

**THAXTED PARISH MAGAZINE
CHRISTMAS**

2020



**ANGLICAN, BAPTIST, CATHOLIC
& UNITED REFORMED**

ABC & U EDITORIAL INFORMATION
DATES FOR NEXT EDITION
EASTER 2021

Date for copy to Editor: Monday 15th February 2021

Publication date: Sunday 21st March 2021

COMMITTEE

Stephanie Hughes (Editor)	01799 586248	email: editor@abc-u.co.uk
Mike Collins (Adverts & Graphics)	01371830457	email: adverts@abc-u.co.uk
Peter Archibald	01371 831139	
Yvonne Baccush	01371 831396	
Julie Barnard	01371 830261	
Margaret Caton	01371 830751	
Jill Jones	01371 830104	

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

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Full page -	£100 for 3 issues -	£35 for a single issue
Half page -	£55 for 3 issues -	£22 for a single issue
Quarter page -	£33 for 3 issues -	£13.20 for a single issue

Not for profit organisations have different rates

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

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

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

Cover Photo: . NHS Heart in buttons - Margaret Caton

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

**WELCOME THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF THE
ABC&U MAGAZINE.**

The committee are sorry that we felt it wise not to produce an edition at Harvest time. Things were in a state of flux and we were not sure how to proceed. Although times have not really improved we have been able to organise Zoom committee meetings and a good number of items have been produced.

We have tried to balance reporting on the effects of the pandemic with positive stories and information. Hopefully there

is the glimmer of a light at the end of this very dark tunnel.

Please support our advertisers who must be going through difficult times, but have continued to support us financially so that we can provide you with this bumper edition of our magazine.

Enjoy reading it. We always welcome ideas and articles. May be write us a letter. Do contact us at editor@abc-u.co.uk

EDITORIAL - STEPHANIE HUGHES

The conditions under which we are living at the moment are not unprecedented. Over the centuries we have been subjected to many epidemics and Popes, governments and various authorities have promoted extraordinary measures to contain the contagions. It seems the only way to eliminate it is, as we are urged to do now, quarantine, wear a mask and wash our hands.

The practice of quarantine began in the Middle Ages when ships would arrive in the ports of Italy from countries where a disease was endemic. They would have to anchor at sea and the sailors were not allowed on shore for forty days to make sure they were clean of any infection hence the word quarantine from "*quranta*" forty in Italian. In 1377, during the black death, quarantine was passed into law in England.

There were quarantines in many countries during epidemics. In 1576 when Milan was hit by a plague, the health authorities would only allow a limited number of people to enter the city and they had to produce a document from their area certifying the absence of any

continued overleaf

symptoms of the pestilence. The Archbishop, Charles Borromeo, held four processions, attended only by adult men divided into two rows with a distance of three meters between them to ask God to stop the epidemic. He also instigated a general quarantine for all citizens to lock themselves in their houses for forty days including the clergy, but exempting priests who looked after the needs of the population. They were unable to go to Mass but the crossroads of the city were marked with crosses and altars where Masses could be celebrated and the faithful could participate from their windows. Despite a continuation of the situation the quarantine was extended and the citizens were unable to go to church even at Christmas.

In 1665 one hundred thousand people in London died in eighteen months, almost a quarter of London's population. Public entertainment was banned, some of the ale houses in affected areas were pulled down and every citizen had to clean up the area around their houses. Trade and business dried up, the streets were empty, as many citizens had fled the city, except for deadcarts and dying victims.

The plague raged in Moscow the same time. A state of emergency was declared shops, inns, taverns, and churches were all closed. The city was placed under quarantine but in 1771 they revolted against the measures. The mob perceived them as a state conspiracy especially to spread the disease and turned on Archbishop Amvrosy, the patriarch of the city, who had removed a revered icon to stop the spread of the disease. They hunted him down and killed him.

During the 1918 – 20 flu pandemic life was on hold again. Social gatherings were forbidden, theatres, places of entertainment, schools closed and churches were shut. The wearing of masks became mandatory in 1918. Every one wore masks. Photographs show some that looked birds' beaks that were filled with herbs and spices to stop bad odours which they thought spread the virus. Citizens in San Francisco were fined \$5.00 if they went out without wearing a mask and were charged with disturbing the peace

So advice, today, has not changed since the middle ages. We are told to isolate, keep our distance and wash our hands.



PEASGOOD & SKEATES



INDEPENDENT FAMILY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MONUMENTAL MASONS

Serving the Community since 1847

Purpose built funeral homes with private chapels of rest

Free professional bereavement counselling
available to all our clients

Pre-paid funeral planning

***A personal, caring service from
a local business, day or night***

SHIRE HILL & HIGH STREET
SAFFRON WALDEN
TEL: (01799) 523314

45 MOORFIELD ROAD
DUXFORD
TEL: (01223) 833463

617 NEWMARKET ROAD
CAMBRIDGE
TEL: (01223) 415255

12-14 QUEEN STREET
HAVERHILL
TEL: (01440) 840140

www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 



ANSWERING THE CALL

Mark Hayes - URC

In January I start my formal placement at the United Reformed Church at Thaxted. In taking up my new role, I look forward to working with all the local churches. I have a good ecumenical pedigree: I was baptised in the Church of England and grew up in the Methodist Church where many years ago I was very active in the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs, serving for a year as secretary of their National Members' Council.

So how did I end up in the United Reformed Church (URC)? The simple answer is that my wife Janet was a member of the URC in Cambridge and I married into it. I was made very welcome, and started to lead worship as a lay preacher on a regular basis. This continued when Janet and I moved to Saffron Walden in 1985.

Forty years after I joined the URC I've started two year's training with a view to being ordained for local ministry at Thaxted. The first nine months will be extremely busy as I don't retire from my job as Chief Executive at Christian



Action Housing until next June and I also chair Saffron Academy Trust which is responsible for several local schools, including Saffron Walden County High and Helena Romanes in Dunmow.

My initial training has had a strong focus on the history of our particular Christian tradition which is very helpful in understanding why we are the way we are. When Congregationalists and Presbyterians came together in 1972 to form the United Reformed Church it represented a significant milestone in ecumenical development and there was anticipation that more would follow. However, with some small exceptions, the coming together of our denominations stalled and the hope for a greater structural unity remained just a hope. In its place, we have learnt to work more effectively in partnership with each other and to celebrate what we have in common.

The traditions that came together in the URC have their roots in the disagreements about ministry

that date back to the 16th century. Our Basis of Union includes these words about ministry:

"The Lord Jesus Christ continues his ministry in and through the Church, the whole people of God called and committed to his service and equipped by him for it."

We believe that each one of us, as part of the church, is part of Christ's continuing ministry. We are part of *"the priesthood of all believers"*.

At the moment we find ourselves coping with one of the most challenging situations we have

ever had to deal with. When the coronavirus epidemic eventually subsides things won't be as they were before. However, I sense an opportunity for all of us to help create a stronger community and more compassionate society. The people who once sat in our churches on a Sunday morning haven't disappeared even though they may no longer attend. Some may not believe anymore; some may have just drifted away. We are churches that in humility can help people come to, or return to faith. I feel called to play a part in responding to this opportunity.

Loves Farm, Cutlers Green Croft Turkeys



**Traditional
farm fresh,
BRONZE turkeys**



To order your oven-ready turkey please contact:

**Chris Mizen
01371 831033 or 07702048457**

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP - REPORT TO PC

Lauren Barham of the Thaxted Community Support Group sent this report for distribution at the Parish Council Meeting.

In October, the Parish Council resolved to administer all the finances for the group, which has enabled larger donations to be facilitated; including a grant from the Essex Association of Local Councils for food support which has already been paid in totalling £500.

The group continues to function in a smaller capacity. With the formal end of shielding the focus has moved primarily to supporting the elderly, many of whom are still very anxious about the current situation. I feel the prominence of mask wearing etc is probably heightening this anxiety (though this is obviously a very necessary method of slowing transmission). We have an amazing group of volunteers, who even with their return to work etc, continue to support these people within our community.

There is still some emergency funding available, from personal community donations, for those in immediate financial need as a result of Covid 19. Martin is also looking at other possible funding avenues, which I believe will be useful should a second wave of the pandemic hit. I have been in contact with the local churches who nominated several people for assistance during the first lockdown, many of whom required subsequent boxes and other means of support. I have explained that this funding is available should they believe anyone is in immediate need and to contact me directly. We would also signpost them to the correct support agencies moving forward.

As well as this, I have made the church communities aware of the growing group of OLIO * representatives we now have within the volunteer group distributing food (which would otherwise go to landfill) free of charge. I am acutely aware that there are many people who could benefit from this service who are unlikely to have access to the app or internet and are therefore unable to request such items. In light of this, I have spoken to the representatives who are happy to work alongside the churches to distribute food to any members of their congregations/community that they feel may benefit, and the churches have been emailed and informed of this offer.

Further to this, I have had some messages of concern from parents affected by job losses, about the cost of uniform/supplies required for the return of school. As a result of these messages I have set up a Thaxted Primary Uniform Bank. To date we have approximately 100 people in this group. All uniform and supplies are donated free of charge, though for those who can afford to do so, I have linked the page for the Primary PTA. Given many of their usual fundraising events have been unable to go ahead, it seems a happy medium. I am pleased to report that the group appears to be working extremely well, and I know many families have been able to kit their children out ready for school, without any additional financial burden. Obviously, there are some positive sustainability benefits, too! Win, win!

www.facebook.com/groups/ThaxtedCommunitySupport

* OLIO is the number 1 free sharing app - connect with your neighbours to share food and other things.



A Traditional Free-Range Goose This Christmas

For a traditional Christmas dinner this year, try one of our delicious, slow-grown, free-range Geese. Our birds are reared on our farm in Little Sampford from day old chicks. They are wheat and grass-fed, sleep in large, straw-filled barns whilst spending the day out in the meadows. They are all dry-plucked and prepared on site and delivered all over the country for the Christmas market.

We also supply the finest ducks, chickens and guinea-fowl.

www.greatclerkesfarmfoods.co.uk
07968 148 896

***THE CHANTRY -
YOUR CHANCE TO HELP PRESERVE ONE OF
THAXTED'S ICONIC BUILDINGS***



We are all rightly proud of the wonderful (and much photographed) view from the Swan, past the church and towards the Windmill, taking in the alms-houses on the right and the wonderful thatched Chantry on the left, a Grade 2 listed building. The Chantry, which is held in trust by the vicar and churchwardens of Thaxted church, now needs significant restoration and you may have seen that some work has already been completed on the thatched roof and the chimneys. However, much more still needs to be done.

So, there is an opportunity for us all to help as we need to raise more funds to carry on with the restoration. There are exciting plans to change the use of the building, with very little alteration to the historic fabric, to create a community hub and meeting space for the church and the town, to provide a small kitchen, two toilets and an office space. We envisage this community space being used by individuals and small groups, small business meetings, church groups and local organisations and potentially as a tea room/tea garden at weekends during the summer. Once the coronavirus pandemic is passed, people will want to meet and interact with each other once more and the Chantry will provide a wonderful resource, positioned as it is right in the heart of the town.

Plans have been drawn up and tenders will shortly be invited from local contractors but we know that, having spent £25,000 already on the roof and chimneys and other preparatory work, there is going to

be a need for more funds. So we are launching a campaign and we are asking for your help. Please think about whether you could give a small amount to help restore this beautiful building. You can do so really easily by visiting our Just Giving page at

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/the-thaxted-chantry>
Alternatively you could write a cheque to 'Thaxted Chantry' and put it through the Chantry door or give it to the vicar or a churchwarden.

One of Thaxted's iconic views needs a little help from everyone!
Thank you!



The Chantry – a Short History

In a town rich in history, the Chantry is one of its best loved and most memorable buildings. It may originally have been a priests' house, as its name and proximity to the church suggest, but this is not known with certainty. Its age is also something of a mystery. The official listing is 17th century but the substantial timber frame and crown post construction indicate a date at least 100 years earlier. Even a 14th century origin has been suggested. Whatever the case, it is quite possible its early life may have coincided with the building of the church itself.

