9.30 am	Easter Sunday Communion
Sundays	9.30 am	Morning Worship
	3pm	The Story

For details of the above events see opposite page. For our other activities and events please see page 31.

## 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.

Passion Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April -	8am	Low Mass	
	10am	Open Doors service	
Palm Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> April -	10.45am a	t the Church Hall followed by the	
	Procession to the Church for 11am Mass		
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	Compline	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Low Mass	
	7.30pm	Compline	
Maundy Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	Sung Mass with the Liturgy of	
	Maundy Thursday and Watch		
Good Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	11am	Walk of Witness	
	2pm	Liturgy of the Day	
Holy Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	8pm	Easter Vigil	
Easter Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Sung Mass	
Low Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	11am	Sung Mass	

#### **URC** Further details

9.30am Palm Sunday Breakfast Church led by Revd Mark Hayes.

This will be a light breakfast followed by an informal, family-friendly service.

**3.00pm The Easter Story.** An informal service looking at the crucifixion, resurrection and their relevance for the world today. Followed by light refreshments

**9.30am Easter Sunday Communion** led by Revd Mark Hayes. Join us as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Activities will be available for children.

#### In Memoriam

Harold "Guy" Clayton, Helen Coe, Archie Goodwin-Spivey, Mervyn Haddock, Joan Holley, John Jones, Judith Laird, Simon Latham, Margaret Presland, Sue Roderick, Martin Smith, Peggy Start, Kalo Supriyanto, Evelyn Mary Tayler, Pat Thomas, Peter Wood.

## ECO THAXTED

## Helpful recycling information

#### **Green Garden Waste Collections**

Margaret St Car Park 8.30 - 11.30 Every alternate Sunday on the weekend following a recycling bin collection week

#### **Batteries Collection Points**

Thaxted Pharmacy Saracens Petrol Station Thaxted Lowes

**Thaxted Post Office** 

#### Medication

The Thaxted Pharmacy will take out of date unused tablets & inhalers. No sharps boxes OR ANY USED NEEDLES these must be collected by Uttlesford District Council. Contact UDC for more information 01799 510510

Thaxted Recycling Bins Collection Points

Thaxted Garage - Recycling YES PLEASE

clothing, handbags, belts & shoes

#### **NO THANKS**

soiled rags, carpet rugs, blankets, towels, sheets, glass, metal, paper & rubbish.

Thaxted Fire Station - Fire Fighters Charity

YES PLEASE - adults & children's

clothing, including underwear, linen, handbags, shoes in pairs

**NO THANKS** - toys, books, bric a brac, electrical goods

#### Thaxted St John's Charity Shop -Park Street

A wonderful charity shop to donate items and purchase clothes, bric a brac, books, home bargains and many more items!

Open Monday - Saturday.

#### **TouchPoint Food Share**

Pam's Place Monday from 12 noon. What is a Community Food Share? It's all about reducing food waste! We have had a great variety of produce on offer from vegetables to baked goods, and fruit to cut flowers. Come along and save food going to waste please bring your own bags.

**TouchPoint** work with local supermarkets, collecting food that would otherwise be thrown away. Everyone is invited to come along to help themselves to whatever they want – for free. Help us to reduce the amount of food going into landfill, and it's been a great success! A big thank you to the local Co-op, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose stores for supporting this project.

## Felsted Aid for Deprived Children UK-Aid

If you can donate a few items or would like to make a donation to help financially with transport costs please contact June Milne - 01371 875370 or 07791 476827

June will arrange a collection date and time to receive goods. Please phone for details.

Shopping list for Ukraine

**Food** all food should have 6 months shelf life. Packet pasta, pot noodles, rice, porridge, high energy bars, tinned meat, tinned fruit & vegetables.

Pet Food tinned & dried.

**Toiletries** all normal toiletries for babies, children & adults.

**Cleaning materials**, but **no** disinfectant

**Clothing** in all sizes babies - adults. Knitted & crochet blankets, cardigans, jumpers, baby hats & gloves. Crotchet & knitted squares which can be made into blankets.

**Medical** items & cribs etc for Maternity Hospital.

**School** supplies colouring books & pencils.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Thaxted Eco Churches Thaxted Parish Church are delighted to announce that they have been awarded the **Eco Church Silver Award.** Thank you to everyone who has made Thaxted Parish Church a greener and more sustainable church.

Thaxted URC Church has also been awarded the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award. Congratulations to both churches.

