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

***BEARING THE LOAD***

***Jim Ford***

Last year we had the lovely pleasure of our grandson staying with us for six months. Lovely, but lively! One afternoon he went to sleep on my lap and when he woke up just over an hour later I discovered that my back had gone. Now he is not a particularly heavy lad, but I had been having some back ache leading up to this point and this cosy little time resulted in two weeks of either lying down or sitting on a hard chair.

Mulling on this incident I reflected on how often we carry burdens that damage our spiritual backs. Burdens like:

*“How do I pay for our mortgage”?*

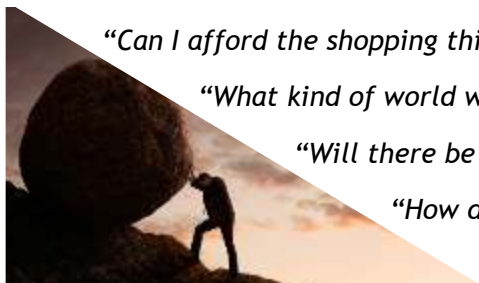
*“Can I afford the shopping this week”?*

*“What kind of world will I leave to my children”?*

*“Will there be an NHS for me if I fall sick”?*

*“How do I pay for mum’s care”?*

*“Am I always going to be alone”?*



People had similar anxieties in Jesus’s day. Many were poor and could just about keep a roof over their heads. Many others were landless labourers forced to roam the country looking for work. If they fell sick there were no doctors there to help. The religious leaders despised them and in effect excluded them. Jesus came into this world of pain offering healing, wholeness and the promise of a new relationship with

*continued on the next page.*

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*continued from the previous page.*

God. One where God came into their lives offering forgiveness for wrongdoing, removal of guilt and a fresh new life with Him.

Jesus summed this up when he said, “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). He continues to make that offer to the weary and burdened today. This is not a promise to remove all problems from life. It is, however, a promise from God to enter our lives and share our burdens. It is an offer to transform the way we live now and give us a fresh start as well as a fresh hope. It is an offer that I would highly recommend!

## **STUBBLE BURNING**

Stephanie Hughes

Many of you will remember when the fields, at this time of year, were ablaze. Burning the stubble, after the fields were emptied and the crop removed was a regular practice. This practice only started, after the Second World War when farming methods changed, with more specialisation and many farmers no longer kept livestock in the same numbers, so there was less demand for bedding. Consequently there was a problem with the disposal of the straw. So many farmers chose burning as an easy way of clearing the land ready for the following year's land crops. Chopping and then ploughing it in was also thought a good way of disposing of it, as it added goodness to the soil and CLAAS developed and marketed a combine which would do that, but it was not very successful as it clogged everything up. Burning rules were brought in telling farmers that they must plough five meters round the edges of fields before they could burn, which was later changed to ten. But there were farmers who ignored this rule and many hedges were destroyed.

The practice was finally banned in 1993 and recently there has been an increase in the demand for straw as a biomass fuel, particle boards and the introduction of shorter stemmed varieties.

Simon Latham told me that once he had set light to the field by Prouds Bridge, the wind changed direction and blew across the road as a Cadbury's van drove past. The driver wound down his window and shouted “ What are you trying to do. Melt me f--- chocolate?”

# ***OTTERS, IN THAXTED***

***IT COULDN'T BE TRUE COULD IT?***

***Will Cockerell***

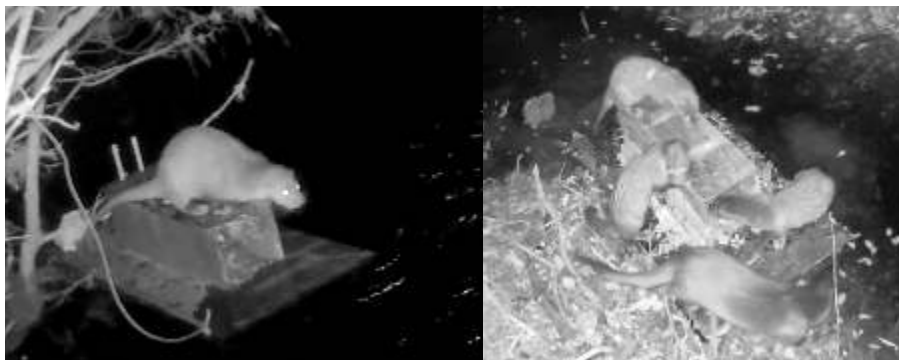
A lot of people don't know we have a river in Thaxted let alone Otters, although with the road to Walden cut off for 9 months whilst a new bridge was installed, a few more realised we had a river, the river Chelmer, flowing through our parish.

Thaxted's volunteer River Wardens have been monitoring the river's health for nearly ten years, and 4 years ago an otter was picked up on one of our trail cameras as it inspected a mink monitoring raft just a few hundred metres down stream from Folly Mill in Monk Street.

Last Spring we caught on camera two adult otters as they travelled together along the river just a few metres from the bridge in Park Street, quite unusual to see these normally solitary animals in each others company unless, well it was Springtime!

Four months later one adult and three young cubs on the camera! Not just once, but almost two or three times a week. Our expert at the Essex Wildlife Trust explained that otters often bring their young offspring to shallow stretches of the river to teach them to swim and hunt away from the more dangerous waters downstream.

So not only living and breeding in Thaxted but also having their primary school lessons here as well.



***Trail camera photos taken at night.***

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# CRAFTABILITY

(Formerly - The Thaxted Centre for the Disabled)

## ***THE HISTORY OF THE CENTRE***

Back in the 1950s a lady called Kay Low was working as a hospital visitor. She made regular visits to Black Notley Hospital, and she became aware of a small boy, about 7 years of age, who was sitting in a corner quite alone. He was severely disabled and unable to speak and seemed to be just left to himself most of the time. There didn't seem to be anyone to visit him. She was so concerned about him that she made a point of visiting him on a regular basis. She then started to take him home for visits - she had three children of her own and he always had a great time with them. After a while, he became part of the family and eventually she was able to adopt him.

As her own children grew up and moved away and she lost her husband she was faced with caring for him on her own. It was then the idea came to her to try to start a group where he could meet people and maybe learn to do something, and so the idea of the Centre took root. Helped by a friend who was an Occupational Therapist, in 1963 she started a group in the British Legion Hall in Thaxted, initially with about a dozen members.

They tried to find work and some sort of crafts the disabled members could do. In spite of a very basic venue and lack of facilities (in a report by Dr John Tasker who helped to start the Centre, "those who could walk had to be able to walk with a permanent list to the north west owing to the conformation of the floor") people began to hear of the group and there grew a demand for its services. Social Workers began to see the benefits of referring their disabled clients to the Centre and numbers grew. In 1973 it was formed into a charity and at that time it was known as The Town and Country Workshop for the Physically Handicapped - quite a mouthful. The centre would not have been possible if it wasn't for the generosity of Mr R Barnard who gave the land to the people of Thaxted and for his sons David and Ian who are still actively involved.

In 1998 it was decided to change the name to the Thaxted Centre for the Disabled. This name still remains, however in trying to make the centre more inclusive a working name of Craftability was sanctioned in 2021.

*A reception will be held on Saturday September 16th in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the centre. Guests will be able to enjoy refreshments on arrival with canapés being served from 11-4pm,*

# ***THE LINCOLN ORGAN***

## ***REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES ON INTERNATIONAL ORGAN DAY 23RD APRIL 2023***

The activities of the day were in two parts. The morning session was a talk about how the organ works and how to get the best out of it as a player. After the lunch break the second session was recitals by two organists who both played music of an age appropriate to the date of the instrument.