Historically, the 2 southernmost bays appear to have been open, and there is evidence that the 3 further bays were enclosed on the ground floor. This unusual layout may reflect the institutional nature of the building. Its use as alms-houses was recorded in the mid 18th century and early photographs show 5 doors to the front.

In 1933 a major restoration was undertaken, saving the building from disrepair. The vicar, Conrad Noel, had purchased it from the then Lord of the Manor of Horham, Mrs Clara Humphrey, and he commissioned the Arts and Crafts architect Thomas Rayson to convert it into a single dwelling for a family. Since that time the Chantry has been vested in the vicar and churchwardens of Thaxted church. Rayson added a substantial extension to the south end including an impressive bay window. He also created a corridor along the front of the building to link the various bays, and he added a small extension at the back with 2 steps down to fit it under a 'cat slide' roof. This was probably a coal or wood store. The Chantry remained as a family home until its most recent tenant, Jan Gowlett, died in 2018.

The present restoration

The present restoration involves much needed repairs to the building with minimal alterations. The original historic fabric will remain unaltered, and the integrity of the 1930s Arts and Crafts restoration respected. A small section of the corridor will be widened to allow wheelchair access, with original woodwork reused or matched if necessary. To create a usable servery, the rear 'coal store' extension will become part of the kitchen. The floor will be levelled up and the roof raised under a small gable to accommodate this. This small alteration at the back of the building will be the only noticeable change to the exterior.

BEST AND WORST ABOUT LOCK-DOWN

by our Undercover Reporter

ELSA:

Best thing - being able to enjoy a wonderful summer during lock-down.

Worst thing - not be able to socialise, no Day Centre, too many hours alone.

What I have learned - to be patient and everything will get better if we obey the rules.

ANGELA:

Best thing - taking life at a slower pace, gardening, cooking

Worst thing - having all my activities and job taken away.

What I have learned - to be grateful for what I have in my life i.e. family, friends, nice house, lovely garden.

SAVOUR

EVERY MOMENT



With our delicious frozen meals and desserts, prepared by award-winning chefs and delivered free by your local team, you've more time to enjoy the things you love.

For your free brochure visit wiltshirefarmfoods.com
or call **01371 876970**

OVER 300 DELICIOUS DISHES

FREE FRIENDLY DELIVERY

TRUSTED LOCAL SERVICE

WILTSHIRE

EST. **FARM** 1991

FOODS

FAYRE TRUST

Rachel Wicks- Secretary on behalf of the TFT

For those residents new to the town, the Thaxted Fayre Trust is a local registered charity set up back in 1986 for the purpose of bringing the community together through fundraising and entertaining events.

Since the Committee reformed in 2017, we have hosted a range of different events from a Blitz Christmas Party, Quiz Nights, Hollywood themed party, Ladies Night, evenings of Clairvoyance and of course our Summer Fayre and Fun Dog Show. We are proud to announce these events raised over £8,000 allowing us to issue cheques providing financial support to numerous local projects and clubs via our Annual Community Grant Scheme.

We are proud to have been able to support Thaxted Rangers, back in July, with an emergency grant of £250 to assist with the repairs required to the shutters at the recreational ground pavilion following an act of vandalism.

Sadly due to current Covid restrictions we are unable to hold any fundraising events and therefore cannot offer our Community Grant Scheme until further notice.

We are however thrilled to have been asked by Thaxted Parish Council to organise an event to bring our community together when safe to do so. We obviously can't put a date in the diary just yet for when this will be, but we would love to hear your options and ideas on what we should do. Our community has proven to be so kind, strong and supportive to one another during this very difficult time. How would you like Thaxted to come together to celebrate our community?

So whilst we may not be able to bring the community together, let's see if we can't jog a few memories!! Where were you on 20th June 1994? Do you have any pictures or memories of the Thaxted Fayre or processions of the past? We'd love you to share them with us.

If you would like any further information about the Trust or can volunteer some time to help us make our next event successful, please do get in touch. You can like and follow us on our Facebook page @Thaxtedfayretrust or visit our website www.thaxtedfayretrust.com

TFT Wordsearch

Find words relating to the Thaxted Fayre Trust and what we do in the community



DANCERS
FAMILY
PROJECTS
TRADITION
EVENTS
FUNDRAISING
TRUST

FAYRE
DOGSHOW
SHOWRING
LOCAL
GRANTS
MAJORETTES
RESIDENTS

STALLS
SWEET
SINGERS
BAR
GOKART



H. LOWE. & CO

Pet and Animal Feeds - Garden Supplies
Hardware and Electrical Products
Solid Fuel, Salt,
Recycling Bags
DVDs
Books and Much More

FREE DELIVERY OR
COLLECT FROM YARD / SHOP
18 Town Street - Tel: 01371 830316

Local Architectural Design



**Extensions. Loft Conversions
New Houses
Barn Conversions
Listed Buildings**

Planning and Building
Regulation Applications

**For a FREE INITIAL VISIT call us on
Tel: 01799 540600 Alun Design Consultancy**

Email: info@alundesign.com
See samples of our work at www.alundesign.com

Mercer & Hughes



Veterinary Surgery



**Saffron Walden
Veterinary Hospital**

01799 522082/521406

14 Radwinter Road Saffron Walden
Essex CB11 3JB



NURSE ON SITE 24 HOURS - FREE NURSE CLINICS

Stansted Mountfitchet
01279 813780

80 Cambridge Road
Stansted Essex CM24 8DA

Great Dunmow
01371 872836

5-6 Chelmsford Road Ind. Estate
Great Dunmow CM6 1HD

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

www.mercerandhughes.co.uk



Paddy McKeown

WALDEN Sweeps

- Services offered include:
- Chimney and Flue Sweeping
- Wood Burning Stoves
- Open Fires
- Agar/Rayburn
- Bird Nest Removal
- CCTV Examinations

t: 01799 599981
m: 07956 099788
e: paddy@waldensweeps.myzen.co.uk

www.waldenchimneysweeps.co.uk

**Great Dunmow
Osteopathic Clinic**

structure...
..health...
...fluidity

ANGUS HELLIER B.Sc (Hons) Ost

- How can Osteopathy help maintain health and prevent injury?
- As well as back pain, what other symptoms can be treated by Osteopathy?

Tel: 01371 875217
www.angushellier.co.uk

All Osteopaths are registered with the
General Osteopathic Council

FRIENDS OF THAXTED CHURCH

Advance notice – Open Garden Day 2021

This event has been organised every few years by the Friends of Thaxted Church. It is hoped to have a Thaxted Open Garden day, next June or July.

At this time please think about entering your garden. It doesn't have to be perfect and it is not a competition. You may be halfway through a project and need some help or advice or inspiration with which visitors can help you. You can also offer refreshments and plants for sale.

Visitors buy their programme of gardens at the church on the day (£5), choosing where they go in no particular order.

This year will be the 15th year of Open Gardens. We have found it always interesting, friendly visitors, making new friends, a happy day for everyone. So come and join in as a gardener or visitor.

Can you also look out for other good gardens to recommend? Are they Interesting, a healthy vegetable plot, good for hedgehogs and other wildlife? Offers to Joan 830902.

The Friends of Thaxted Church 50/50 club,

The Friends of Thaxted Church welcomes you to join our 50/50 club.

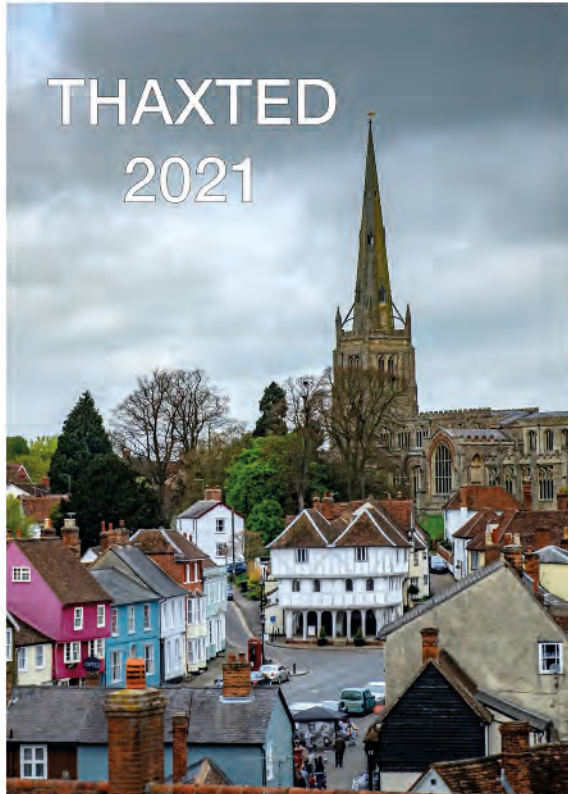
Anyone can join. Members pay £1 a month (£12 for a year). You can have more than one go (i.e. 2 = £24 per year). Each month a draw takes place. Half the money received for that month goes to the prize winners and half goes into the Friend's Fund. This supports Thaxted Church with restoration work and other projects (i.e. new lighting). You can join at any time in the year.

The draw takes place on the last Monday of the month. We hope you will become a member

Please send your name, address, phone number and email, with your cheque (made payable to the Friends of Thaxted Church) or cash, to Mrs Joan Holley, 5 The Maltings, Thaxted CM6 2NB (01371 830902)

Registered under the Gambling Act 2005 UDC Licence no SL248
The Friends of Thaxted Church Trust is a registered charity. No 104277


Thaxted 2021 Calendar



With 12 beautiful photographs of the changing seasons in Thaxted taken by local photographers, the Thaxted 2021 calendar contains the winning entries from our calendar competition.

This artistic reminder of our unique village would make a great Christmas gift for friends and family, at home and abroad.

The calendar is on sale from Thaxted Laundry Room, Wayletts and Thaxted Tourist Information Centre for only **£8.00**
All proceeds go to the Friends of Thaxted Church.

 Friends of Thaxted Church

A CENTURY AGO IN THAXTED

Bruce Munro

The recent rapid pace of change in the life of this small town leads one to reflect on times past. How slow was the change in its population and lifestyle before the present day pressures?

The number of souls here today is about 3500 and rising. The 2011 census numbered 2845. Here's a brief look at Thaxted circa 1920 when 16,000 were living here many in small cottages, two up and two down for perhaps a family of six or eight with no electricity, no indoor loo, no heating and water from the parish pump.

The Armistice following, the end of the Great War, had only recently been signed and the loved ones of those sons of Thaxted who never returned still mourned their tragic loss.

Architecturally the appearance of the town centre and nearby streets was much like today save that the buildings were often somewhat neglected and decoration less colourful. The Guildhall had been the subject of recent restoration which had revealed its former concealed timber frame whilst the adjoining Stoney Lane houses were still plastered, no beams to be seen.

On the site of the present Library and Information Centre stood the imposing three storey Congregational Manse. The shop fronts were generally more ordered and usually bore the family name of the trader, as did their advertisements in the church magazine of the day "The Country Town".

J Clunas, Chemist; Arthur Audus, Draper, grocer and wine dealer. Frank Barrett Motorcycle agent, Motor spirits; G.C. Johnston, Post Office, Stationary, Pens, Ink, Blotting paper; T. Johns, Butcher; William Rogers, Wheel wright and Job master.

Shops were plentiful, three bakers, three butchers, three grocers, three blacksmiths, one chemist, two boot repairs, one fishmonger, one photographer, one undertaker, draper, newsagent, confectioner, tailor, dental surgeon (Edward Payne), motor engineer, watchmaker: also, builders, carpenters and more.

Ponies and traps, horses with carts and wagons were still in common use whilst the motor car was no longer a rare sight. Steam rollers and traction engines were also familiar.

Religion played a part in the lives of a significant number of parishioners certainly on Sundays, with Morning Service, Sunday School, Evening Service and Evensong. There was a choice of where to go. The Congregational Chapel in Bolford St which seated 950: the Baptist Chapel in Park Street, seating 400 and the great Parish Church of Saint John the Baptist with Our Lady and St Lawrence.