Thaxted Primary School Net Zero Project

**Thaxted Primary School** and other local Primary Schools are participating in the Net Zero Project. This project raises air pollution awareness and promotes sustainable travel within local school communities, through free interactive assemblies, student-led air quality experiments, and support with school travel plans.

Participating schools are also invited to apply for a £500 grant towards cycle/scooter parking, or other sustainable travel infrastructure. Well done to **Thaxted Primary School** for their fantastic work with this project so far.

The Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean 2025 will take place from 21 March to 6 April. A great idea to focus on litter in Thaxted and tidy up our town! *Thanks to Jill Jones for gathering this information.* 







THAXTED BOWLING CLUB

## Come and try Lawn Bowls!

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To book a session in advance email <u>thaxtedbc@gmail.com</u> alternatively, just come along on the day

It is a sport for everybody, helps improve fitness and metal wellbeing A perfect sport to spend time and enjoy a bit of friendly competition A great way to relax, make new friends & feel part of your local community

> Fancy afternoon tea & cake? Refreshments will be available for purchase Want something stronger? The Club bar will be open!

Thaxted Bowls Club is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year so please come along a be part of our celebrations.

We look forward to seeing you!

## Lord Maynard's Charity

In his will, dated 30<sup>th</sup> 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 <u>residents of Thaxted</u> to benefit from the charity that fall into one of the following categories:

**Families** with three or more children under the age of 16 on the qualifying date – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. Please give the names and dates of birth of the qualifying children.

**Couples** – one or both being resident in Thaxted - who were married in Thaxted Parish Church within the previous twelve months of the qualifying date – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. Please give the date of the marriage.

**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.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

They will be reviewed at a meeting of the Trustees and Administrators to be held in September 2025.



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### Joan Holley

#### 1934 -2025

Joan was born on Valentine's Day 1934 in London. The promise of that auspicious day found its fulfilment some 70 years later, when Joan married Geoffrey Holley. Her father, Edward, had fought in World War 1 and later he worked as a blacksmith in Dagenham. He died in 1947. Her mother, Bertha, died in 1948 when Joan was just 14.

Joan grew up in East Ham, sharing a house with an uncle and aunt

who were very good to Joan. She enjoyed family holidays each year in Margate, voyaging there down the Thames on R.S. Daffodil. She went to Latham School. East Ham.

where the corridors were sand-bagged, in a zig-zag fashion, to counter bombing. There she made a model

barrage balloon out of sticky paper which her mother treasured, even though it was square! Joan was evacuated to Maidstone, then the Rhondda Valley for 9 months where she grew so thin her parents brought her home. She remembered Chapel in the valleys, and making Communion cups out of sweet papers! She also recalled waiting for evacuation sitting on a bench in the Town Hall, with a gas mask box over one shoulder and a luggage-label attached to her lapel and one small suitcase.

Her own school experience had given Joan her sense of vocation. She trained as a teacher, on a specialist infant/nursery course, at Wall Hall Training College Watford, and obtained her Teaching

> Certificate. She taught mainly in primary schools, but also taught housecraft at a college in Sussex, cookery and needlework at a secondary school in Hornchurch.

Her teaching was broken for 7 years, when in 1964 she joined the Christian Community at Lee Abbey in

Devon where she catered for the community and its guests. She was proud of having initiated, set up and equipped a new playroom for young children. She was leader of the Children's Work team, while keeping up her skills teaching one day a week at a nearby school.

She returned to full-time teaching in Ongar and then Loughton, where at Staples Road Infants she was in her element teaching children to read. She stayed there for 14 years.

In 1985 her career changed course when she took up the position of Housekeeper for Canon Geoffrey Holley, Rector of Loughton and cared for Geoffrey's elderly father. Geoffrey retired in 1992, and they moved to Thaxted where Joan continued supply teaching in local schools. Joan cared for Geoffrey in his increasing infirmity, and they married in 2004.

Joan's faith was ingrained in her throughout her life. It caused her to join Lee Abbey and it brought her to St John's Loughton where she taught in the Sunday School and met Geoffrey. Her faith came as naturally to her, as breathing. It was instinctive and real to her. Faith in God was an integral part of her and she slotted perfectly into the role of Vicar's wife.