The first talk was by Oliver Wilson, a member of the Lincoln Organ Restoration Committee. He started with a brief history of the Lincoln Organ and went on to explain, with the help of various props, such as recorders and some organ pipes, how the sound is produced, and that the pitch of a pipe is directly linked to its length. At this stage he was using a basic flue pipe and went on to explain that by changing the shape of a pipe or its proportions (or, as an organ builder would refer to it, its scale) the sound the pipe produces will change. He said that throughout the history of the organ there has always been the desire by composers for more variety of sounds to be available to them. One way to achieve this was by making pipes of such shape and proportions that they imitate the sound of other instruments such as the flute and the whole family of reed pipes that mimic the woodwind and brass sections of the orchestra. Throughout this talk the various points were beautifully demonstrated on the organ by Joseph Gilder.

Having explained how the sound is created in the pipes, Oliver went on to describe the system of bellows, reservoir and the wind chests, including pumping the organ by hand while Joseph was playing it. He also described how each family of pipes are all seated on their respective sound board, supplied by the wind chests and that the stops cut off or supply wind to the soundboard according to the player's



***Reed stop pipes***





*The tracker action*

selection of stops needed to obtain the sound he wants.

The next stage in the talk was to explain how the keys depressed by the player transmit that movement through the tracker action to the pallets which allow the wind in the sound board to enter the foot of the pipe and produce its note. At this point in the talk all the access doors in the case were opened and the visitors could see the various parts of the Organ in operation as Joseph was playing it. Most of the visitors were very impressed by the complexity of the trackers and stop work and seemed fascinated by the reservoir as its top moved up and down as if it was alive and breathing!

The last part of the morning session was a talk and demonstration by Quintus

Benziger on how to get the best out of the instrument so that the music played on it, particularly for Church Services, is as interesting as possible. He explained that because a note will sound while the key is depressed it is useful to give the note a very slightly shorter time value than the written music might suggest so there is more of a contrast between it and the next note and it won't sound mushy. He demonstrated this idea very vividly with a couple of short excerpts. Quintus then asked if there were any requests and was only defeated by one out of many! Several members of the audience had a go at playing the organ and it is very gratifying to report that one person who did is now having lessons with Quintus. Joseph finished the morning off by playing a couple of pieces for us.

There were about 25 people attending the morning session and after the lunch interval about the same number, but not all the same people, attended the recital given by Michael Hynds who played a selection of pieces by J S Bach. After Michael's recital David Bird, Assistant Organist at Christchurch, Spitalfields, played a selection of pieces by English and Continental composers, but no Bach!

The day finished at about 3.30 and it was felt that it had been an interesting, useful and enjoyable experience for all concerned.

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# ***PARISH COUNCIL NEWS***

*Andy Frater - Chairman*

## *From the Chair*

Well, what a summer we've had, of course, I'm not writing about the weather which seems to have forgotten what a season means! I'm referring to the events and activities we've seen since the publication of our Easter edition of the parish magazine. The Local Elections took place in May with Parish and District Councillors looking to obtain or retain seats in our councils. Our Parish Councillors had 10 members appointed, unopposed, with a new Councillor co-opted at our June meeting. The Parish Council members are; Andy Frater, Chair, (re-elected) Victoria Knight, Vice Chair and chair of personnel committee, Ray Williams, chair of finance, Alison Howells, chair of open spaces, Terry Frostick, chair of assets, Nick Weakley, chair of planning, Antoinette Wattebot, Alex Young, Jo Herbert, Jenna Perkins and Theresa Egan. You can reach any of us via our council e-mail addresses, councillors [firstname@thaxted.co.uk](mailto:firstname@thaxted.co.uk). At District Council, Martin Foley and Richard Haynes were elected to serve Thaxted and the Eastons and



***L-R: Cllrs Andy Frater,  
Richard Haynes, Dr Mike  
Tayler & Martin Foley***

Dr Mike Tayler for The Sampfords Ward. I'd like to welcome our new councillors and congratulate our District Councillors.

Staying in May, we of course celebrated the King's Coronation in style with a hugely successful street party which featured in national and local news! As ever, our wonderful volunteers, performing artists, food and drink vendors, Thaxted Morris Men and everyone else that made the day

come to life, including so many residents who came along, have our thanks. We also used the occasion to mark Her Majesty's passing by creating a memorial garden off Weaverhead Lane. The former British Legion site is now named Queen Elizabeth Gardens and was dedicated to the Queen by David Hewitt of Thaxted & District RBL.

Of course, the Parish Council article wouldn't be complete without a bit of planning news. Some of these matters are well reported in the Hands Off Thaxted Article on Pages 26 & 27. We continue to engage with UDC on the local plan which is, although delayed, likely to be out for full consultation in the week commencing 30th October. Most recently, we've responded to Stansted Airport's noise action plan consultation. We have vigorously lobbied for a ban, if not reduction, in night time flights, especially freight plane landings between 11pm and 6am, which we know causes a great deal of disturbance to residents.

Onto The Chairman's Cup, as a reminder, introduced this year to recognise and reward the younger folk of our Town. Well, after voting, the Parish Council decided the recipient of the 2023/24 Chairman's Cup is Ollie Legge for his passion and persistence in

bringing forward the youth club skate half pipe. Ollie keeps the cup for a year, a cheque for £100 until he's spent it and our gratitude forever, well done Ollie!

Finally, some goodbyes and hellos. Our Guildhall & Town Custodian, Alan and Town handyman Roy, both left their positions after giving such long, good service to the town and council, we thank them both and wish them well in the future. Our new Guildhall Custodian is Rob Evans, of Morris Men Bagman fame, and whilst our assistant clerk Robert has taken some of Alan's town duties, Ian Stewart is now helping the council with some of Roy's, welcome both!

Thank you for reading this far and warm regards.



*Ollie receives the  
Chairman's Cup and £100*

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# Thaxted - NEWS - Society

The difficult fire season in Europe, exacerbated by extreme climate change, is already reflected in Society policy as published online at [thaxtedsociety.com](http://thaxtedsociety.com). Our response, at a local level, concerns flood prevention, reducing groundwater pollution and climate mitigation in homes old and new. Whilst it is difficult to make the connection between small actions at home and the earth's climate, we must do this. When it came to the pandemic most of us reacted, swiftly and sensibly to the threat and succeeded. Climate change requires an equally robust response from all of us. #wildthaxted #ecochurch among many others are hard at work for Thaxted and the planet.

The application to build a Solar Farm at Cutlers Green has now gone to appeal and the Parish Council is spearheading a response via Rule 6 which allows them to participate in the appeal process in tandem with U.D.C. The costs of appeals such as this are onerous and a small Parish Council with limited funds cannot undertake such a costly endeavour without contributions from elsewhere and indeed from those residents directly affected.

The proposal for houses on the land opposite the Rec was roundly refused, and in this case, by both the planning officer and the Planning Committee. This welcome triumph of well-judged planning and the unique and special values of this land as an approach to Thaxted, may yet be challenged by an appeal. In that event your Society will be front and centre in mounting a well thought out rebuttal. We consider this site to be our 'bridge too far'!

Our rather splendid town signs at the two main entries to Thaxted are off to the repairers for refurbishment. Bakers of Danbury have undertaken the work for the Parish Council following an initiative from the Thaxted Society. This firm was responsible for the signs originally and are experts in such work, so we remain confident that the refurbished signs will gleam and delight. Thanks are due to local businesses who contributed to this laudable endeavour. A small amount remains to be raised. Anyone reading this who wishes to contribute may do so by post or by hand:

*12 Guelphs Lane Thaxted CM6 2PT. Cheques payable to The Thaxted Society.  
or by contacting us at: [thethaxtedsociety@gmail.com](mailto:thethaxtedsociety@gmail.com) or by phone: 01371 830242.  
All contributions will be acknowledged and donors listed in published materials.*





*THAXTED GUILDHALL Illustration by Craig Reynolds*

The Guildhall is now under new Management with a new Committee and newly appointed custodian. Details may be found elsewhere in this volume. The Thaxted Society is a member of the new management Committee and stands ready to contribute positively to Guildhall's future, through research and outreach to encourage the highest level of interest and support, both locally and further afield. Such a wonderful building is of National importance and deserves the very best care and future.