Thaxted's vicar, Reverend Conrad Le Dispenser Roden Noel had been appointed in 1910. He was a radical priest, organising secretary of the Church Socialist League and founder of the Catholic Crusade. His introduction of High Church ceremonial, incense, colourful vestments, and preaching left wing politics from the pulpit brought great turbulence to this hitherto conservative parish. The town divided between those who embraced this new ethos and those who revolted against it, some never to step foot in the church again.

Conrad Noel transformed the church, both in its services, as well as beautifying a neglected interior. In the Church, notably he flew the Red Flag, St. Georges flag and the Sinn Fein flag, but no Union flag. This led to Cambridge undergraduates descending on the town, removing the flags and raising the Union flag - the so called "Battle of the Flags." There were meetings, nay riots with, it is said, 3000 people outside the Guildhall. After one such event, Noel wrote to his wife, who was away, *"We are still alive - it was a most exciting evening - 2000 in the place, but we had a prayer meeting and our people had an escort to the Vicarage. The details are very exciting but too long to write ..."*

Noel, with his wife Miriam, involved parishioners who had never been related to the church. There were Processions of the People, a mixed choir, Morris Dancing, country dancing, music and more. Gustav Holst, who composed part of his Planets Suite whilst living in the parish hamlet of Monk St and later lived in "The Steps" in Town Street, taught the choir and played the organ.

Besides the farms, the principal employer was the sweet factory: George Lee made boiled sweets and employed as many as 100 men women and girls. First ponies and traps and later various lorries transported a large variety of delicious boiled sweets to a wide area of East Anglia. A tall industrial chimney was built at about this time and the steam hooter called the workers from their slumbers.

The majority of working men were farm workers, while others were employed by local builders or in the shops. Farm work was for low wages - £1.50 was the weekly wage. The farms were mainly arable but there were several dairy herds and milk was delivered to the householders by hand carts or horse drawn milk floats. The motive power was still the horse although tractors were starting to appear.

There were two blacksmiths: Fred Bright and his son Ted at Mill End and Barker in Bolford St. Mr Jennings, Auctioneer held a Friday weekly market of pigs, poultry and produce – rabbits, eggs in the Swan yard. Barclays Bank provided their service every Friday at “The Bank House”, Watling Street. Most children went to Thaxted Elementary School. The Headmaster then was Mr Bunting while Miss Elizabeth Cockrill was the Infants mistress. Miss Pattenden a small round lady, who had succeeded her mother and sister as the sole principal, and I think, sole teacher of her private school at “The Priory” which was patronised by the children of farmers and shopkeepers.

The public hall in Bolford Street was the venue for entertainments, meetings and so on. The Bolford Street Schoolroom, which is now the current hall, belonged to the Congregational Chapel.

Doctor Moore was the local doctor, now GP, who lived in Aldboro House and was shortly to be succeeded by Dr. Charles Weller. Dr. Bartlett from Saffron Walden called on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Thaxted Light Railway, the station a mile from the town centre, connected with the mainline at Elsenham. Otherwise there was no public transport, you walked to Dunmow or Saffron Walden. There was a gas works in Park Street which provided gas for the streetlights.

Eight pubs in or near the town centre with their public and saloon bars welcomed the weary the thirsty and those who called for a chat, however, there was seldom a woman present. The Hamlets were well catered for, The Oak at Cutler’s Green, The Butchers Arms at Bardfield End Green, The Greyhound at Monk St and the Fox and Hounds at the Samford Road junction.

What of crime and punishments? The most regular crime was poaching for game and rabbits. Someone known as J.B. was convicted of taking seven partridge eggs at Blunts Farm and the punishment was a fine of £1.15, equal to a week’s wages, plus 65 pence costs and one month’s hard labour. An eleven year old boy

was sentenced to six strokes with a birch rod for setting fire to two wheat stacks.

Children fished for tiddlers in the almost always flowing Chelmer, or they spun tops, or pushed hoops in the streets. They sought birds' eggs, or frog-spawn and went gleaning with their mothers at harvest time.

What was good about 100 years ago? There were no aeroplanes, no speeding cars, no insensitive music, noise. But there were plenty of sparrows, swifts, starlings, hedgehogs and not many pigeons. It was good to greet your neighbour with a smile, a "Good day" and a "Good morning".

Count your blessings this is Thaxted.



LIVING IN A CRISIS WITH HOPE

Fr. Michael Corcoran - St. Joseph's Missionary Society

What we have experienced during the pandemic and what the world is going through this year will be spoken about for generations to come. When people look back on 2020, they will tell the story of how the world had to pause - travel was suspended, people had to isolate themselves from one another and had to learn new ways to do things. They will speak of how new opportunities were found for people to gather virtually - not only for lessons, socialising and decision-making - but also for prayer and the praise of God.

With isolation and lock-down, we have missed the visits and coming together. I hope that many of us have had more time to reflect and tune in to God and consider what God may be saying to us.

Forced seclusion and restricted freedoms have reminded us that we are not invincible, we are far from being in control of everything.

We are quite dependent on each other in our global family. Life is precious and fragile; love and family are fundamental to our safety and well-being. Not only is our physical health important, but also our mental, emotional and spiritual health. They all need to be nourished if we are to truly 'keep body and soul together'. The words that have leapt out at me during this critical time have been 'trust', 'hope', 'life', 'love' and 'truth'.

THAXTED STOVES



Call us today

01371 700 305

07990 511 589

Email

info@thaxtedstoves.com



We offer a complete sales and installation service for all your wood burner and multi fuel burner needs. We supply and install, Clearview, Jotul, Aga, Stouax, Charnwood and many more.

www.thaxtedstoves.com

THAXTED LAUNDRY ROOM



We are a family run business which prides itself on our exceptionally high standards and customer satisfaction.

Our services are competitively priced and include:

Washing

Shoe Repairs

Collection and Delivery

Drying

Duvet Cleaning

Repairs & Alterations

Ironing

Dry Cleaning

Curtain Cleaning



Thaxted Laundry Room. 24A Town Street, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 2LA

Tel: 01371 830334

E-mail: thaxtedlaundryroom@outlook.com

Follow us on  and  @ThaxtedLaundry

STIR UP SUNDAY

Father Geoffrey Holley and Joan brought the idea of making puddings in their home when they moved from Loughton in 1992. Joan writes, "So, we began around 1995. It was great fun gathering all the ingredients. Our market was able to supply all the fruit, nuts, carrots, oranges and lemons, while the Guildhall Stores supplied the dry goods. Apples came from local gardens.

I made a large dish of macaroni cheese or cottage pie for our cooks, Father Geoffrey and Father Stanley, who donned their aprons and sat ready poised with empty bowls and wooden spoons. They grated orange and lemon rinds and squeezed juice ready for the bowls. I weighed out flour, sugar, suet, breadcrumbs, spices for each bowl. Then currants, sultanas, peel, grated apple and carrots were added to the mix. The rinds and juice were next. By now the aroma in our house was quite something special."



Joan Lloyd had the important job of checking all ingredients were in the bowls. She then cracked 8 eggs into each bowl and finally added four tablespoons of black treacle.

Joan would invite people to come to her house with an empty bowl, give the mix a stir and then take away their bowl filled with pudding mix. As well as paying for the mix, guests were all encouraged to buy raffle tickets and an item from the bring and buy table. The money raised by the occasion all went to help the Parish Church Restoration

Fund. Sadly, this event will not be happening this year, but maybe the idea of making the pudding rather than buying one is a way of amusing children.

Stir up Sunday – this year on 22 November - has a long history. It is a tradition that goes back to Victorian times. The family would get together to stir the Christmas pudding mix on the last Sunday before Advent. "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people," are the opening words of the Book Of Common Prayer for that Sunday. So this is the day to get stirring! There are other traditions around the Christmas pudding. Putting a silver sixpence in the mix is supposed to bring the luck of wealth to whoever finds it. Alternatively, some sort of charm might be used such as a ring for marriage, the wishbone of a chicken for luck, a thimble for thrift, and an anchor for safe harbour. Putting a sprig of holly on the top was to represent the crown of thorns. It is also said that the pudding should have 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and his disciples.



GREENSIDE
BOUTIQUE CATTERY



Compassionate and Top Pawformance Care for your cats

Tel: 07525756414
Email: info@greensideboutiquecattery.co.uk
www.greensideboutiquecattery.co.uk

Licensed by Uttlesford Council with four star rating, located in Cherry Green, Broxted, Dunmow CM6 2DD

ERROL - WHITE VAN MAN - MBE

We all have come to appreciate the dedication of all the “white van men and women” who have been delivering our on-line parcels. Perhaps they all deserve to be awarded a medal. But one in particular has been awarded the MBE. Not, as it happens, for his delivery work but as a Volunteer and Campaigner for services to Prostate Cancer Awareness.

Congratulations

Errol McKellar, Member of the Order of the British Empire

Until his retirement last year Errol ran a small garage in Hoxton, specialising in MOT's and repairs. And his home life also keeps him very busy as he has 7 children and step-children and a large extended family across London and Essex.

However, Errol's entire life changed in 2010 when he was diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer.

He didn't have any symptoms but whilst waiting for an appointment with his GP he read a leaflet about the illness and asked to be tested. His PSA level came back a bit high and further tests revealed he had 92% prostate cancer.

In March 2011 Errol had an operation to remove his prostate and went on to have three months of radiotherapy and has now been given the all clear, although he is continually dealing with some of the serious side effects from his treatment, including bladder control and erectile dysfunction.

Since then he's dedicated his life to making men aware of the dangers of prostate cancer and encouraging them to get tested. This became especially effective when Errol randomly decided to encourage the men who went into his garage to go and speak to their GP about their risk and have a PSA test, and in return he offered them discounts on their MOT.

"I said to my customers, when was the last time you had your prostate checked? You brought your car in here for me to check because there's a problem. Do you know what's going on in your own inside? Men need to talk about it even if they don't want to. I talk to men of all ages. I talk to women too because they get the message across to

their men. I try and spread the message every single day. I want to reach men before it's too late. I really believe we can beat this."

As a direct result of being offered a discount on their MOT Errol has helped save the lives of almost 50 of his customers who would not otherwise have been aware they had prostate cancer.

Errol is one of Prostate Cancer UK's main ambassadors and, along with Linford Christie, David Haye, Danny John-Jules, Viv Anderson, Chuka Umunna and Benjamin Zephaniah is fronting their Stronger Knowing More campaign, which encourages black men to get PSA tests.

He is also an ambassador for Go Dad Run which was created in 2013 by triple world champion athlete Colin Jackson to raise awareness of prostate cancer and other men's health issues.

In 2012 Errol was chosen to be one of the Olympic torch bearers in Hackney and in 2016 his volunteer work in the community was recognised by the Prime Minister when he was presented with a Points of Light Award. In 2018 he was named the NHS Heroes - Hero Volunteer and also in 2018 Errol set up and launched The Errol McKellar Foundation and was invited to 10 Downing Street to talk to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for Health and the Head of NHS England about the prostate cancer awareness work his new charity will undertake.

Since he retired from the garage business he moved to Thaxted and during the current Corona Virus he has been delivering around the Dunmow and Thaxted area. While Errol has been delivering he has made many new friends in the Community. The residents of Thaxted set up a 'just giving page' and made a donation to his Cancer Charity to thank him for his service in the community. Look out for him as he is always in Thaxted sometime most days.



McGREGOR

HOME & GARDEN SERVICES

Local Husband & Wife Business Established for over 10 yrs

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR DECORATING

Project Management, Kitchen/Bathroom Installation,
Flooring, Plumbing & Electrical Repairs/Installation
Fencing/Brickwork/Patios/General Garden Maintenance
Household Cleaning

Small & Large jobs undertaken
Any Job in your house or garden
Fully Insured for your Peace of Mind

References available on request

Tel: 01799 523971 - Mobile: 07956320209

Email: jonjomcg@hotmail.com



07791458042

FIT STEPS

Supporting your steps to a fitter YOU!