She had that knack of spotting gaps or needs in parish affairs, and plugging them herself in a quiet understated and effective way. lf vou look around Thaxted church there reminders of are Joan everywhere; in the long embroidered kneelers in the Becket Chapel, in part her handiwork; in the card display in the north aisle which she looked after for many years; above all in the Children's corner which she looked after. It was there when last Christmas Eve she sat and welcomed

the hundreds of people coming to our Crib Procession and especially their children. She sent out birthday cards to those who'd been baptised; organised the making of Christmas puddings on 'Stir up Sunday,' and the church's participation of the yearly 'Ride & Stride' event.

As a long-time trustee of The Friends of Thaxted Church she organised the 50/50 Club, the Open Gardens Day, welcoming people into church with home-made cakes and so on. Her beautiful needlework appeared for sale at Fayres. She was industrious to the end. Perhaps her last creation was a lovely Beatrix Potter quilt made specially for a young member of her family.

Joan put together the hymns and the readings of her funeral service herself. Joan was confident in her faith. She knew where she was going. She had an unshakeable faith in a God of love and mercy who welcomes all comers, whose everlasting arms are available and open ready to receive us. He calls us home. That was the faith Joan lived by.

We all give thanks for Joan, for her life of caring for others, especially for young people. May we learn from her example.

*Thanks to Fr Chris Brown for allowing us to include an edited version of his Eulogy.* 



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#### The New Thaxted Camera Club.

This new club was set up in October 2024 because people were asking if Thaxted had one! It meets in Guildhall every second Monday each month. We have about 25 members now. Those attending share their ideas and we have refreshments tea/coffee/biscuits. We ask £1.50 from those who attend to cover the costs of refreshments and our donation to the Guildhall hire.

This Club is a way to get Thaxted keen on taking residents photos involved and asking our several professional photographers in Thaxted to attend our free meetings and give advice. It also has a Facebook page for Thaxted Camera Club for members only.

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## Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan "Rooted in Tradition, Growing into Tomorrow"

**The Neighbourhood Plan** was produced by the parish council in 2017 and was adopted, following a referendum, in 2018. It is a comprehensive statement of our community's priorities for protecting our heritage, improving the spaces we live in, and controlling development. The plan also sets out formal policies that guide the decisions made by the Parish Council when considering applications for planning permission and other proposed developments. Higher level planners at the district council are statutorily bound to pay attention to our Neighbourhood plan.

**The Plan is now seven years old.** Inevitably, some of the issues that it addressed have been resolved, some have disappeared, and some have changed, while new issues have arisen. This means that we must now review and refresh it, to ensure that it remains relevant to the present day.

A steering group was re-formed last year. It is now reviewing both the data on which the existing plan is based and the individual policies. This is not an isolated academic process, but an interactive project. We are reaching out to residents of Thaxted and the surrounding hamlets to find out what they consider to be working well, and what they find disappointing.

We will shortly be distributing a letter to every household in the parish, explaining the issues we are looking at, including Housing and Design, Open Spaces, Facilities, Tourism and the Economy, Sustainability and Biodiversity, and Transport and Road Safety. We are inviting you to give us your views.

Most importantly, **we are holding a consultation day on Saturday, 26th April** in the parish church. Members of the steering group will be there to explain the plans and answer your questions. There will be a questionnaire which can be completed on paper or online. For those who miss the consultation day, we will follow it up with a stall on the market.

Please think about how you want Thaxted to develop in the future. We look forward to seeing you on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. Meanwhile, you can contact us at:

#### alex@thaxted-pc.gov.uk assistantclerk@thaxted-pc.gov.uk



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## Simon Latham

#### 17th October 1941 to 5th November 2024

Simon was born in October 1941 to Thomas and Ann Latham at Lucas Farm, White Roding. He was the fourth of five children and had 3 sisters and a brother. The family moved in 1942 to Park Farm in Thaxted.

Simon went to Thaxted primary school and later went to boarding schools - Wellbury Park prep school and then Oratory school near Reading. He excelled at sport at both these schools with rugby being his

main sport but also tennis. After school he joined the family farm in Thaxted and also spent a year studying agriculture at Writtle Agricultural college near Chelmsford. He was part of a very successful rugby team at Writtle and after he left, he became one of the

founding members of Saffron Walden rugby club where he played for many years. He also had a passion for shooting, which continued throughout his life.

In 1967 Simon met his wife, Hazel, a farmer's daughter from Cheshire who was teaching in Hertfordshire, at a rugby club event and they married in 1968. They went on to have 3 children, Chris, Matthew and Amy.