The Society Chair and Vice Chair attended a meeting with the Minister for Trade who is also our MP Kemi Badenoch. She was able to spend time with various locals and hear views on how work at Westminster affects Thaxted the good and the bad. The Chair cautioned against what appears to be the Government's Green-back-wash and raised the question of funding for Community Land Trusts as promised by Michael Gove, Minister for HCLG in his most recent speech.

As many will now know 2023 is the Society's 60th Anniversary. We still intend to celebrate this milestone at some point this year and members and supporters will be invited to join that celebration. In 2013 a celebratory garden party was held at Clarence House to mark our 50th and many reading this today will have enjoyed that afternoon in the sunshine, as one ECC Councillor remarked, '*a quintessential English moment*' as the brass band played on, he might have said '*a quintessential Thaxted do...*'



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## ***"MESSY CHURCH" HOLIDAY CLUB***

For the first time the Thaxted United Reformed Church hosted a "Messy Church" Holiday club with the theme of "Junior Heroes" from the bible.

Our Minister and his wife Janet devised a week of Art and Craft activities, with stories, songs and games to support learning these Heroes"

The first hero was Samuel who lived in the Tabernacle with Eli his priest and friend. Samuel was called by God to always be truthful, a promise he kept all his life. The children made a belt of truth.

Next we learnt about the huge crowd who had been listening to Jesus for most of the day. A boy gave to Jesus his five loaves and two fishes made it possible to feed the whole crowd. We made a breast-plate of righteousness reminding us to try and always do the right thing.

We learnt about David who was brave enough to take up the challenge to fight Goliath, a big ugly bully of a guy. With his sling and five pebbles he slayed Goliath. We made a shield of faith to help us through life.

Daniel was accused of disobeying King Darius. His punishment was being thrown into the Lion's den. Next morning they found Daniel completely unharmed due to his faith in God. We made a helmet to remind us of God's saving power.

Lastly, Ruth who lived with her mother-in-law Naomi in Moab. Naomi wanted to leave Moab and return to Bethlehem. Ruth stayed with Naomi for the journey so she did not have to travel alone even though Bethlehem was unsafe for her. Ruth was praised for her care of Naomi and her faith in God. We made swords to remind us that God's word can be as powerful as a sword guiding us to do the right thing as Ruth did.

By the end of the week we had made parts of the whole armour of God. The Belt of Truth: the Breastplate of Righteousness: the Shield of Faith: the Helmet of Protection and the Sword of God's word. We also got outside in the garden for tent building and water games. We had a terrific team of helpers from the other churches in Thaxted which confirmed both the need and the joy of "Churches working Together".

We hope to hold the holiday club next year, but in the meantime please remember that we hold "Messy Church" on the second Wednesday of the month from 4pm until 5.30pm in the URC. Contact Revd Mark Hayes [thaxtedmessychurch@outlook.com](mailto:thaxtedmessychurch@outlook.com). It is important to register.

# ***BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS***

*Peter Archibald*

Our 'Pastor in training' Jim Ford has now graduated from Spurgeon's College after successfully completing his two year training, and we at TBC look forward to Jim's ordination in the near future.

## ***MEN'S BREAKFAST***

Our successful community Men's Breakfast, held on the first Saturday of each month recommences this month and has had some interesting speakers recently. All very welcome. Should you require further details please ring Paul Tingey on 07494757114.

## ***COFFEE & COMPANY***

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

## ***FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING***

Our Friday Coffee Morning held between 10 and 11.30 am in our Church Hall is open to all. Come and enjoy good beverages and company.

## ***HUMPHREY LODGE SERVICE.***

We continue to hold our service at Humphrey Lodge on the 1st Monday of the month starting at 10.30 am.

## ***COMMUNITY CHOIR***

The Thaxted Ladies Community Choir will be starting again in September in our Church Hall. At this time dates are yet to be arranged. We sing for companionship and pleasure, no experience is needed. If you enjoy singing come along and join us. For more details please ring Jill on 01371 830 104

## ***EXERCISE CLASSES***

It is anticipated that the Armchair Exercise Classes for the elderly will recommence shortly.

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*Mary is a National Association of Jewellers registered Valuer. She has over twenty 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. Call or Email: [mary@mwvaluations.com](mailto:mary@mwvaluations.com)*

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# CerTain CeRTainTles

Emma Campbell

In the film Frozen 2, there is a more than loveable, but certainly not abominable snowman called Olaf. He asks his friend Anna how she deals with the constantly changing things in her life, to which she replies that when things in her life seem uncertain “I rely on certain certainties”. It’s good advice, but nevertheless my question is this. What do we do, when these certain certainties, the things that are always meant to and have always been the things to stand firm and unchanging in our ever morphing lives are the things that are changing? What happens then?

I’ve just finished Year 10 of secondary school and next year is my last. The time when all of the hard work and effort meets its end and for me I will be focusing on passing my GCSEs, but along with the coffee-fuelled nights of revision and the dreaded exam hall of doom (which in itself would make even Indiana Jones run), I’ve also got to contend with the unspoken truth that this is all going to end soon.

The classmates that I have been with for the past 4 years, the lessons that I have spent my school life going to, the teachers that I have grown to like and rely on, the school and the students and the normality of getting up at 7am

and finishing the working day at the wonderful time of 3:15pm... are all about to go. And then what?

T’Pau’s song ‘China in Your Hand’ speaks about the fragility of dreams and how to be careful of what you wish for because when you get it, it may not be all that it was cracked up to be. When I finish school, is that when the waters will start to muddy, when the daydreams that I have at the back of the classroom will start to become as complex and far-reaching as one of the maths problems in the hallway in Good Will Hunting?

I’m sure I’m not alone when I think about the great big gaping black hole between now and the end destination and I admit, I am scared about leaving. Because as annoying and repetitive as school is, it feels safe and the reason it feels safe is because of its certainty. It’s structure, it’s hardly ever changing routine and familiarity and once that’s gone, there is no going back. I can’t redo it, I can’t retake it and I can’t wish it back, it’s just gone. The fact that you will never see some people ever again, that you will have to start over, all over again, the fact that something that you have gotten so used to is on a limited restraint can leave you with the bittersweet



aftertaste that nothing is certain anymore.

Often we spend so much of our lives looking into the future. We worry about what will happen and what could happen and then when it does and we face our fears, instead of relishing in our victory, we look to the next thing. But through writing this article, I have realised that even though I am worried about the future - when my certain certainties are gone - it is not something that I can control. What I can instead try to control is the now and realise that if I spend my life worrying about the what ifs, buts and maybes to come, I might end up missing out on life now and ironically, that could impact on the future that I seem to be so desperately trying to protect and control.

My Mum always says that life is like a book of many chapters, and like in a book, when we finish an old chapter, the next one is even more exciting - but if we skip too far ahead to the next page without fully appreciating the previous, we won't get as much enjoyment out of it and it's true.

School is coming to an end for me, that's a fact, but my fears about leaving it won't just disappear overnight and all I can say is that if you are not worried about leaving school then don't let my fears add to yours. But to the people that share the same fear as me, know that you are not the only one out there and it's okay to have

the fears of Year 11 and the exams and then the what's next after all of it.

In my last article I said "Who you are going to be is a mystery and who you were is history. But who are you now?" The future is always going to be scary, there's no doubt about it, but it can also be exciting and it is this aspect that is sometimes lost.

So yes, Princess Anna of Arendelle does give some good advice to Olaf, but we are not all talking snowmen and as good as her piece of advice is, here's a better one. Try not to worry about the (uncertain) future and take each day as it comes and also try to live life to the fullest, with just a little hint of magic (with a talking snowman), if possible.