01371 830097

REBECCA LOWE - PERSONAL TRAINER

**Specialist qualifications including outdoor, GP referrals,
sports conditioning and much more!**

**Small group, couple and 1 to 1 training focussed on YOU,
YOUR HEALTH and YOUR FITNESS goals**

FUN..SUPPORTIVE..MOTIVATING..PERSON CENTRED

**CALL ME TODAY FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT AND START
ON THE ROAD TO A FITTER YOU 07791458042**

BROAD STROKES



DECORATING SERVICES

**TRADITIONAL & MODERN
PLASTERING AND WOODWORK REPAIRS**

NO JOB TOO SMALL

FRIENDLY SERVICE AND ADVICE

CALL 07783 066326

Martin Ball

Firewood & Timber Merchant

Established 1994

www.martinballfirewood.co.uk
sales@martinballfirewood.co.uk

Office 01799 586 513
Woodyard 01371 830 503
Mobile 07980 258 003

Blunts Farm Yard
Thaxted



A YOUNG LAD'S EXPERIENCE

Tom Bassett

During the first two weeks of lock-down, I couldn't get my head around what was going on due to COVID-19. I found it hard to wake up in the mornings and do school work from home but as the time went by I learnt to adjust. However, after the first few months when the restrictions started to lift I found myself having a part time job at Great Clerkes Farm where I was feeding and dealing with birds. This included: geese, chickens, and turkeys which I enjoyed, and learnt about the aspects of agriculture which I am now studying at Writtle University College.

When places of worship were allowed to reopen and measures were of course put in place, Thaxted Church held their first service on the 19th July which also gave 6 of us bell ringers the opportunity to ring again since the end of March when the bells fell silent due to the pandemic. The ringers included: Denise, Rosie, Lowie, Ian and me. Since then, we have rung for every service up until the 18th October when ringing was suspended again, because the majority of Essex moved into the new Tier 2 restrictions.

About two months ago, I was given permission by the United Reformed Church to practice on their organ for the time being. However, I then went on to practice at Wethersfield and was asked by one of their churchwardens if I would like to play for their services. This was because they didn't have a full time organist, so I played for a few of them. After that, I then thought to myself I wonder what other churches would give me permission to play. I found a website on "Google" with all the churches in Essex and I emailed a few close to the area. I was very successful and was able to play at Finchingfield, Lt Easton, Gt Easton, Ashdon, and Gt Sampford. Recently, I have received an email asking if I would like to play for a wedding at Lt Easton church in December and I accepted the offer.



THE GIDDY UP BAR/TEACUP

Jackie & Antony Dynamou

We are a local Thaxted couple, Jackie and Antony, and we debuted our converted horsebox, "The Giddy Up Teacup", at the Thaxted Windmill during this year's sunny August Bank Holiday weekend. Originally, we set out to create a mobile bar called "The Giddy Up Bar" which was to be a focal point at weddings & parties. However, due to Covid-19, all this had to go on hold with weddings and large gatherings cancelled. So, thinking outside the 'horse' box and, after a few tweaks, The Giddy Up Teacup was born.

With permission granted from the Parish Council and the Windmill Trustees, we set up our



little business in the stunning setting of the Thaxted windmill. We put out the bunting and hoped someone would turn up...and boy, did you turn up!! Mollie Blake (Blakes Bakes) provided her delicious homemade cakes which certainly drew in the crowds and for four glorious weekends over August and September we served the residents of Thaxted and beyond refreshments and cakes all served on beautiful vintage china.

Our business is very weather dependent and we very much hope to reconvene maybe later this year but certainly in 2021.

SIMON LANGSDALE LETTER CARVER

HAND CARVED MEMORIALS



ESTABLISHED FOR OVER 10 YEARS
A local craftsman making
beautiful memorials in
stone and wood using traditional
tools and techniques

07701 027042

Pardon Mill, Harlow, Essex, CM20 2HP

simonlangs@hotmail.co.uk

www.simonlangsdalelettercarver.co.uk

HOUSE SIGNS BIRDBATHS BENCHES PLAQUES

P.R.E. HEATING SERVICES

Registered Heating and
Plumbing Engineers

Oil and Gas Boiler Servicing,
repairs and installation

Fully guaranteed

Free quotations

Contact Phil Evans on:

07500 800441 or 01638 721343

preheatingservices

@gmail.com



THAXTED FLOWER CLUB

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



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

Non-members welcome - £5 per evening inc refreshments

For more information:

Sue 01371 830195

Email: thaxtedflowerclub@outlook.com

www.the-trumpet.co.uk/thaxted-flower-club



ALLASPECTSTREESERVICES.CO.UK

All Aspects Tree Services

TREE SURGERY - STUMP GRINDING
HEDGE CUTTING - FENCING

01279 755545 07940 231964

INFO@ALLASPECTSTREESERVICES.CO.UK

COLORCRAFT

THE ART & CRAFT SHOP IN SAFFRON WALDEN

We have everything, (almost) that you may need to paint, draw, craft, knit, sew.

We stock DMC, Anchor, Windsor & Newton, Daler, Sirdar, King Cole and much

more....

1 EMSON CLOSE, SAFFRON WALDEN

01799 522607

www.colorcraftsw.com.

HARVEST 2020

Simon Latham Sept 2020

As there was no harvest edition of this magazine, this article comes when the harvest is complete and preparations for next year are underway. Most of you will be aware of what a difficult year this has been for agriculture. Going back to autumn 2019 we enjoyed a fantastic Indian summer, hot dry weather. The ground in places was so hard that cultivation was impossible so farmers had to wait for rain to soften up the soil. It wasn't until mid October before it rained, but once it started it didn't know when to stop. In a couple of weeks it went from bone dry to a bog.

In most years there are "windows" when the land can be harrowed and sown. This autumn there were few of any real "windows". As a result some wheat was sown but in very poor conditions, what farmers would call "smeared in".

We endured the wettest winter for several years and the rain never let up until early April, then as if a tap was switched off, the sun came out and dried out the ground incredibly quickly. Within a fortnight the top 2 inches was dried out (the depth at which spring crops are sown.) Because much of the autumn wheat had not been sown there was huge pressure to sow the vastly increased spring crops – spring wheat, spring barley, oats and beans. As a result of the dry spring many crops did not emerge until May when it rained.

As a result the yields of all crops are well down this year. In a normal year we produce about 16 million tonnes of wheat, but this year it is about 9 million tonnes, meaning that we shall have to import about 6



million tonnes or more in 2020. Prices have gone up, but not enough to compensate for the poor wheat yields.

Not only that, because of the increased spring sowing, there is more spring barley than we need. As a result the difference in price between barley and wheat is much greater than usual.

One would think that because of these changes the price of bread would go up (likely) and the price of beer and lager would go down. (You must be joking!)

You may have noticed that there was a big drop in the amount of Oil seed Rape grown this year. This is because the chemicals that were used to combat the bugs that damaged the rape crops are now banned. After 2 years with greatly reduced yield farmers are turning away from rape. Looking out of the car window I have seen some interesting alternatives like Borage, Millet, both white and red, Echium and other unidentified crops.

With the new regulations due to be introduced when Brexit has been agreed we may yet see more nectar mix crops and wild flower areas introduced into the cropping system. Watch this space!



Looking for something a bit special?

The Giddy Up Bar is a vintage style horse box available to hire as a stunning focal point at parties, weddings, fetes, filming and corporate functions to name but a few!

Alternatively, if a vintage tea is more your style, our alter-ego

The Giddy Up Teacup serves teas, coffees, cold drinks (with a boozy twist if desired) and homemade cakes served on beautiful vintage china.

We have a variety of packages to suit all budgets so please contact us for more information on: 07846 407857 or email:

enquiries@thegiddyupbar.co.uk



OCEAN DELIGHT

Mouth-watering traditional Fish & Chips
just like one remembers as a child

•

Serves all types of
Fish • Pies • Chicken • Sausages & Burgers

•

Try them and you will be hooked!

•

Open every lunchtime and evening
Tuesday to Saturday

•

OCEAN DELIGHT

for the best Fish & Chips in the area

•

Telephone: 01371 830909

•

Mill End • Thaxted • Essex

SARACENS FILLING STATION & CONVENIENCE STORE



Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 7am - 10pm
Saturday & Sunday 8am - 10pm

Costcutter

Ample parking Auto Carwash Jetwash

Cigarettes Newspapers Milk
Groceries Sweets Off Licence

Solid Fuel

Charcoal

Bottled Gas

Payzone



Mill End Thaxted

01371 830472

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

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

Sundays	10.00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesdays	10.00 a.m.	Said Mass
Christmas Eve	T.B.A	
Christmas Day	10.00 a.m.	Mass

MARRIAGES

19 September Robert Ian Dellow & Jackie Margaret Taggart

BAPTISMS

20 September Sergio Giovanni, son of Lorenzo and Charlotte Rodia

THE BAPTIST CHURCH, PARK STREET

www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com
m.facebook.com/thaxtedbaptists
Contact : Fran Griffiths 7, St Clements CM6 2LL Tel 01371 831 161

Christmas Day	9.30 a.m.	Morning Service
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Morning Service
Wednesday	8 p.m.	Bible Study by Zoom
Friday	10 - 11.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning - In Abeyance
Saturday	8.45 for 9 a.m.	Men's Breakfast - In Abeyance

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, BOLFORD STREET

Contact - Julie Barnard, 01371 830261

Sundays	9.30 am	Morning Service, followed by coffee.
Wednesday	10.00 am	Said Mass followed by coffee

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

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

All Sunday Services are in Great Bardfield at 9.30 am

BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

Peter Archibald

Church Services

At the commencement of the restrictions it was arranged for the Sunday morning service to be held via Zoom. Now due to the requirements being altered, we have moved on to attending Safe Mode services.

Men's Breakfast

Unfortunately our successful community Men's Breakfast, held every fourth week, has had to be curtailed until restrictions are lifted.

Other Community Activities

Again because of the current situation our Friday Coffee Morning, Community Choir and Exercise Classes have all been cancelled.



Coffee & Company

Have you experienced the loss of a loved one?

Would you like someone to chat to?

Come join us for virtual **coffee/tea and cake** currently via zoom. We provide each other with mutual support and a space to chat with people who understand.

We meet on the last Saturday of each month
10 - 11.30am

For more details visit: www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com

email: coffeeandcompany006@gmail.com

or telephone Debbie on 01371 831548

Christmas Tree Committee.

The committee tell us that they will, of course, be erecting a Christmas tree this year as usual with all the lights and decorations we have come to enjoy and to brighten up the month of December. However, for safety reason they have regretfully decided that there will not be any events.

Father Christmas will just have to come direct to homes and not stop off in Town Street.

Advent windows

"Thaxted's annual Advent Windows event will take place again this year from the 1st December - look out for further information coming soon on Facebook and for maps in some of the shops on Town Street. If you'd like to create a window please contact Lorna on lornaanneburkle@gmail.com. This year's theme is "A Child's Christmas".



The Star's Christmas Market

A message from the Star, Mill End

We have 25 Stalls booked to come to our Christmas Market. They are offering everything from candles to cakes to clothing. We are, of course, following all guide-lines with regards to Covid-19. We will be offering food on the day but only outside.

So come and find out what is on offer. December 5th and 6th from 12 noon to 5pm.

Small advert

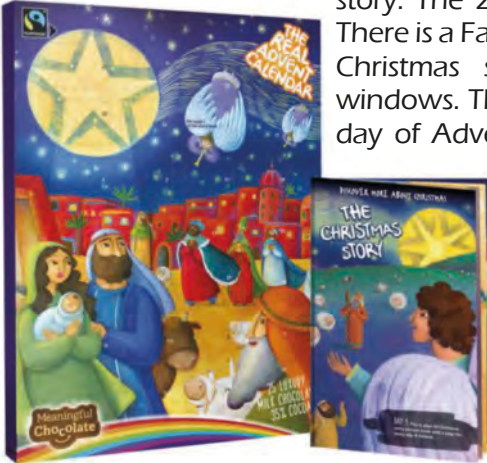
I have an old type record player with separate speakers, and records. It just needs a new stylus and needle. If you are interested contact me. Any donations can go to the Friends of Thaxted Church or whatever charity that's prevalent at the time. Contact Joan 830902

REAL ADVENT CALENDAR 2020

A great way to share the Christmas Story

The Real Advent Calendar is the UK's only Fairtrade Advent calendar which comes with a free 24 page Christmas story-activity book.