Simon ran Park Farm until his retirement at 65 and even after that continued to take a keen interest on what the tenants were doing. А number of people from Thaxted worked on the farm over the years either full time or part time when seasonal workers were required. As well as being a good farmer, conservation was very important to Simon and in the 1970's and 1980's he transformed Park Farm by planting

> many acres of trees, reinstating hedgerows and digging ponds. This led him to winning a prize in the late 1990's for the best conserved farm in Essex. Park Farm remains untouched by development and his legacy will remain for future generations to enjoy.

After Simon finished rugby he took up golf and was a member of Saffron Walden golf club. During this time he helped extend the course to 18 holes by providing labour and machinery to build the new 9 holes. A bad back ended his golfing days and soon after Simon took up bowls and joined the Thaxted bowls club where he was an active member and donated a trophy that is still played for today. Simon loved the village of Thaxted, where he lived for 82 of his 83 years. He was well known to many of the locals and played a very important part in the community. This included serving on the Parish Council for many years, being Chairman for eight years, leader of the Cubs and Scouts in the 1980's. He was Chair and President of the Christmas Tree Committee and a founder member of the Town Twinning Association,. all along with other local charities. Outside of Thaxted he served as Chair of Governors for St Thomas More primary school in Saffron Walden and St Mary's secondary school in Bishop's Stortford.

The Latham family were Catholic and Simon's parents established the Church of the English Martyrs in 1952 in what is now The Chase, just off Park Street. Tom donated the land and a number of families helped build the church using an Amercian nissen hut which had been left behind after the war at Debden airbase, now Carver Barracks. Simon attended mass every week throughout his life and also cut the lawn at the church and helped out with other jobs including organising the Christmas decorations. While he was a lifelong Catholic, he was also a big supporter of all the churches at Thaxted and would attend the men's breakfast at the Baptist church and other events at the URC and the Anglican church.

The church lasted much longer than expected but had to close around five years ago, being deemed unsafe. Keen to ensure that there was still an option for Catholics to have mass in Thaxted, Simon, along with Patrick O'Brien, helped negotiate the use of the Lady chapel at the Thaxted Anglican church for a catholic service on Saturday evenings.

In his retirement Simon welcomed seven grandchildren and got a lot of enjoyment in spending time with them and celebrating their various achievements. He was also a great armchair sports fan, particularly of rugby and cricket. In later life he enjoyed travelling the world with Hazel, often accompanied by friends. Simon had a few health challenges in his later years, but his passing was unexpected and sudden. It was a comfort to his family and friends that it was quick and peaceful.

Hazel and the family want to thank all of our friends and neighbours for their support over the past few months and for all of those that helped make his Memorial service in December such a special occasion and fitting send off.

Simon will be greatly missed by all the family and his many friends and may he rest in peace.

#### A Rare Planetary Parade Over Thaxted

#### Graham Young

On February 28th, 2025, a rare and spectacular "planetary parade" took place, with seven planets-Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune-appearing to align in the night sky above Thaxted. While it's common to see a few planets together, this event was particularly special because all seven potentially were visible at the same time, a sight that won't he repeated until 2040

Members of the Thaxted Astronomical Society gathered at dusk at the Windmill to observe the western sky. As the Sun set, Mercury and Venus became clearly visible near the horizon, with Mars and Jupiter

the horizon, with Mars and Jupiter appearing higher in the sky—though initially obscured by clouds. Those with telescopes had the opportunity to catch a brief glimpse of Saturn before it dipped below the horizon, and then search for Neptune and Uranus, which can be seen only as faint dots. And, of course, we couldn't forget our own planet, Earth—a little easier to spot! To complete the parade, the Moon made an appearance later that evening, offering a full set of celestial wonders. Unfortunately, the late winter weather prevented all seven planets from being seen simultaneously in

Thaxted, but no doubt some of us will be back in 15 years for the next

opportunity!

#### The Blood Moon Eclipse

Just a few days later, the planetary parade was followed by another breathtaking celestial event, a "Blood Moon" lunar eclipse on March 14th. A few dedicated club members braved the early morning chill, heading up to the Windmill before dawn to witness the Earth casting its full shadow across the Moon, turning it a deep red just before sunrise. The timing was perfect, allowing them to enjoy the eclipse before heading to The Swan for a well-earned full English breakfast at 7 AM!

#### Join Us for More Astronomical Adventures!

If you'd like to learn more about the Thaxted stars and planets, Astronomical Society offers а Introduction free to Astronomy course. perfect for beginners eager to explore the night sky. The club meets every two weeks at The Swan, and details of upcoming meetings can be found on our website.