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# ***PLANNING APPLICATIONS AFFECTING THAXTED***

## ***Hands Off Thaxted***

There are two outstanding planning applications affecting Thaxted:

1. The proposal by Low Carbon to build a Solar farm on 53 hectares of farmland at Cutlers Green.
2. The proposal to build 67 houses on farmland land west of Walden Road (opposite the recreation ground).

Approval has already been granted from Uttlesford District Council (UDC) for Vistry's application to build 49 houses on farmland off Elers Way (at the far end of the Wedow Road estate, next to Copthall Lane). The application was fiercely opposed by Thaxted residents on two main grounds: the limited access to the site and the encroachment on the rural nature of Thaxted so close to a favourite area of countryside for recreation (Walnut Tree Meadow and Wellyboot Wood).

The application was heard over two sessions of UDC Planning Committee, which meant that residents' arguments were somewhat lost owing to the time lag and the change of personnel

on the committee. BUT - the consent was only 'outline', which means that UDC still has to approve a full application, giving details of the site layout and size of houses (the height of which is crucial). A Construction Management Plan (CMP) is part of this, and UDC Planning Officer, Nigel Brown, has promised a robust plan that will address residents' fears of further damage to roads and pavements by construction traffic, plus noise control and inconsiderate work practices. It is important that the CMP plan takes residents' views into account and that they are part of the discussion. To ensure that they are represented, residents should contact the Chair of Thaxted Parish Council.

### **Application to build a Solar Farm on farmland at Cutlers Green.**

This application was refused by UDC after strong opposition by residents of Thaxted and Cutlers Green - not because they are

opposed to solar energy; but they are opposed to solar panels on productive farmland instead of on roofs or industrial sites. The site

is also right next to houses, on land that is rich in wildlife and beauty, and provides the rural setting for medieval Thaxted.



The developer Low Carbon has not accepted UDC's decision so the application has gone to Appeal, which means that a Public Inquiry will be held over approximately 6 days in late September. The Parish Council have been awarded Rule 6 status, which means that they can take a full part in the Inquiry, calling residents and expert witnesses to comment on the effect this development will

have on the landscape and the 53 hectares of farmland that will be lost to food production. This objection to the Appeal is being funded by local residents, Hands off Thaxted and the Parish Council.

UDC will also be defending their decision to refuse the application and has already appointed a barrister to the case. Residents can show support by appearing at the Appeal; notice should be given to the Planning Inspector through the Parish Council if they wish to appear.

### **Application to build 67 houses on land off Walden Road, east of Watling Lane.**

This is the second time an application for a large development on this land has been made. The first was by the developer Gladman in 2014, which was refused after an Appeal. The inspector at the Public Inquiry said in his report that he found it difficult to imagine any houses

ever being built on this site. In 2023, nothing has changed except the name of the developer, Tesni.

This second application for houses on the so-called 'Gladman' field has been refused unanimously by UDC, but there is still the possibility of an Appeal.

*Thanks to all residents who have made their views known to UDC when these applications were made. Thaxted has seen a growth of 25% in housing numbers in the past 12 years and the loss of numerous acres of farmland. We must continue to make every effort to be heard and to save Thaxted, its hamlets and fertile farms from being buried in concrete.*

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## **MEMORIES OF THAXTED YOUTH CLUB ROUND ABOUT 1958 OR 1959**

*Barry Moore*

When I made my first visit to Thaxted Youth Club, I thought that it was wonderful. It was held every Thursday evening on the first two floors of the Windmill. It was run solely by the founder, the late Tony Eden, and there was an admission fee of 6d (old money of course). There was no hard footpath to the Mill at that time so that in the winter months instead of a muddy trudge across the field, it was held in the British Legion hut which was at the top of Weaverhead Lane at the junction with Margaret Street. Now just a small grassy area with a seat on it. We entered the ground floor of the Mill by the door at the bottom of the stairs. There was a table tennis table in the centre of the floor and I remember two wind-up record players, a large floor standing one and a tabletop model. They played a selection of 78 rpm records including a few *Lonnie Donegan* ones that I can recall. Later one of the members, the late Judy Lanham, sold the club her own electric record player and we could then play all of the latest 45 rpm discs, *Conway Twitty*, *Marvin Rainwater*, *Fats Domino* etc. which we did up on the first floor which was much cosier and had a coffee bar and there was a small snooker table as well. A generator provided the electricity, this was situated outside by a downstairs window on the ground floor with cables etc. passing through it.

If the weather was fine, we would often go and play Rounders in the meadows just past the mill, they ran all the way down to the river below, beautiful idyllic times now sadly gone forever. As mentioned, winter was spent in the British Legion hut where we also held our annual Christmas party and other social gatherings.

Sometime in the early 1960s, Tony Eden learned that the old National School way down Park Street was coming up for sale. I have no idea of the price but



**Christmas party at British Legion Hut. L to R:- N.Hitching, G.Pegram, R.Chatters, B.Moore R.Saych, J.Rowland, P.Latchford.**



it must have been very reasonable, it was basically just one room. We then proceeded with a series of different fund raising activities, in order to purchase it.



Photo shows Ron Chatters and Neilson Moore scrubbing the road outside of The Star public house. We then

charged motorists a toll to drive over it (not quite legal !! but most drivers paid us something) Another fund raiser was a pram race around the town, and also a dance in Bolford Street Hall with Saffron Walden's best ever group '*Little John And The Echoes*'. When we eventually purchased the building, I remember helping to strip off the rotten flat roof and replacing it, but after that I didn't go to the youth club much more as I had to attend Cambridge Technical College on Thursday evenings and then started seriously dating my future wife.

The building was demolished around twenty or thirty years later and the present day one erected on the same site.



## FRIENDS OF THAXTED CHURCH

Clubs and Societies' Fair - Saturday, 7th October  
Thaxted Church - Doors open at 2.00pm Free entry.

There are more than 50 different clubs and societies in Thaxted covering a range of sports, crafts, music, dance, astronomy and protection of the countryside, to say nothing of Guides and Scouts, Beavers and Brownies and karate for kids. Most of them are represented at our bi-annual Clubs and Societies' Fair, with colourful stalls and the opportunity to find out what a particular activity entails.

It is informal, informative and fun for all ages.

Do come and see what is on offer.

## ***RADIO 4's 'ANY QUESTIONS?' COMES TO THAXTED***

*Trina Mawer - Friends of Thaxted Church*

It was a first for Friends of Thaxted Church and a first for the BBC - on Friday the 21st of April, the Radio 4 team came to Thaxted Church to record live their famous 'Any Questions' programme. The BBC asked for new venues in different locations in the country and we put ourselves forward, and there was great excitement when we were accepted.

Complying with the BBC's exacting requirements isn't easy, but the production team were very helpful and positive, and grateful for our efforts. We had acoustics par excellence thanks to the BBC engineers, who transformed the massive space inside Thaxted church into a studio in a matter of hours. We had to keep a careful eye on ticket numbers as tickets are free and there was a chance that people might take more than they needed, which could result in a disappointingly small audience; but the residents of Thaxted and the surrounding villages area were superb, kept to the rules and we had a full house on the night.

You don't know who will be on the panel until quite late on in the preparation process, and sometimes there are changes, and the identity of the fourth panel member can be a cliff-hanger, even on the day; and of course there has to be political balance. Our panellists were: Alex Burghart, Conservative MP; Matthew Goodwin, Professor of Politics at the University of Kent; Peter Kyle, Labour MP and Sarah Olney, Liberal Democrat MP. They provided some lively and sometimes heated discussion on all of the questions.