The 2020 Real Advent Calendar is a fun way to share the Christmas story. The 2020 calendar has a new design. There is a Fairtrade Chocolate and a line of the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows. The free book has a page for every day of Advent, expanding on the Christmas story and includes some fun challenges. In addition, the support of a children's hospital from sales, a National Schools and Youth competition and the free online all-age worship material make The Real Advent Calendar a great resource.



Features

24-page Christmas story activity book. Behind each of the 25 windows there is a line from the Christmas story with a high quality colour picture. Foiled for

freshness. 25 Festive Fairtrade chocolates made from our improved Fairtrade blend-35% cocoa. Palm oil free. Charitable donation. All recyclable.

The Real Advent Calendar RRP is £3.99 and it is available directly from our on-line shop, <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/pages/real-advent-calendar>. Also from larger Tesco stores and select retailers. Supplies are limited so buy early.

OFTEC
Registered
Technician

Oil Boiler Services
SIMON GULLIFORD

*Servicing &
Repairs*
Oil fired Boilers
AGA & Rayburn
Cookers

24, Mountfitchet Road,
Stansted
Essex, CM24 8NW

Tel: 01279 816028
Mobile: 07815 967766

CHRISTMAS 1955

Julie Barnard

In 1955, I was ten years old, and in the late summer of that year our family had moved from Chingford near London to Hatfield Heath. Our home in Chingford had been a flat on the first floor of our Maternal Grandparents large house but as there were now four of us children (my three brothers and myself) plus our parents we had become too many and noisy to stay in the flat any longer, especially as there was rather a small garden which was our Grandparents pride and joy, so four young children who needed to 'let off steam', became very difficult.

My father after much searching managed to find us 'Heath Farm' at Hatfield Heath which was a big rambling farmhouse perfect for a large family but it required a great deal of work to make it more habitable including replacing most of the windows, not to mention the holes in the roof.

We children thought it was just wonderful, after the confines of the flat, as we could explore and hide, making as much noise as possible, since there were no neighbours to complain. The garden was even bigger with a 'Mini Forest', at the bottom, where we spent hours and hours playing, building dens and making campfires. We had tremendous freedom and fun within our own garden whilst our parents began the huge task of making our tumbling down home more fit to live in.

1955 was our first Christmas at Heath Farm and was, I recall, rather chaotic with much to do but the excitement and anticipation for us children, far outweighed the tasks we were set.

For some reason, and I am not sure it would happen much today, my parents believed that Christmas preparations should not start until Christmas Eve hence the chaos of getting through the amount of jobs in quite a short time.

We children were responsible for finding logs from our 'Mini Forest' and bringing them up to the house for the fire, then putting up the decorations. In the fifties they were invariably crepe paper streamers that you twisted as you hung them from the centre light of the sitting room and then secured them to the walls. We then hung paper

lanterns or similar decorations to the streamers. The ladder never seemed to be high enough for us to reach the ceiling and the drawing pins always seemed far too short to secure anything, but decorate we did and the fairy lights and tinsel were a sight to behold.



My father went off to fetch the Christmas tree but returned with a bit of a 'Hairless Wonder' as he had left it so late all that was left were a few poor specimens one of them he bought home to which my mother complained bitterly and helped us find decorations to cover the bare patches, it is rather wonderful how a few homemade paper stars and angels, plus cones from the garden, transformed our funny 'Thin Tree'

My mother would then set to work in the kitchen boiling the ham, making sausage rolls and mince pies, stuffing the turkey and then icing the Christmas cake. The smells of Christmas and the anticipation of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day completely negated the fact that by about 7 p.m. my mother was so tired and bad tempered from being in the kitchen all day, that she had to take a bath and a rest before she could do anymore.

Most of our excitement was because we had planned, quite unbeknown to our parents, that we would all be in one bedroom on Christmas Eve and wait up for Father Christmas to arrive. We took some sausage rolls and mince pies to bed with us and had a picnic under the blankets. Father Christmas did indeed arrive very late but not before he dropped several presents onto the floor to which my eldest brother declared "I think Father Christmas has dropped a clanger!" Somehow eventually we managed to get to sleep. Our parents had threatened us, that on no account, were we to open presents on Christmas morning a moment before 6 am.

The stockings hung at the end of our beds were in fact one of our grey school socks and in the toe was always the obligatory tangerine, then a few sweets of some kind, then a 'fun gift' either a game or for me, that year, a bag of hair clips and slides. Our main present was tucked

in the top of our stockings. For my eldest brother Richard it was a geometry set, for me a very pretty charm bracelet, for Peter a Timex watch and for Mark who was only four a bright red torch.

Some ten minutes after opening our presents my brother Peter had completely taken to pieces his brand new Timex wrist watch. He had always been inquisitive as to how things worked and even today he is a very skilled engineer. There is very little that he cannot build or fix so he applied the same principle to his new watch, much to the horror of my parents. We almost witnessed a murder but within another ten minutes the watch Peter had the watch completely restored and working! However it hardly helped to create an atmosphere of peace and joy for Christmas Day.

These many years later I understand completely the anger of my parents at the 'Watch affair' as there was very little money coming into the home. My father was an accountant, but did not manage to qualify due to the war, so his salary never reflected his skills and my mother was a stay-at-home Mum, believing that if you had children your place was to be in the home caring for them. With just one income the Christmas gifts for us and indeed the whole of Christmas must have been very hard found which as children we did not appreciate.

Our Maternal Grandparents arrived for lunch and whilst they were rather conservative and liked everything orderly. My Grandfather had the most wonderful sense of humour with a tremendous store of stories and jokes about his life, including his time working in the City of London doing some sort of finance which we knew little about but to us it was completely enthralling. He had been a great collector of vinyl records during his life and could sing almost any tune which added to his charisma. He was also a very enthusiastic grower of roses hence our unwanted presence in his garden in Chingford. The variety of roses on display were his pride and joy.



The adults had a sherry and we children some squash before a delicious Christmas lunch was served. The dinner began by my mother announcing that she was very sorry not to have changed into her 'Best Frock' for lunch but she had run out of time and energy.

We did not know then but she was in the early stages of her fifth pregnancy. The crackers were pulled, paper hats worn and silly jokes shared.

Grandfather started his stories and jokes which I am certain were very exaggerated and long drawn out purely for the benefit of his captive audience. We had all finished our lunch but Grandad was in full flow so his lunch became cold with the gravy on his plate becoming congealed and the Brussels sprouts looking as though they were best fed to the chickens. But finish he did. Then followed Christmas Pudding with thick sweet custard and cream.

After lunch out came the board games, Draughts Snakes and Ladders plus a few card tricks all managed by Grandad. We adored him and he kept us entertained at the dining room table for what seemed like hours. Our parents and Grandmother had long since escaped to the sitting room for an afternoon nap.



Childhood memories are so often distorted but it seemed that our traditional Christmas tea by candlelight almost followed straight on from lunch but it was probably quite late in the evening when we enjoyed crusty bread and butter with Shippam's Bloater paste or homemade strawberry jam followed by warm mince pies and Christmas cake. My mother now much recovered made turkey and ham sandwiches for the adults but by candlelight our bread and fish-paste was the best tea ever.

Our Grandparents left and we all crawled up to bed exhausted having had a very special first Christmas in our rambling home. The next Christmas was even more hectic as Guy had arrived in the summer, a fifth child for my parents and a fourth brother for me. Oh joy!!

Whatever you do or wherever you are this Christmas even if it turns out to be a very different one due to this wretched Corona virus let's celebrate and be grateful for what we have knowing that times will get better and we will come through.

A very happy Christmas to you all. With love Julie

PARK STREET GARAGE

(Thaxted Ltd)

VOSA MOT Testing Station
Servicing & Repairs,
Cambelts, Diagnostics,
Exhausts, Tracking,
Recovery, Discount Tyres.

01371 830545

Open 8.30 am - 6 pm Mon - Fri
8.30 am - 12.30 pm Saturday



CARTWRIGHTS
Swim Schools

EXCLUSIVE VENUE NOW OPEN

Our Mission Is To Provide The
Highest Standards Of Swimming
Tuition In The Area.

Our Privately Owned Swimming Pool Benefits From

Very Small Classes
All Round Warm and Welcoming
Environment
A Personalised Service
Highly Qualified Instructors
National Accreditation



Contact Us

01440 785806

info@swim4life.co.uk

swim4life.co.uk

The Windmill Pre-School

Bolford St Hall, Thaxted, CM6 2PY



*The fun way to learn
through play*

For children aged from approx. 30 months

*Experienced and qualified staff
High staff: child ratios*

For further information please see our website

www.thewindmillpreschool.co.uk

or to arrange a visit please email

windmill_preschool@yahoo.co.uk

PRIVATE TUTOR

Professional English,
Maths & 11 Plus tuition for
5 – 11 year olds.

Jane Hadfield

BA (hons) PGCE
CRB checked

Based in Great Easton.
01371870589/07979430093

OVER 25 YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE

(One to one or
group rates available)



Reading
Math
Spelling

HERITAGE AT RISK FUNDING

Windmill Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to announce that Historic England have awarded a



grant to fund investigation works at the Windmill. These works will inform the extent of the repairs that are required and will take place as soon as possible. The Trustees would like to express their thanks to the staff at Historic England who have been sympathetic to the needs of this

iconic building and especially for their support in the current circumstances.

We will endeavour to keep you updated as to the progress of this very important stage of work as this will also inform plans for future fundraising for the repairs themselves.

Thank you all for your continued support.

THAXTED LIBRARY NEWS

In case you did not know the Library is open for book loans, collection and return, with reserving facilities on-line.

Do call in and have quick browse and borrow up to 14 books! Unfortunately, the computers are not available due to difficulty maintaining a 2 metre space. We are also not able to run, the very successful, "Rhyme-time" sessions on Fridays, nor the monthly "Lego" block building events as "Social distancing" would be impossible.

Opening times with a Librarian present are the same as before, with some extra times when our Information Centre volunteers are present.

The Information Centre leaflets are always available along with the limited, but quality, range of Thaxted themed gifts. And don't forget our dog waste bags – a snip at £1 for a pack of 50 quality poop bags.

At present the District Council officer, Citizens Advice and Food-bank are not available.

Times: Tues & Thurs 2 pm to 5 pm, Friday 9.30 am to 3.30 pm plus to 4 pm most Fridays, Saturdays 9.30 to 12.30 pm with possible volunteers present 12.30 to 4pm.

Call in and see us.

Janet, Genevieve, Mike and Brenda

sting performing art presents

Performing Arts classes exclusively for 2-5 year olds

Buzzy Bees



sting
PERFORMING ARTS



MONDAY

Rhodes Arts Complex,
Bishop's Stortford
11:00am - 11:45am

WEDNESDAY

Margaret Street Hall,
Thaxted
3:45pm - 4:30pm

FRIDAY

Rhodes Arts Complex,
Bishop's Stortford
1:00pm - 1:45pm

To book:

Call Lisa on 07903 192 094 or email: lisa@stingperformingarts.com

Tamara on 07900 735 566 or email: tam@stingperformingarts.com



The advertisement is split into two main sections. On the left, a black background features a large, stylized 'MW' logo with a diamond above the 'M'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Valuations Independent Jewellery & Watch Appraisals'. Further down, it states 'For the purposes of Insurance, Probate, Private Sale & Division of Assets.' At the bottom left, it provides contact information: 'Call us 07811 399 247' and 'www.mwvaluations.com'. On the right, a photograph shows a man in a pinstriped suit and a woman in a blue t-shirt with a parrot graphic. The man is pointing towards the woman, and they both appear to be smiling.

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

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

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

SEEKING OUT OUR PAST.

100 Parishes Society

Since March, getting out in the countryside has been greatly encouraged. Many of us have explored the footpaths around Thaxted, perhaps finding places we had not discovered before.