We also have an exciting "Night at the Races" fundraiser at Bolford Street Hall on Wednesday, May 14th, to support the club. If you'd like to attend or have any questions about astronomy or the club, please contact Steve Evers at ThaxtedAS@btinternet.com.

### Thaxted Singers Maggi Griffiths

Thaxted Singers is continuing to flourish in the local area with a membership of just under 50 singers. We have already had some exciting concerts since September, including participation in a choir festival in Bishop's Stortford along with seven other local choirs. Our December concert was a huge success and included a variety of choral pieces including some Christmas favourites. We also led the carol singing at the annual Thaxted Town Carol Service in December. We then were rehearsing for a joint concert with Amici Cantate on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2025 in Thaxted Parish Church. This exciting collaboration involved

80 singers. Thaxted Singers aim to present a diverse range of choral music to the local community and are always seeking to encourage new singers to join regardless of age or ability. New members are always warmly welcomed into this friendly, all-inclusive, nonaudition choir.

Follow us on Facebook and for more details about the choir please contact Maggi Griffiths - maggigriffiths@gmail.com

The Thaxted Singers are joining with other local community choirs to showcase their repertoires as part of this years' Thaxted Festival on Saturday 21st June from 10am. Why not come along to this relaxed morning at no charge to see and hear what they all have to offer?



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Thursday	6.30 am - 9 pm	
Friday	5.50am 7pm	
Saturday	8am - 2pm	
Sunday	Sam - 2pm	



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www.gatheringbox.co.uk gatheringbox@yahoo.com



### Sue Roderick

#### 10th February 1946 – 23rd December 2025

Born in Cleckheaton, Yorkshire Sue moved down South in the swinging sixties to attend teacher training college. From there she moved to Bottisham in Cambridge and taught in both Newmarket and Haverhill before moving to Thaxted to start a family.

Sue first lived in Guelph's Lane before moving to The Maltings, where she remained for the rest of her life. For twelve years, Sue was a

full-time mother to her 3 daughters, before going back to teaching in the late 80s. а role teaching was advertised to cover a maternity leave at Thaxted Primary School.

Sue eagerly applied and was successful.

Encouraged by her Headteacher, David Herbert, in 1988 Sue became a fulltime member of staff and she never looked back. She was also to continue as a strong, resilient and capable single parent to her daughters. She was to remain at Thaxted Primary School for 18 happy years. She started in Year 6 and later moved to Year 3. She remained with this year group for the rest of her



teaching career. She found it inspiring to guide her small charges through this significant and exciting transition in their education.

In addition, Sue ran school clubs, discos and PTA tombola's with aplomb and also relearned the piano so that she could play in assembly and choir. She was a brilliant storyteller and held the children in rapture with every tale told. Sue was respected and valued by her

> colleagues and also by many grateful parents, from whom she received appreciative and affectionate letters. Her former pupils remembered always her. into even

adulthood and, no matter how long since they'd left school, they still respectfully called her Mrs Roderick. Sue loved the arts. She enjoyed theatre, novels and poetry and was an avid Coronation Street fan! She was a member of a book group and Poetry group right up until her death. She loved singing and was a of several choirs member throughout her life. Sue frequently involved herself in her community and loved Thaxted. She served on the Parish Council for 10 years, on the Thaxted Fayre committee and on the Gardener's Weekend judging panel. All whilst raising three daughters, two dogs and teaching full time!

When Sue retired at 60, she continued to make herself available for school supply when needed. But

her aim now was to make more time for her own enjoyment, which she did with her many hobbies and activities. Sue was generous in spirit, animated and charming and saw potential in others even if they didn't recognise it themselves. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



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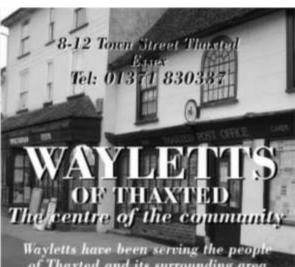
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The Thaxted Guildhall, over six centuries in the heart of our community



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Yak.



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 more than 40 member-led interest groups from arts to exercise and languages to sports, with indoor games, discussion groups and outdoor activities in between. And we are only just up the road from Thaxted!