The questions were superb, ranging from the distinction between management and bullying in the workplace, following the resignation of Dominic Raab, to the validity of using just one word to classify a school



after an Ofsted inspection. Questions are written on the night of the show, so the panel has to guess what will come up in order to prepare. The panel were very fluent on all topics, perhaps with the exception of the more local question as to whether Weathersfield was the right place to house 1,500 male immigrants. One can only hope that they will go away and do a little more research on what is planned and the impact on the surrounding villages and the immigrants of such a rural and remote location.

The Chair of 'Any Questions?' was Alex Forsyth, and it was fascinating watching her provide continuity between questions and speakers, at the same time as stopping too many interruptions from fellow panellists and bringing in those who hadn't had a chance to speak. She did this silently, like the conductor of an orchestra or a policeman on traffic duty. She had to keep an eye on the clock the whole time. It was a truly impressive example of multi-tasking, and not for the faint-hearted.

All in all, it was an invigorating experience, and good for us to feel, for a short time, that here we were in Thaxted, the political hub of British current affairs; and also glad that it wasn't permanent. Thaxted is a wonderful place to live and the residents never fail to surprise you with their interest in and commitment to the affairs of the wider world.



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Sunday	8 am	Low Mass
	11 am	Sung Mass
Wednesday	10 am	Low Mass
21st September	7.30pm	Solemn Mass St Matthew the Apostle
24th September	6pm tbc	Harvest Festival Ecumenical Service with Churches Together
29th September	7.30pm	Solemn Mass St Michael & All Angels.

Details of other Feast Days will found in the Church porch.

## **THE BAPTIST CHURCH, PARK STREET**

www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com

or facebook.com/thaxtedbaptists/

**Contact : Jim Ford Tel 07889758285**

Sundays	10.30 am	Church Service
Thursday	8 pm	Bible Study
Friday	10 - 11.30 am	Coffee Morning
Saturday	8.45 for 9 am	Men's Breakfast. 1st Sat of month.

Please see the Baptist News section for our community activities.

## **UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BOLFORD STREET**

For all events contact - Julie Barnard, 01371 830261

Sundays	9.30 am	Morning Service, followed by coffee. On the first Sunday of the month Morning Service is with Communion.
17th September	9.30 am	Harvest Festival Service

Messy Church held on the the second Wednesday of the month at 4 pm  
Coffee mornings on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am all are most welcome. There will be children's activities. Contact to register: Revd Mark Hayes: [markhayes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:markhayes@hotmail.co.uk) Tel: 01799 524944 or 07706 701041 [thaxtedmessychurch@outlook.com](mailto:thaxtedmessychurch@outlook.com)

## ***THE CATHOLIC CHURCH***

Thaxted Services in Parish Church 6 pm SATURDAYS  
All other Services will be in Bardfield.

### ***BAPTISMS.***

26 March Wyn Thomas, son of William and Naomi Westcott

### ***MARRIAGES***

6 May 2023 Alexander Yeldham to Eleanor Cowan-Rawcliffe

20 May 2023 Charles Garrard to Catherine Freeman

27 May 2023 Craig Reynolds to Georgia Hitching

29 July 2023 Josh Lambdon to Shari Alicia Agar-Hutty

5 August 2023 Stephen Green to Elaine Reed

### ***IN MEMORIAM***

Doreen Blyth, Mick Hughes, Ann Bennett - Helps, Janie Stagg.

## ***DATES FOR YOUR 2023 DIARY***

**Sunday 10 September: Teddy Bear Parachute Jump** in the afternoon. Is your bear (or any other soft toy) brave enough to parachute jump from the roof of Thaxted Parish Church? Full Tedical support will be available for all attempting the jump plus games and refreshments.

**Saturday 16th September: CraftAbility Reception** to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the centre. Refreshments on arrival with canapés being served from 11-4pm

**October: Thaxted Country Dance Club** are hoping to arrange a Barn Dance / Ceilidh mid October so look out for details on posters.

**Saturday 21 October: The Thaxted Arts and Crafts Fair** Our twelfth annual Arts and Crafts Fair and it gets bigger and better every year!

**Saturday 25 November: Thaxted Parish Church Christmas Fayre** - with Moorcroft Pottery.

**Sunday 26 November: Stir up Sunday** in the afternoon on the Sunday before the first Sunday in Advent.

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# ***NEWS FROM THAXTED SURGERY***

The past year has continued to be a busy one here at Thaxted Surgery.

## *New Member of Staff*

We welcomed **Simba Kazhanje** into the clinical team back in October as an Advanced Clinical Practitioner and he quickly became a valued member of the team both amongst colleagues and patients. Simba is with us three days a week and is qualified to see patients for almost all issues dealt with by GPs.

## *North Uttlesford PCN*

The surgery continues to work more and more with North Uttlesford PCN (Primary Care Network) as more and more work and funding from NHSE is being directed via these routes. The PCN is made up of four practices, Thaxted, Newport, Gold Street and Crocus. Starting in April this year the PCN made the decision to provide the Extended Access appointments themselves, rather than engage a third party. Extended access appointments are appointments made available outside of our core hours of 0800-1830. We trialled holding Saturday clinics at the Crocus premises in Saffron Walden but have recently switched back to

holding them here at Thaxted. These monthly clinics are for pre booked appointments, often for long term conditions or specific issues and patients will be contacted directly to invite them to attend.

## *Additional Staff*

We are also fortunate to have additional staff working with us through the PCN. We currently have two pharmacists several days a week, who not only provide excellent advice to the doctors and dispensers on matters of medication, but who are also conducting medicine reviews with patients and freeing up GP time from this routine but vital task - some of you may have met them already. We also have a superb Social Prescriber, for all non-clinical issues; two physiotherapists; a Mental Health Coach and Practitioner and a Health & Well Being Coach, all of whom work out of the surgery on various days and provide welcome support and specialist advice for our patients. Please don't be concerned if a receptionist directs your appointment request to one



of these team members instead of a GP appointment. All the reception team have been briefed/trained by the clinical team on where to signpost appointment requests.

### *Teaching and Training*

We have always been interested in training and teaching here at Thaxted and are very lucky to have patients who seem to love it as much as we do and are always happy to be seen by students! We started teaching post graduate medical students this year for the first time, as well as our usual undergraduate students from Cambridge. We have also just “qualified” to take on GP registrars so you may see some new faces joining us over the next year.

### *Electronic Prescribing*

On a dispensing side the biggest change has been the introduction of EPS. For non-dispensing patients only, the Surgery is now using Electronic Prescribing. Instead of paper prescriptions which would need to be physically sent to a pharmacy, the prescription goes (securely) via the internet. This speeds the process along and should alleviate any risk of paper scripts going missing between the surgery and their destination. We can send your prescription to any Pharmacy of your choice.

The medicine supply market continues to be extremely volatile, with routine drugs becoming unavailable almost overnight, or at hugely inflated prices. Trying to manage the situation by providing alternative medications is not always a viable solution so we can only apologise if you have delays in supply.

### *Prescription charges*

These rose in April for the first time in two years and are now £9.65 per item. Prepayment certificates also increased: 3-month to £31.25 and 12-month to £111.60. Anyone over 18 and under 65 who has more than one paid-for medication a month should invest in the prepayment. There has also been a special HRT prepayment introduced of £19.30 per year, which is the cost some of you may have been paying per month! You can apply for all of these certificates online.

### *Moving on from Covid times*

As the pandemic becomes a memory and we return to the ‘new’ normal we decided to take down the Perspex screens in reception which have separated our patients and staff. The area suddenly feels more open and welcoming without the barriers. We are aware that the open plan design can create issues over confidentiality - please ask to use

*continued on the next page*

the interview room or to speak to someone away from the desk if you are concerned. Alternatively, we are happy to provide a pen and paper for you to write sensitive requests etc down.

As always, we endeavour to provide the best service we can. If you feel there are areas we can improve on or you could help with please contact the surgery via email to discuss.