It has been interesting to watch the seasons change and to find out what happens to the crops in the fields as we walk through them and as the farming year progresses. Some of the paths dive into green lanes which at these times of wide open fields might seem an anachronism. They are, of course, part of the ancient landscape that has been shaped by successive generations of the farming community. They have planted hedges and cut wood from ancient, coppiced woodlands, tended animals, planted orchards and harvested honey from bees. Profiting from this productive land, many constructed beautiful buildings that reflected pride in their locality. Today, a significant number of these are listed buildings.

It is worth remembering that in this area there are museum collections of assorted artefacts and documents which help us to understand another dimension to the human history of the area. While now they are closed, the Guildhall and windmill contain interesting collections close at hand. Further afield there is Saffron Walden Museum, opened in 1835, which houses a real treasure trove of historical and other material relating to the local area. The Ashdon Village Museum is well worth a visit. It is a labyrinth of well-arranged and fascinating exhibits about life in the 1900s. We look forward to the time when our museums can safely reopen. Meanwhile, we can enjoy our heritage and celebrate the past by continuing to explore outdoors.

Our rich architectural tapestry is brilliantly recorded in a publication called *The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction*. There are a few copies still available by mail order from the Society's website or from the Thaxted Library and Tourist Information Centre.

Thaxted Guildhall is normally open on Sundays 2 – 5 pm. The Thaxted windmill will open again sometime when repairs have been made. Ashdon museum is usually open Sundays and Wednesdays. See also the website <http://www.ashdonvillagemuseum.co.uk/>. For Saffron Walden Museum, see their website for when they will be open again. <http://www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org/>

SECRET STONE PAINTER

Margaret Caton

The secret stone painter was Thaxted's answer to Banksy during the lockdown. Almost every day excited people were posting on the Thaxted Residents page on Facebook to say they had received one. Usually a photo of the coveted stone accompanied the comment often together with a photo of the dogs portrayed. If you had a dog or two you were probably wishing you



were the next recipient. I know I was! The identity of this talented person was a closely guarded secret known to only a few so it wasn't possible to exert any influence to make your dog top of the list.

These stones were sometimes left on the relevant doorstep, sometimes posted through the letterbox and sometimes left in the near vicinity of the house for a neighbour to deliver.

The deliveries went on over many weeks and caused a lot of interest with people posting photos of their dogs and occasionally their cat in the hope they would be chosen. Some people were more subtle and as the identity of the painter was not known it was difficult to exert much pressure.

The day I received mine was wonderful. I like others had been hoping and I do hope the man/woman/girl/boy behind the secret stone painter realises the pleasure they gave to everyone me included.

Eventually the stones stopped coming. Maybe the life of the painter changed, maybe they ran out of subjects to paint and maybe they ran out of stones. Whatever the reason, thank you whoever you are, you made a difficult time in people's lives more interesting, more exciting and you made us feel remembered and valued.

Thank you!

LADLES & JELLYSPOONS

BARBERSHOP • HAIRDRESSERS

& party
NIGHT'S

2nd

SATURDAY
Soirees

01371 830129

1 newbiggen street thaxted essex cm62qs

Keep up to date with our events
and all that is hair on our
Facebook page (Ladles & Jellyspoons)
and Instagram (L_jellyspoons)



Parrishes

ESTABLISHED 2004

***Enjoy our friendly atmosphere combined
with “home style” cooking washed down with
a wide selection of wines and beers.***

The ideal place for that morning coffee,
working lunch, evening supper, romantic meal
or that special occasion celebratory dinner.
If not just drop in for a drink on the way home or for
a night out with friends.

Did you know we are available for private functions
with menus prepared to your choice and budget.

An ideal location for anniversary dinners,
special parties, wedding receptions, christenings,
funeral receptions or a surprise party.

Open from 10.00am 7 days a week

36 Town Street, Thaxted, Essex CM6 2LA

Tel. 01371 830482

www.parrishes.co.uk email: info@parrishes.co.uk

THE ORIGINS OF FISHMARKET STREET

Richard Till

In Thaxted Parish Church, under the carpet of the Lady Chapel lies a brass plaque commemorating John More alias Taylor who died in 1619. More/Taylor was mayor of Thaxted five times. The plaque also commemorates his grandfather William More/Taylor who died in 1532 and John More/Taylor, his son, who died in 1631.

It is not unusual to find people from the Late Middle Ages or Early Modern period using aliases. However, the More/Taylor family were unusual as they did so for over 150 years.

We first come across them in the 1480s when William More/Taylor was made a trustee of Yardley's. That implied real status. Yardley's was a sub-manor of 160 acres which also included substantial property interests within the town of Thaxted. The trustees managed the estate and were drawn from the town elite.

William did well. He acquired property. In 1493 he was rich enough to buy 20 acres of meadow from the manor. We also know, from a case in Chancery, that he or his son (also William) owned substantial land in Little Sampford. The younger William lived with his wife Alice at a property in Mill End. He is the grandfather commemorated on the church plaque.

That is not the end of the story. William's sons, both called John (!) fell out over their father's will and ended up fighting it out in the Court of Chancery. The elder John (son of the mayor of Thaxted) continued the dispute with his cousin Edward and the last we hear of the family was through another court case in 1642.

So what have the More/Taylor family to do with Fishmarket Street? The answer is that for well over a hundred years they described themselves as "fishers" or "fishmongers". They were in fact rich tradesmen who bought land with the profits of their trade and, at the time, land brought status as well as wealth.

So where did they get the fish? Salted fish were preserved so could be brought inland from the ports. However, the More/Taylor family seems to have traded in fresh fish. In this, their earlier members were helped by the Holy Day of Obligation, Friday, the day on which Catholics were not allowed to eat meat.

The answer must lie in fishponds. We know that the manor owned fishponds near the River Chelmer in the 14th Century and these may well have survived. There were also fishponds at Tilty, which belonged to the monks at Tilty Abbey. Whatever the source, the More/Taylor fish market was set up at the end of what is now Fishmarket Street. Hence the name?

THE CHILL SWIM - ULLSWATER

Rebecca Lowe had entered the Chill Swim in Ullswater, a 7 mile swim from end to end, starting in Patterdale at the South end of the lake and finishing at Pooley Bridge. It was to take place on 19th July this year. Plans were all in place then it was cancelled. Rebecca, however, was determined to do the swim as she was raising money for the Thaxted Surgery. Here is her story of why she did it and her thank you to her supporters.

Rebecca Lowe writes:

Recently I completed a 7 mile swim on Ullswater in the Lake District to raise money for Thaxted Surgery. I have had a lot of support from the surgery over the years and I think we are so lucky in Thaxted to be served by such an excellent team. At a time when the selfless dedicated work of the wider NHS has been in the national spotlight it has been a privilege to give something back and thank them for everything they do to keep our community fit and well. Through the Thaxted residents Facebook page, a bucket at Lowe's and the generosity of friends, family and the wider Thaxted community I am delighted to say I raised just over £2500. Thank you to everyone locally who donated. I was hoping, given the challenges of the times we are in, that I would raise £1,000 and so I have been totally blown away by the support. I hope the surgery can use the money so that more patients can benefit from the wonderful standard of care, like I have received over the years, for many years to come.



WORKING FROM HOME

Mary Bailie

'Working from home' used to be an occasional entry in my work diary. In March 2020 this all changed as the lockdown descended upon us and working from home quickly became the 'new normal' for me and so many others. Previously, on several days in the week, I would travel to London. My day would start with the shrill early call of the alarm clock propelling me out of bed to catch the first bus from Thaxted and then on by train to Liverpool Street. Followed by a brisk walk, across London Bridge to the south side of the River. The streets were so crowded with everyone on a mission to get to their places of work, jostling for their bit of pavement space on which to walk.

My journey to work now is a bit different. It consists of a couple of steps along the landing and a short descent of a few stairs to my 'home office', fashioned from a bedroom. I was used to being in a large open plan office, with the constant hum of others working around me. Now it is unusually quiet. I am fortunate that I work for an organisation that already had an established network across the country and so our communication lines had already been tried and tested. I felt so grateful for this. It was not the case for so many others whose working lives were turned upside down completely, or worse still, disappeared altogether. My work was able to continue albeit in a different setting.

There are pros and cons to working from home. You need to create your own structure to your day and some people find this hard. There are difficult challenges for those juggling their full-time job with childcare and home schooling. It is not unusual to hear a call of 'Mum' in a Zoom meeting or see a cat or dog tail pass by! We have all had to accept and adapt to lots of different circumstances both in our own lives and in those of our colleagues. It is not quite the same without the office banter. The spontaneity of linking with others is lost somewhat as most virtual meetings are all at planned times. No impromptu lunch time walks out from the office with a colleague or getting together after work. Perhaps the strangest thing is being alone when you work in a large team. From all this, the importance of keeping in touch with others has been well recognised and systems have been successfully put in place to help us to do this as a team. On the plus side, there is no long journey to make and this time can be put to good use.

The world around us has changed this year and in such a short space of time. The lockdown brought heartache, pain and loneliness to so many. Like others, I found a sense of peace in being outdoors listening to the quiet stillness whether this was in the neighbouring countryside or in our garden. I was so thankful to have a garden. Nature, which I love so much, was just carrying on regardless which was so reassuring. I watched all the birds feeding and building nests. After the working day I admired the aerobatics of the squealing swifts darting across the sky and I would sometimes garden on into the evening, aware that this was time that I would normally spend travelling home on a crowded train.

As I write these words there are new restrictions being introduced and the number of Covid cases is climbing again. We will need to adapt our lives once more as we face the winter. I am encouraged by the words carved in stone in the reception of Addenbrookes Hospital

– “It will pass, whatever it is”.



Socially Distanced Walking - photo Dottie Haigh



CONTACT DOUGLAS REED
phone 07765 377653
email:oldenglandbuildings@yahoo.co.uk

LOCAL WINDOW CLEANER

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

THE THAXTED VETS

Shaun Kehoe B. Vet. Med. MRCVS

Veterinary Surgeon

2, Medina Business Centre

Shire Hill

Saffron Walden

Essex CB11 3AJ

Tel: 01799 521060 (24hrs)

Home visiting practice, all species, with mobile
x-ray, ultrasound, endoscope etc. for horses

S.J.B

DECORATING & BUILDING SERVICES

FREE ESTIMATES &

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

SIMON BULL

FREEPHONE 08005118440

MOBILE: 07970 914 839

E-MAIL: simon@sjbrefurbishments.co.uk

www.sjbrefurbishments.co.uk



thaxted pharmacy

...at the heart of local healthcare

OPENING HOURS*

MONDAY to FRIDAY 9.00 AM - 6.00 PM

SATURDAY 9.00 AM - 1.00 PM

Free PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY SERVICE

Free PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION SERVICE

Please contact us for details & application form

*Pharmacist not present 1-1.30 pm daily
(no dispensing is permitted during that time)

+ Dispensing Prescriptions

+ Repeat Prescriptions

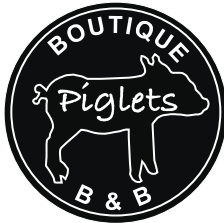
+ Patient Medication Reviews

+ Blood Pressure Monitoring

+ Smoking Cessation

Thaxted Pharmacy, 3 Town Street, Thaxted, Essex CM6 2LD
www.thaxtedpharmacy.co.uk thaxtedpharmacy@nhs.net

**t:01371
830260**



a bespoke luxury stay

Independent & owner run

www.piglets.co.uk

Telephone 01799 599 800

5 en-suite super-king luxury double/twin bedrooms
(7 in 2020) all with flat screen TVs, fridge, coffee/tea

Fully licensed
honour bar



5 star reviews on
Trip Advisor

Mini gym, bike storage,
boot room with wellie
library, umbrellas & ponchos



Relaxing patio &
garden & great
local walks

Beautiful natural
swimming pond



Scrumptious breakfasts
cooked to order

Exclusive guest lounge, TV room & DVD library

Coming soon in 2020 full games room, sauna,
massage, croquet lawn & Pétanque

Quiet rural location  Under 5 miles from Thaxted

Top Road - Upper Green - Wimbish Village - Saffron Walden - Essex CB10 2XJ

PETER KING

A brief reflection delivered on the day of his funeral.