On Wednesday 30th April, Dunmow u3a will be welcoming Jane King from the Foundling Museum in



London to tell us the story of "Coram's Children: The Story of the Foundling Hospital"

From the struggle of Thomas Coram at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century to establish the Foundling Hospital, Britain's first and only home solely for illegitimate children; to how the babies left there were brought up. And the involvement of William Hogarth and his fellow artists and why the Hospital became Britain's first public art gallery. Members may also be interested in the continuing work of Coram as a pioneering children's charity.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April - 1.30pm for 2pm start Foakes Hall, Dunmow CM6 1DG

Looking ahead to the end of May, Mark Butterworth, the local author of the Adam



Devon novels, will be talking us through the process of how to "Make the Bold Move - Write that Book!".

And at our AGM at the end of June, Charles Garland, former assistant to David Croft OBE, will be sharing some 'behind the scenes' stories of how the programme, **Dad's Army**, came to exist, interspersed with personal memories of the writers and cast members.



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

Dunmow u3a is part of a UK-wide movement of locally-run interest groups that provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun.

It is aimed at adults in the Dunmow and surrounding villages who are no longer in full time employment and have an interest in all things new: hobbies, challenges, sports or just making new friends.

"I joined the u3a to meet new people who want to be sociable and fun, to try new things, to exercise and try to keep fit, and to learn new skills."

We will also be at the Dunmow Showcase on Saturday 26th April at St Mary's church. You would be welcome to come to chat to us there and find out more about Dunmow u3a.

Or you can email <u>membership@dunmowu3a.org.uk</u> or visit Du3a's website <u>https://dunmow.u3asite.uk/</u> Registered charity number: 1168310

#### UK-AID - Felsted Aid for Deprived Children

#### Concert in the United Reformed Church 26th February.

Igor Sayenko from Ukraine is a professional musician with the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine who played his Accordion with breathtaking skill. When in the UK he likes to give concerts as often as possible to help raise desperately needed funds for his country.

He began the concert with two pieces by Bach *The Toccata in D Minor* and *Marcello*, which was a complete contrast as it was melancholic almost sad, Igor devoted this piece to all the people in Ukraine whom he called 'Angels.' *When Almonds Blossom*, composed by Kancheli, was the next piece. He told us that the Russians wanted the composer to play it as part of a concert in Russia but Kanicheli said that he would never go back to there until the invasion of his country was over. He sadly died in 2021 so did not see peace. After the interval Igor played three movements from the *Carpathian Suite* by Zubitsky which were more contemporary and the skill and speed of fingers on the keyboards were stunning, Igor said that love or hate Zubitsky, he is not to be ignored.

Igor then went on to play a piece he had written himself called *Why.* Why the invasion of his country. Why the devastation hurt and misery it was causing. Sometimes we do not have answers but he hoped that one day he would be able to welcome us to his beautiful country, as he played his own piece his face spoke to us better than any words could.

*Flight Beyond Time* by Makkonen a Finnish composer was almost the last piece played and demonstrated how just playing on one Keyboard can produce equally melodic music but the dexterity of fingers required was exceptional.

Igor will return to play again, hopefully in the summer, so if you missed this treat be sure to join us next time.

UK-Aid (FelstedAid for Deprived Children) is such a worthwhile charity and they regularly send lorries out to Ukraine loaded with dried food, toiletries, medical items.

So if you are able to support them in any way with donations or any of the items above then please donate to them they can be contacted on Facebook or 01371 238941 or 07884426551 or 07979067268 the cost of each lorry to travel to Ukraine is £4,000. The concert raised £660.00 which is tremendous.



#### Support for Young People

Young people face unique challenges as they navigate education, employment, housing, and financial independence. While digital resources are invaluable, the importance of individual, face-to-face advice cannot be overstated.

Whether it's advising a young tenant on their rights, supporting someone through a mental health or financial crisis, helping a victim of a scam, or standing up for those facing workplace discrimination, we can ensure young people feel seen, heard, and supported.



Citizens Advice can offer support with a range of issues: Other local services that support young people can be found at <u>https://essexfrontline.org.uk/</u>

Uttlesford Citizens Advice, Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden, CB11 4EB 01799 618840, help@uttlesfordca.org.uk, www.uttlesfordca.org.uk



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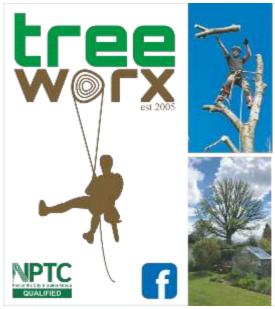
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and drinkers.

Petfood: dog and cat foods, small animal and fish.

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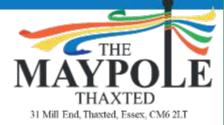
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