### *Hearing Help*

This charity has also returned to run their monthly sessions where

they provide maintenance for hearing aids. Appointments with them need to be booked, either online at [hearinghelpessex.org.uk/nhs-hearing-aid-support-service/bookings/](http://hearinghelpessex.org.uk/nhs-hearing-aid-support-service/bookings/) or by phone on 01245 496347.

*Book your vaccinations with us*  
On a final note - we will be starting our joint vaccine clinics at Lord Butler Leisure Centre again from 30th September this year. We will deliver covid and flu again this year so please book in with us and support your local surgery.

## ***ROYAL BRITISH LEGION THAXTED & DISTRICT BRANCH Peter Archibald***

Our Local branch of the British Legion was formed on October 20th, 1926, five years after the formation of the legion in May 1921.

The legion provides financial, social and emotional care to all members of the Armed Forces both past and present and their families.

The Remembrance Service at the Parish Church and the Poppy Appeal are just two of the Town activities the branch is involved with.

We meet on the first Saturday in the month at Pam's Place between 10.30 and 12.00 noon. If you have an interest in supporting our Armed Forces why not come to one of our meetings where we have light refreshments followed by a speaker. We have various speakers who talk on a large range of topics including many of local interest.

No previous connection with the forces is required. So our meetings are open to everyone, and all are made very welcome.

Should you require any further details please email [thaxtedrbl@gmail.com](mailto:thaxtedrbl@gmail.com)

# ***THAXTED SINGERS***

Thaxted Singers was formed in January 2018 by local musicians, Steve and Maggi Griffiths, with the idea of giving people in the local community the opportunity to sing in a non-audition, all-inclusive choir irrespective of musical or vocal experience.

The aim of the choir is to attract experienced and inexperienced singers from all walks of life, who have an over-riding enthusiasm and commitment to make music with others and to enjoy the social and interactive elements that inevitably result from singing in a choir.

Each year the choir will work towards putting on concerts in the local area. Even though Covid put a stop to singing activities, Thaxted Singers is now flourishing again with regular rehearsals and concerts with a current membership of approximately 50 members.

New members are always welcome. Rehearsals take place at the United Reformed Church, Bolford Street, Thaxted, on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm-9pm.

Please contact Maggi Griffiths [maggigriffiths@gmail.com](mailto:maggigriffiths@gmail.com) for more information.





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# Thaxted

art & craft fair

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## saturday 21st october

We look forward to welcoming you to this year's 12th annual Thaxted Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday 21st October.

This event is run by a small committee of volunteers and held inside Thaxted's magnificent Parish Church. Over the years, the Fair has gained a great reputation for quality and atmosphere, and we work very hard to keep this. This year we have gathered over 50 stalls showcasing artists and makers from all over the local area - from paintings to pottery and glassware to candles plus a children's trail; there really is something for the whole family.

This event is a great fundraiser for the Church - last year we had around 1500 visitors and raised nearly £2000 - it's a fantastic day for the whole town and the wonderful community of Thaxted.

This year's catering will be inside the Church and provided by the well-loved local business 'The Giddy Up Tea Cup'. They will be serving a breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea menu so you really can stay all day!

The Fair starts at 10 am and will close at 4 pm. We look forward to seeing you on the 21st!

### ***THAXTED OPEN GARDENS - 2024***

This is a biennial event which provides residents and visitors the chance to admire the many wonderful gardens the town has to offer. We are currently planning the next Open Gardens for a date in June. We are looking for volunteers who will be prepared to show their gardens for 4-5 hours on the day.

If you are interested in opening your garden, please email [thaxtedopengardens@btinternet.com](mailto:thaxtedopengardens@btinternet.com) or contact Jane and Andy on 01371 832029 for further information.



# THAXTED FESTIVAL

• EST 1916 •

## Thaxted Festival 2023

Even though we do say so ourselves, our summer Thaxted Festival season has to be one of the best ever. With music ranging from our core classical repertoire to jazz, folk, comic opera and Cole Porter, our twenty events across four weeks in June-July brought in audiences from within Thaxted and as well as a much wider area, and it was very good to see so many new faces along with those who have supported us over many years. Audience numbers were considerably up on last year, and our new Festival Extra events proved popular and successful.

We're delighted with the feedback we've received from our audiences this year.

Performers, too, appreciate our relaxed atmosphere and our attentive and appreciative audiences. It's what keeps them returning and spreading the word about Thaxted. Our new Developing Artists Programme is attracting exciting new talent, such as our opening recitalist, pianist Alim Beisembayev, who was named as a BBC New Generation Artist shortly before his appearance with us.

The Festival has a long tradition of conducting education projects with our local schools, and this year we were able to resume working at full scale with Thaxted Primary School, after the restrictions of the previous three years. Four musicians from our Orchestra in Residence - the London Mozart Players - worked with years 4 and 5 pupils across three full days in July. During that time the pupils developed their musical understanding and skills, and produced a piece of their own which was presented to the school and parents. The piece

*'It's always the variety and quality which keeps me coming back'*

*'thank you so much for some really wonderful concerts ... the best yet'*

*'I think Gustav is smiling down to see how his memory and that of his friend and colleague Ralph Vaughan Williams are honoured by the expertly played pieces they both composed.'*

was then scored for string orchestra by our Composer in Residence, Noah Max, and performed by the LMP at their evening concert on 30 June. We are very grateful for grants from Yardley's and Hunt's charities which supported this project, together with an award from Essex Community Foundation and support from Orchestras Live.

Our Festival Extra events brought a return of former Thaxted resident



Folk day: © Sean Calitz / Thaxted Festival

Ken Baker for his renowned Ghost Walk, which sold out well before the Festival began. A literary event with four female authors all with local connections attracted an appreciative and interactive audience, while our first-ever Folk Day brought everyone outside for a folk workshop, young local band Stripping Lillies, and a busy food truck at John

Webb's Windmill on a warm Saturday afternoon. Pre-concert conversations with baritone Benjamin Appl, pianist James Baillieu, and our resident composer Noah Max were popular events which brought insights into the processes of composing and performing at international level.

So that was our summer season; but we have more events in store this year in our **Autumn Festival!** Saturday **18 November** sees a recital by Edgar Francis, viola, and Jâms Coleman, piano, in Thaxted Church at 2.30. Both are young players who have been with us before and are making strong impacts on the musical scene. After that concert, come along to Bolford Street Hall from 5.30 for a showing of the 1952 feature film **Time Gentlemen Please!** on the big screen. The movie was filmed extensively in Thaxted in the early 1950s, and features many of its then inhabitants as well as a star-studded cast including Sid James, Dora Bryan and Thora Hird. There will be





the added attraction of pre-film entertainment, and a licensed bar with snacks available.

On Sunday 19 November at 2.30, Thaxted Church's historic Lincoln Organ takes centre stage with a recital by organist Samuel Jones, who appeared in our summer Festival with the Choir of Clare College Cambridge, from where he has just

graduated. Full details and booking links are on our website: [thaxtedfestival.co.uk](http://thaxtedfestival.co.uk). There are special prices for those aged 30 and under for the concerts, and an extra discount for age 18 and under for the film evening. Tickets go on general sale on 18 September, and Thaxted Music Lovers will have their priority booking period from 4 September. Our website is always up to date with information, news and events. 2024 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of composer Gustav Holst, whose musical involvement with Thaxted in the early 1900s provided the impetus for the modern Thaxted Festival. Look out for important special events to mark this anniversary from early in the new year.



London Mozart Players with Alec Frank-Gemmil: © Monoki Media / Thaxted Festival



Honey and the Bear: © Monoki Media / TFF

We are grateful for all the volunteer help from our local community which enables us to mount such an ambitious Festival each year, and to grow it in the ways which are now taking shape. Work goes on all year, and we welcome support from those who can offer skills and experience to

maintain our organisation. Thaxted Music Lovers provide vital financial support, along with our sponsors who support events. Developing our local Festival with its big impact and rewards will require continuing effort and funding; we are always ready to discuss ways individuals and our local community can support us: we'll be pleased to hear from you if you email [music@thaxtedfestival.co.uk](mailto:music@thaxtedfestival.co.uk), or leave a message on 01371 831421, so that we can respond.