It will be difficult enough to describe the giant personality that was Peter King at his thanksgiving service still to come, so to do him justice in a few words here at the graveside is nigh on impossible.

He was an English country man at heart, a true Thaxtedian. He went to school here and then served a five year apprenticeship at the



Cedric Arnold Organ Works, a time which he loved, and from which he gained his great interest in churches, pipe organs, electrical work and carpentry, which remained with him all his life.

After two years National Service, in the RAF, as there was less call for organ builders he moved into electrical works in houses, factories and in particular



Photo reproduced by kind permission of Andy Griffin

the local farms. He loved the history and architecture of many of the old buildings on which he worked, and this inspired his interest in the Thaxted Society and then his Council work. He served on Dunmow District Council as member for Thaxted for 10 years and the Thaxted Parish Council for 40 years. He served the Royal British Legion and local charities and received the Uttlesford Community Achievement Award which was in recognition of outstanding work for the local community.

He served in the Fire Service, drove the Thaxted fire engine and his knowledge of the farms and hydrants in the area was prodigious. He attended at the Rose and Crown Fire on Boxing Day - the saddest possible experience - which left an indelible impression upon him.

For many years he was a member of the Thaxted Morris Men with whom he danced, sang and played the Melodeon.

He loved Thaxted passionately and said life was perfect if he could see the Church, the Windmill and the Guildhall. Indeed, he has been quoted as saying that "Thaxted is the Hub of the Universe" in many of the

letters that Sybil has received over the last couple of weeks. In fact, it is truer to say that Peter will be remembered as the Hub of Thaxted, dispensing his stories, his wit, his memories, his anecdotes from Church House – itself the centre of hospitality at Morris Weekend and many other events.

Peter had a very strong Christian Faith and he cared deeply about all aspects of this church. He played the Last Post for many years for the Remembrance Service and we will honour him shortly with his Last Post too. He served as Verger for 41 years and was thrilled when he was designated Verger Emeritus in 2014.

I'm going to leave the last words to Bruce Monro in a letter to Sybil. *"Peter will always be remembered for his natural wit, his talent to amuse. His stories of old Thaxted learned from his forebears and his abundance of anecdotes. How often we laughed and laughed. Peter will be hugely missed, but warmly remembered and talked about. This place is surely diminished by his leaving. We lose a distinguished personality and an English countryman."*

Peter and his life will be celebrated fully when we are again able to gather in the large numbers befitting this larger than life character.

THAXTED FESTIVAL

Peter Donovan - Chairman Thaxted Festival Foundation

It had all been going so well. Our 2020 season was announced, brochures were posted out and priority booking was well underway. There was a lot of interest across all our concerts, and people were enthusiastic about the exciting artists and performances we had planned. And then came March...

By early March it was becoming clear that this would be no ordinary year. We began to take stock of what the implications might be for our organisation, which relies so much on volunteer support. Would it be feasible for us to bring the full Thaxted Festival season to life? By the time of our socially-distanced board meeting in Thaxted Church on 20 March, it was clear that the answer would be a very sad 'no'. By the middle of the following week the full lockdown was in place in the UK, making our decision unavoidable.

It was distressing to have to cancel the engagements of all our artists, knowing that they were facing loss of all their work for the foreseeable future. Artists and agents took the news on their collective chin, perhaps not realising how long the situation would persist, and how much

they would still be affected, months later.

Our audiences and supporters responded magnificently. Although we offered to refund all bookings made to date, many people allowed us to keep all or part of their booking costs. Our Thaxted Music Lovers at all levels supported us with their subscription costs, and funds for sponsorship of concerts were generously donated. All this, together with government support for businesses and charities, will enable us to protect the future of our flourishing Festival.

All of us have been enormously heartened at the messages of support and encouragement we have received since March, which show how much Thaxted Festival is appreciated both close to home and in the wider area. Although we haven't been able to see our audiences face-to-face, we know that Thaxted Festival is at the centre of a community of music-lovers who look forward to our wide range of events every year.

This year is the first without a full summer season since Thaxted Festival was established in its

modern form by Philip and Marijke Curtis in 1987. In fact, a continuous pattern of festivals goes back further, to when Thaxted resident Peter Snow launched a yearly series in 1980, 40 years ago. Before then there had been other occasional events under a Thaxted Festival banner, all building on Gustav Holst's foundations in the Whitsuntide Festivals in the church of 1916-18, including Imogen Holst's Morley College performance in Thaxted Church in 1967.

Luckily, the technology which we've been putting at the core of our operation has enabled us to function since March with minimal office presence. We've been able to run our systems and communication remotely, including handling the refunding process. As for many people working from home, regular meetings and full Board meetings have been held over the inevitable Zoom platform.

So we have definitely not been idle during this enforced interregnum, and the Festival is very much alive. You may have noticed some of our energetic board members giving the exterior of our Watling Street office a much-needed facelift during the height of the summer heatwave.

Behind the scenes we have been developing our visual identity, and you will begin to see the changes in this from the end of this year. Importantly, we have a full programme of leading artists engaged for our 2021 season.

We have been unable publicly to mark some changes in our organisation this year. Ann Pickhaver, our Festival Administrator, has stepped down from her role but continues her involvement with us. We thank Ann for her many years of service as the face of the Festival. She is looking forward to enjoying Festival events as an audience member, and continuing to join us at events. We are also grateful to Brian Smith for his work over the last five seasons in doing so much to raise the professional standard of our printed



brochures and programmes. While our former President, pianist John Lill, also stepped down this year, we have established a new role of Patron, and we are delighted to welcome Marijke Curtis alongside well-known BBC broadcaster and performer Zeb Soanes in the first two of these new positions.

We are fortunate that the magnificent space of our Parish Church allows us to configure seating and performance areas flexibly. At this point it is a challenge to predict the shape it will exactly take for next year, and so we won't be announcing our detailed programme and plans as early as in the past. When we do, some things are likely to be different, but our commitment to the highest musical standards will be as strong as ever. We're sure 2021 will have wide appeal, with its range of classical orchestral, chamber, solo performers, vocal music, jazz and innovative ensembles, along with our

popular Family Concert and our important local education projects.

Back in February we held our season launch event in Thaxted Church with saxophonist Rob Burton and pianist Yuanfang Yang. On 10 October we were able to present two highly successful recitals by pianist Martin James Bartlett to our Thaxted Music Lovers and the general public, in association with Saffron Hall. In ways like this, we are keeping the flame of Thaxted Festival alive, and we're especially pleased to do so with such young and talented artists. We look forward to sharing next year's programme with you, and welcoming you to more Festival events soon.

music@thaxtedfestival.co.uk
www.thaxtedfestival.co.uk
Facebook: Thaxted Festival
Twitter: @thaxtedfestival
Instagram: thaxtedmusicfestival

K.R.W Tree Care

TREE SURGERY WORK.
FELLING, PRUNING, REDUCTIONS,
HEDGE CUTTING, TREE PLANTING
AND AFTERCARE

Call Kevin 01371 810035 / 07812 984875



PARK STREET MUSIC

Mary Taylor & Jill Jones

Early on in lock-down, while on our doorstep joining in the Thursday night weekly clap for NHS and carers, we had the idea of playing instruments and encouraging our neighbours to sing songs such as "Over the Rainbow" and "We'll Meet Again." Week by week the impromptu band grew from just clarinet and bassoon to keyboards, drums, guitars and a lead singer all residents in Park Street.



We had positive feedback from workers driving past us hooting their horns! It was appreciated by local residents, some of whom were shielding. It became a morale booster for us all and a weekly ritual. By the time of the NHS anniversary in July we had developed into a small, socially distanced, eclectic band leading enthusiastic singers. We also performed at the Park Street VE 75 Day Street party entertaining the residents during the afternoon.

Bargery Plumbing

COMPANY

Watersmeet, Guelphs Lane, Thaxted, Essex CM6 2PT

All Types of Plumbing & Heating Installation & Repairs
Oil & Gas Installation & Servicing
Complete Bathroom Restoration
Water Softners Supplied & Fitted

Tel/Fax: 01371 830623

Mobiles: 07885 417547 & 07734 529184

Email: bargeryplumbing@btconnect.com



www.treetops.uk.net



High quality tree work, by fully qualified and insured staff, in a company established over 30 years

Treework: Treetops cover all aspects of tree work, both domestic and commercial. We have acquired a reputation for high quality work, whether it is reducing, thinning, lifting, re-pollarding, bracing or removal. We also undertake stump grinding, fencing and hedging. Contact us and feel confident in our many decades of professional experience.

TREETOPS
ARBOREICULTURAL CONTRACTOR

t: 01799 543128
m: 07973 724 717
e: enquiries@treetops.uk.net

Essex Turfmaster

Weed Free Cultivated Turf.
Freshly cut every day.
New turf laying service available.
Screened Top Soil.
Ornamental Bark and Play Bark
£50 per cubic metre
Grass seed at £62 per 20kg bag.
New this season in our nursery
Laurels, Conifers and Box Hedging.
Please call for a quote
Church View Nursery, Thaxted, CM6 2NG
Tel: 01371 831255 / 07774 805377

MAN ABOUT THE HOUSE



The Complete Home and Garden Service

HOME

Decorating, Plastering, Woodwork,
Repair and Replacement of Facia, Guttering and Woodwork

GARDEN

Tree Work, Hedges, Grass Cutting,
Sheds and Fences Erected

CONTRACTS or ONE-OFF JOBS

PLEASE TELEPHONE 07783 066326

METAL DETECTING IN THAXTED

Simon Latham

About June 2019 I was approached by members of the Dunmow Rotary Club to ask whether I would be willing to let them have about 100 acres of Park Farm for one day so they could organise a metal detecting event, the proceeds of which would go to local charities. I was pleased to agree to their idea. They had been doing this very successfully for several years. The idea was that they would charge the “detectorists” a sum of money to search for metal objects on a piece of ground that had not been used by metal detectorists before.

The club would send out all the invitations and also organise a food station. A day in September was chosen.

The day in question turned out to be fine and sunny. An area of stubble field was designated as a car park. The search area we chose was on the left hand side of the road to Cutler’s Green, with an entrance halfway up the hill. I was very surprised when upwards of 150 people turned up to participate. One problem was that because of the drought the land had not been cultivated and stubble prevented the detecting part of their equipment from getting as close to the ground as they would have liked. Also the hard ground made digging very difficult, but it did not appear to deter anyone. Lunch came and went and at 4 p.m. all detecting ceased.

There were quite a number of metal finds including old coins and recent ones, various buckles and metal pins, two Dinky toys, but pride of place went to a lady detector who found an ancient gold ring with a gem stone still in its centre and in remarkably good condition. The experts dated it between 1000 and 1500 years old and Saxon in origin. It is presently being valued at Saffron Walden Museum.

It had been a very successful day and the amazing sum of £3,000 had been raised for charity. Congratulations to the Dunmow Round Table who worked so hard.

Two months later I was invited to their monthly luncheon at the Saracens Head in Dunmow and invited to nominate a local charity of my own choice who would receive a cheque for £200, plus I was given a bottle of McCallan’s malt whiskey – my favourite!

At New Year I was approached by another gentleman who organises “detector” days asking if he could run a day on my farm in February. This time he would organise the day and send out the invitations, the caterers, signage etc. and he would share the profits 50/50. This I agreed to and chose the land outside Thaxted on the Walden road. I chose this land as it is lighter than the land at Park Farm. Organisation is much harder in winter as you cannot park cars on any piece of ground but on a grassy area somewhere. Fortunately, my tenant had cut an area of grass up his drive away from the main road and had volunteered its use. The next hope was that it would be a rain free day otherwise the number attending would drop off. Fortunately, it was dry overhead until after lunch when we endured a heavy shower. The other factor was that the area had been sown with winter wheat and obviously we did not want to spoil my tenants’ crop. There was a refreshment caravan which kept everyone well supplied with “hot dogs” etc.

Again, I was surprised to see how many people turned up even in wintertime, especially as the ground was sticky and muddy on “welly boots”.