*Peter Donovan, Chairman, Thaxted Festival Foundation*

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# ***THE THAXTED ARCHIVE***

*Richard Till - Thaxted History Project*

An archive of historical material has, for many years, been lodged in the roof of the chantry building. Recently, it has been retrieved and is currently being archived. However, it is not yet in a usable form. We'll let you know when it's available.

Amongst the documents saved there was a rental book for Thaxted manor, dated 1762. It's a fascinating read and contains real insights into Thaxted life 260 years ago. Here are some of them.

## ***THE BULL RING***

An entry refers to the Bull Ring. It is trying to identify a house (messuage) located nearby. It reads: "A messuage situate between the churchyard in part and chantry house in part and a certain place called Pardon Cross or the Bullring."

*Pardon Cross suggests that at one time the area had a religious function. In the late medieval period, it was possible to have your sins pardoned (at a cost), thereby saving you time in purgatory. This seems the most likely explanation.*

## ***OLD MARKET STREET AND FISH ROW***

Here is an entry about a house at the junction of Fishmarket Street "Elizabeth Barnard lives at the junction of Fish Row and the street called the old Market Street."

*What makes this entry interesting is the changing names of the*

*streets. Fishmarket Street was Fish Row, because that's where the local fishmonger was based. The old Market Street was probably the top of Fish Row. The original market was behind the church at the top of Fishmarket Street. It moved to Town Street when its old site became overcrowded.*

## ***HALL GARDEN BOMBAY***

This oddly named area is referred to several times. It "abuts the alms house in the chantry yard." "A messuage in the Hall Garden Bombay between the churchyard to the north and the Hall Garden Bombay to the south, with the other head abutting the alms house of Sir Charles Smith [the Chantry]."

*From the description, the Hall Garden was probably part of the old manor. It looks as if it was the field behind Bolford Street to the west. One possible explanation for Bombay is "bombey", another*

name for the town's midden (refuse or dung heap)

### **THE TOWN BRIDGE AND THE DRAWBRIDGE**

The brook that flows across Copthall Lane (Kent's Bridge) is now culverted and comes out on the south side of Park Street. 260 years ago, it flowed across the road where the fish and chip shop is now located. The rental tells us that "John Dunmow [owns] two tenements situate in Town Street between the brook running from Kent's bridge towards the Town Street on the west with one head abutting the drawbridge and the other, the Town bridge."

*The town bridge was a wooden structure that enabled traffic to move across the brook, which must have been much larger in those days. The only reason I can think of for a drawbridge was that it enabled pedestrians to cross the brook when heavy traffic was crossing the bridge. Any thoughts?*

### **SHEEPCOTE LANE, KENT'S LANE AND OLDFRITH**

Sheepcoat lane was the medieval name for what is now Copthall Lane. In the 15th Century it was re-named Kent's lane in honour of John Kent, the warden of the guild of cutlers at a time when cutlery was Thaxted's major trade. It became Copt Hall lane

when a farm, Copt Hall, was established there in the 16th Century.

*Oldfrith was an area of managed oak trees at the end of Copthall lane. The oak was of great quality and was used widely: e.g., in the parish church, St. Mary's in Saffron Walden and in some of Cambridge's colleges.*

A tan house belonging to Martin Olley is described as "abutting Loyton oak mead and Kent's mead to the north and a lane leading from Kent's bridge towards Oldfrith in the east."

### **CLARENCE HOUSE**

"Of Rayner Heckford gent for this mansion house built upon ground where five tenements formerly stood. Situate between a tenement now converted into a gatehouse and granary on the west side and Bell lane on the east."

*Raynor Heckford was the son of William and Elizabeth Heckford. William was the local apothecary, what now is called a chemist.*

*William was a wealthy man and was able to have Clarence House built in the latest Queen Anne style, all brick construction, tiled roof, symmetrical form and rounded top sash windows.*

*The rainwater heads are cast with the initials W E H 1715 showing when it was built.*



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# ***THAXTED GARDENING & CRAFT SHOW***

*Kathy Starr (Owner, Gifted and  
Thaxted Craft & Gardening Show  
Committee member)*



The Thaxted Gardening & Craft Show is a longstanding fixture in the calendar of Thaxted life. Running for over 40 years in its current format, it is open to all residents within a 10 mile radius to enter. There are many different classes to challenge your growing, making, baking and brewing skills. The entries are all displayed in the United Reformed Church on Bolford Street and form an impressive show, open to the public to view once the judging has taken place.

My involvement first began when I was asked to put my BA hons to good use and help judge the craft and art sections. I was then persuaded onto the committee - and as a firm believer in '*Doing your bit*' I agreed.

I am really pleased to be a part of it. I think the show is an important tradition to maintain and

forms part of the rich tapestry of Thaxted life that we are all so fortunate to enjoy.

Please support us by picking up an entry form at Gifted or Lowes and finding a section to enter - imagine how chuffed you would be to receive a first place rosette! Do you grow your own? or maybe flower arranging could be your thing? Painting? Cake making? Photography? and lots more - there are also classes for children, who can win cash prizes!

Entries need to be brought to the URC church on either Fri 16th or Sat 17th September. The show is open to everyone that weekend for viewing on Sat 17th 2-5 pm and Sun 18th 12-5 pm - and this year the WI will be there selling delicious home-made cream teas.

Find more details on the entry forms, or pop into Gifted and ask us.





# **THAXTED LIBRARY NEWS**

## **CHILDREN'S EVENTS**

Summer was a very busy time in Thaxted Library with lots of children joining the Summer Reading Challenge. Well done to all of you for all your fantastic reading over the summer holidays! In the Autumn our popular rhymetime sessions will start again on Friday 15th September and take place every Friday at 9.30 - 10.00am. We will really miss some of our rhymetime children who will be starting school but hope they are having lots of fun settling into their new classes. A reminder that we also run a Saturday Family Storytime on the last Saturday of the month at 10.00am-10.30am, ideal if you can't make the Friday sessions.

We will be running children's craft events during half-term and at Christmas. Look out for details on the Thaxted Library page of Essex Libraries website and for posters up in the library.

## **ADULT EVENTS**

Our drop in coffee and chat sessions will start again in the Autumn. They are held on the third Saturday of the month from 10.30am - 12.00pm. Pop in to have a "cuppa" and a "natter" and a browse of our books and information!

## **LIBRARY OPENING HOURS**

Tuesday 2.00 pm - 5.30 pm

Friday 9.00 am - 1.00 pm (and staffed by volunteers 1-4 pm most weeks)

Saturday 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

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# Pam's Place

Vicarage Mead, Thaxted, CM6 2RL



Here at Pam's Place, we consider ourselves a Community Hub, a place for people young and old to meet in a friendly and warm space.

Currently we run regular lunches and café days. However, we would like to offer lots more. If you are interested in running a group whether it is a craft workshop, seated aerobics, yoga, or anything else please get in touch, we would love to hear from you!

## **WHAT'S ON IN ADDITION TO DROP IN CAFE AND LUNCHES**

### **TUESDAY - 1000 - 1130 - BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ**

Please come along to this weekly group for a coffee, chat and make new friends. This is a space where people can talk about the pain of loss and find courage and strength in knowing they are not alone.

### **TUESDAY - 1400 - 1600 - THREADS.**

Friendly, happy, chatty, group of people that knit, crochet, or sew. With a mix of knowledge and experience in all these crafts they are happy to help with all sorts of projects. You will be very welcome whether you are a beginner or experienced. The group gather weekly and share their love of creativity!