At the end of the day at 4 p.m. it was all over and people made their way back to their cars. Sadly because of the heavy shower lots of cars needed towing off and the grassy area looked pretty sad and the driveway to the road as well.

What was found – again quite a few coins, old and modern, various metal pieces of harness and other unidentified pieces. However, one “detector” had found a ¼ stater. This was a very small square piece of thin gold dated about 2000 years old.

Another had found an 1806 half sovereign.

Considering the conditions, it had been a very successful day. The profit on the day was £2,600 which would have been much higher in summertime, of which I received half. Firstly, I gave some to the tenant whose



continued over the page

continued from the previous page

wheat they had been digging up all day, plus he had supplied the car park and drive-way to the main road. Two charities in Thaxted benefited and also Nottingham and Addenbrookes hospitals who had nursed my grand-daughter through a very serious illness.

In conclusion I would say that it is a very easy way for a farmer to make money whether for charity or otherwise. All the farmer has to do is provide the land. Looking back, I don't think I would ever do another day in winter again as the elements can easily ruin a day and there is always the chore of clearing the mess up when all is finished. When harvesting is finished and before autumn sowing is the prime time to organise a day.

The detectorists on both days were delightful people, friendly, courteous, happy and thankful for being allowed to come and detect.



GREAT CLERKE'S FARM FIND

We at Clerkes Farm often have metal detectors looking for that crock of gold on our land. Like on Park Farm, interesting coins have been discovered, Roman ones, some from the reign of King John but by far the most interesting one was a rare quarter stater of Addedomaros of the Trinovantes and Catuvellauni similar to the one at Park Farm.



FOOTPATHS GROUP P3

Will Cockerell

This Spring Thaxted's network of footpaths must have seen the most people using them in living memory. Every day it seemed as if hundreds of people were getting their daily exercise by walking or running along the public footpaths, bridleways and byways.

Let's hope that this continues as we have a very good selection of circular walks around our town. It is a chance to see the farming year progress from harvest to preparing the soil for the next crop, the planting of the cereals and other plants and seeing them grow. It is also an opportunity to see the hedgerows turn from blossom to fruit, especially this year as the crop of berries and fruits has been particularly prolific with an abundance of sloes, damsons and crab apples.



The footpath maintenance group couldn't get going until mid May but we have been able to catch up with the mowing and have installed handrails on three sets of steps, two on the section from Wedow Road, behind Brook View and out eastwards towards the Sub-Station. Another on the steps from Monk Street out in the direction of Stanbrook. The County Council have also replaced the old footbridge on the route from Whiteley's

Lane over towards Mill Hill Farm.

As the ground has softened up, we are also going to renew some of the old way marker posts, repaint them and add new direction discs. Following comments from local walkers are going to add a few new posts in locations where the correct path is not immediately obvious.





GLOBAL
FLOORING
DESIGN LTD

Luxurious.

We stock and sell an exclusive range of exquisitely designed flooring.

Our original ideas in flooring design offer you the ultimate choice in colours and texture, to a quality so fine that it brings the unmistakable taste of luxury to any interior.

Wood · Carpet · Amtico · Karndean · Laminates · Grass

globalflooringdesignltd.com T: +44 (0) 1371 832997
M: 07970 250234 E: info@globalflooringdesignltd.com



DEBDEN BARNS

HOME • GARDEN • ANTIQUES
CAFE • THERAPY ROOMS

- **Elder Street Cafe & Deli**
- *Gallery Therapy Rooms*
- *House of Excellence Aesthetics Clinic*
- Knights Country Kitchens
- BECKY COOPER CURTAINS & BLINDS
- **Courtyard Garden Antiques**
- **BERRICK ANTIQUES PINE & COUNTRY**
- TANG & CO vintage & traditional
- Authentico Paint by M & H Homestyle
- **Bouncy Toms Children's Parties**

01799 544 018

Debden ~ Saffron Walden ~ Essex ~ CB11 3JY

HOME SCHOOLING EXPERIENCE

Gaynor, Mark, Oscar and Alex

For approximately 150 days, April to September, our kids stayed home. We were all grounded by the Government as Covid-19 took away our choices and then led us down a path of uncertainty and 'home schooling'.

Initially it was fun, a house full of excitement and trepidation. Freedom to do things within the house, yet in a disciplined way. The kids would shut their bedroom doors, with laptops at the ready and waded through the lessons set via technology. One would communicate with friends to help getting their work done, keeping some familiarity, whilst the other would just shut themselves away and grind out the work without disruption. Two very differing styles and approaches.

The work would take 4-5 hours to complete, but surely and steadily, the school slowed down and their work stopped coming through as thick and fast. By the end, a 10 a.m. finish was a long day's schooling and we had two children at a loose end. Luckily, we had already put in-place some structure to the day and to our roles within the family unit. There would be family challenges such as quiz nights that we each had to organise which proved to be both educational and fun. We had family movie nights, board game challenges and cake baking

Internet availability proved extremely challenging. With two adult home-workers, Zoom calls, conference calls and two home schoolers, times were certainly challenging and frustrations ran high. There's only so long a teenager will accept their Xbox games lagging before the ensuing shouting at the TV and asking Dad to stop working and get off-line.

Lock-down did however take us back to basics to a large extent and certainly gave us some amazing times, such as family mealtimes together. Not only did we eat together 3 times a day, responsibility was given and adopted by each member of the family. One would set the table, one to make the meal, one clean and clear up and Dad watched the football. Oh no, no football !

On September 3rd, school shoes were polished and uniforms ironed as the kids returned to school, face mask and all and negotiating the HRS one way walking system.

The Covid-19 lockdown taught us how many long and beautiful dog walks there are in & around Thaxted. All of our neighbours love

homemade cakes and a chat over the fence or hedge. Our elderly neighbours read the Daily Mail and like a whiskey at the weekend. Just for medicinal purposes !

We baked, ate, played, studied, screamed, laughed and got through this as a family. We spoke to Grandad every day on the phone and are all great film critics now and we clapped the NHS every Thursday night.

THAXTED LADIES COMMUNITY CHOIR

Jill Jones

Like most choirs owing to the Corona Virus we have sadly come to an abrupt stop unable to hold rehearsals or perform. It has been a strange year compared to last year when we were musically very active performing in local retirement venues.

Attempting rehearsals on 'Zoom' wasn't reliable with time delays when singing and poor internet services. It isn't the same experience 'muting' yourself and singing alone at home rather than meeting and singing together. Zoom did enable us to keep in contact but we now meet for a jolly game of 'Zoom Bingo' to keep our spirits up! We have also nearly completed a knitted Nativity Scene with members knitting Mary & Joseph, Wise-men, Angels, Shepherds and Baby Jesus.



Fortunately during the Summer we met in separate socially distanced small groups on a variety of dates sitting outside in the garden of the Maypole. We enjoyed great food, fabulous weather and the chance to see each other in person rather than using Zoom. Thank you Vince and Leon at the Maypole.

With money we raised from performances in 2019, we are giving donations to Ian Barnard for Cancer Research, Errol Mckellar MBE for his Foundation for Prostrate Cancer and Thaxted Baptist Church. We maybe a small choir but we have a big heart and through our enjoyment of singing we can support local charities too!

We in Thaxted Ladies Community Choir wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Toys & Games

Gifts & Presents

**Newspapers &
Deliveries**

Magazines

**Cards & Wrapping
Papers**

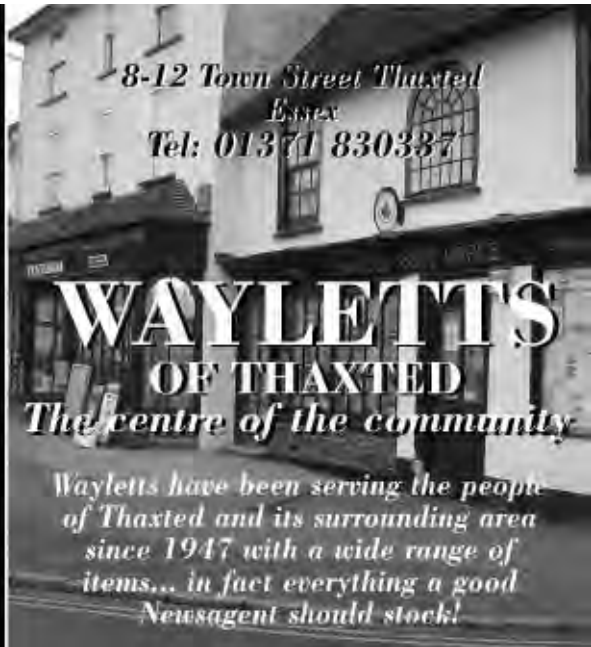
Stationery

Thaxted Souvenirs

Tobacco & Sweets

Post Office Counter

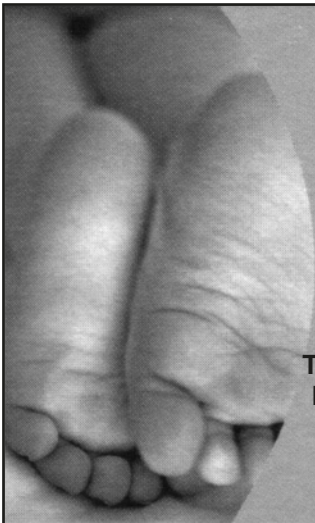
Lottery



*8-12 Town Street Thaxted
Essex
Tel: 01371 830337*

**WAYLETT'S
OF THAXTED**
The centre of the community

*Wayletts have been serving the people
of Thaxted and its surrounding area
since 1947 with a wide range of
items... in fact everything a good
Newsagent should stock!*



Lynda Kehoe

MSSCh MBChA

**Chiropodist/Podiatrist
HPC Registered**

**Goldens Farm House, Boyton End
Thaxted, Essex, CM6 2RB**

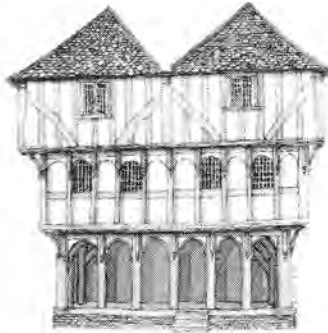
**Treatments for verrucas, calluses, corns etc.
Nail Trimming, fungal infections, ingrowing
toenails, Diabetic foot care, foot health
examination etc.**

Special Rates for Senior Citizens

Home Visiting Practice, based in Thaxted

For an appointment please call 01371 831804

THAXTED GUILDHALL



**THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO
HIRE THIS ICONIC BUILDING.**

COUNCIL CHAMBER: THIS IS SUITABLE FOR:

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
BOARD MEETINGS
BUSINESS PRESENTATIONS
OTHER SMALL GROUPS.

TOP FLOOR: THIS IS AN IDEAL SPACE FOR:

EXHIBITIONS
PUBLIC PARTIES
PRIVATE PARTIES

GROUND FLOOR: THIS IS AN IDEAL SPACE FOR:

BUSINESS PROMOTION STALLS
CHARITY FUND RAISING EVENTS
REGULAR OCCASIONS OR ONE-OFF EVENTS.

FREE WI-FI IS AVAILABLE

BE AWARE THAT ALL ACCESS IS BY STAIRS AND
THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC DISABLED FACILITIES.
LIMITED KITCHEN FACILITIES INSIDE.

TO HIRE: EMAIL GUILDHALL@THAXTED.CO.UK

OR PHONE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE ON 01371 830856



Flexible and responsive Visiting Care

Our individually-tailored care packages are designed for adults of any age who require regular help or support in their own home in and around Saffron Walden. We cater for a wide range of needs, including:

- **Assistance with personal care**
- **Administration of medication**
- **Companionship and sitting service**
- **Shopping and meal preparation**
- **Transport to medical and other appointments**



Live-in care

Throughout Essex ~ and beyond ~ we offer each of our clients a unique blend of companionship, cooking, house-keeping and personal care designed to help them maintain their independence and continue living happily and safely in their own home.



Call us in confidence 7 days a week

0800 411 8636

Chesterford
HOME CARE

Caring with head and heart

www.chesterfordhomecare.co.uk