### **FRIDAY - 1400 - 1600 - SEWING GROUP**

Perfect if you are looking for a more peaceful place with the company of friendly and creative stitchers who are happy to help if you need a little advice.

### **SATURDAY - 1000 - 1200 - ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

Meet first Saturday of the month.

Lots more coming this Autumn, keep up to date on Facebook or our Website, **[www.pamsplace.org.uk](http://www.pamsplace.org.uk)**.

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# The Friends of Thaxted Primary School

The Friends of Thaxted Primary School have had a wonderful academic year and are very much looking forward to 23/24!

From donut sales to discos, from Readathons to Tombola stalls we've fundraised for a variety of things to support the pupils at Thaxted Primary School. We are very proud to be in the process of installing a new screen and sound system in the school hall as well as reinvigorating the reading corners in each classroom.

Donations of books via generous support from local businesses as well as working with our local Usborne Partner JENZO Books on a sponsored Readathon we've been able to provide over 450 books to the school to go into classrooms.

One of our favourite days was the last day of school when we had an ice cream van come to school to give every child an ice cream to celebrate - lots of happy children!



The PTA also paid towards school trips for the majority of the school in 2023: trips to visit museums for the children learning about the Romans and a trip to the Zoo for those

learning about African animals. School trips give the children unique experiences and without our wonderful community and our local businesses supporting us with fundraising we wouldn't be able to contribute such substantial funds which make these trips possible.

Plans for more movie nights, discos and our annual quiz are being made - if you'd like to help with a specific event or are a local business wanting to support one of our fundraising efforts please contact us at [friendsofthaxted@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthaxted@gmail.com).

An advertisement for Coghlan Care services. The top part shows a smiling man in a white shirt sitting at a table, with a woman in a blue uniform standing behind him. The background is a bright, modern interior. The text 'IN NEED OF HELP AT HOME?' is written in white on a dark blue circular background. Below this, the Coghlan Care logo is shown. A list of services is provided: Live in Care, Dementia Prevention, Personal Care, Grocery Shopping, Insurance, Communication Skills, and Medication Administration. There are two circular photos of people: one of a man in a cap and one of a woman. The phone number 01245698968 is prominently displayed. At the bottom, the address is given: Victoria House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1JR. The email address admin@cohlanicare.co.uk is also provided.



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## ***WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD HOLIDAYS?***

*Yvonne Baccush*

I was born just prior to WW11 so there were no holidays during the war period and my earliest memories must be as a young child after 1945. I remember looking at a picture of bananas in Miss Foster's sweetshop and general store next to the organ works in Mill End. I asked my mother what bananas tasted like and she was unable to describe them. Much later it dawned on me that perhaps she, herself, had never seen a banana or tasted one.

Those holidays; we were fortunate to have them as not many people in Thaxted had holidays immediately after the war. There are vague recollections of my father driving my mother, two brothers and I by car very slowly, as he used to drive at about 30 mph, leaving in the night to travel to Cornwall, Devon and Wales. We felt excited to be going away but the journeys were long and tedious as children usually tend to get bored after awhile.

Upon arrival at our destinations we stayed in either a caravan or a converted railway coach, the latter due to the fact that our father was a railway enthusiast and holidays were spent on railways or visiting churches. At some churches us children helped our father with brass rubbings. Not the most exciting past-time for youngsters. Sometimes we were treated to staying in a rented house and it was usually close to the sea. Father loved the sea and swimming but I was always nervous of swimming despite his efforts to teach me to swim.

As for mother, she hated the beach and invariably would sit on the sand, whatever the weather, wearing her coat and hat. We never saw her in a swimsuit and bikinis hadn't been invented. The fresh sea air gave us an appetite for picnics yet mother didn't enjoy even sandwiches as she said they tasted gritty with sand in them. One year on a beach in Devon our father was taken ill with a hernia after swimming and I remember an ambulance arriving so someone must have got to a telephone as there were no mobiles in those days. My memory has failed me as to what happened afterwards.

After many years of these family holidays I complained to my aunt that I would love to go somewhere exciting for a change. She had no



children of her own but understood my feelings and took me to a small hotel in Clacton for a week's holiday. Her husband wisely stayed at home. I was over the moon; my parents had never taken us to anywhere like that; it did not disappoint.

Onto being a young teenager. Fr Jack, our long-time Thaxted priest, used to take groups of young people on walking tour holidays. We always stayed in Youth Hostels and moved from one hostel to another on our walking trips. I remember going to Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Wales and Cornwall by bus from Thaxted and then by rail to our destination. As we were all friends and lived locally it was such great fun. Youth Hostels were extremely cheap so everyone had to do a task before leaving, such as peeling vegetables for meals, washing or drying up, making beds, and so forth. It never seemed a drudge like chores at home because we felt free and enjoyed being with friends. We often stopped at pubs along the route but, of course, were only allowed soft drinks and crisps whilst our vicar was allowed his pint of beer. He truly deserved it being in charge of us teenagers. Do you know, I cannot recall having to visit churches on these holidays - let alone brass rubbing. If we did, maybe my memory didn't store that aspect of those holidays.

Childhood memories invariably seem to be happy, sunny and without problems. We made our own enjoyment with family and friends and somehow, incredibly, we survived without recourse to mobile 'phones or the internet. Were there ever forest fires, flooding, airport delays or traffic jams on the roads? If there were, we can't remember them.

***So - over to you. What are your childhood holiday memories? How about sending them to this magazine for the Christmas edition?***



*l - r: Cecile Cuthbertson, Austin Clarke, John Bassett, Yvonne Moss, Trevor Bassett, Pauline Latchford, John Bull and Fr. Jack Putterill.*

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*Reading the account of Sid Thake and my Father, Joe Drane, building The Thaxted Bowling Club in the Easter Magazine has brought back MANY memories. My favourite occasion was the annual arrival of the Fair on the Recreation Ground. A Happy, exciting time!! (Attached is a poem I wrote in 2010) I was born in Thaxted in 1947 and I am about to leave to live in Newport. Regards, Mrs Gillian Dixon (11 April 23)*

### *The Fair*

*They say the Fair has come to Town  
A source of glee of such renown  
I feel the tingle, hear the songs  
Those heady days where joy belongs  
The music from the Sixties sweet  
It pulls a cord at every beat  
We couldn't wait to see the lights  
Round stalls that all discernment fights  
Crepe paper balls, hard sawdust mask  
With bands of golden string held fast  
Their magic held those feelings tight  
The urge to play you could not fight  
To win a Toy or Goldfish meant  
That you had covered all you spent  
Now throw a dart - a Teddy win  
Adventure here would now begin  
The Candy Floss you tried to eat  
Avoiding 'sticky' was a feat  
The swingboats posed a quirky job  
The Fish from plastic bag might bob  
The Waltzer next - he'll spin your car  
That Tom Jones God who locked your bar  
Then came the ride that's best of all  
The Dodgems where restraint can fall  
The aerials round the ceiling sped  
And sparks flew out above your head  
You bash at length and scream at will  
In Targets true amour instil!  
Then home to wait another year  
To live that piece of Life most dear.*

**Dunmow u3a** is kicking off the Autumn with a **Games Afternoon** on **Wednesday 27th September**. All our member-led games groups (Bridge, Canasta, Mah Jong, Scrabble and Whist) will be there, offering to teach members how to play their particular game. There will also be a selection of board, dice and card games to play throughout the afternoon just for fun and, if there is enough interest, we could start a few more groups as a result!



**Games Afternoon**  
**Wednesday 27th September**  
**2pm-4pm**  
**Foakes Hall, Dunmow CM6 1DG**

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

It is aimed at adults in the CM6 area who are no longer in full time employment and have an interest in all things new: hobbies, challenges, sports or just making new friends.

Our member-led interest groups include:

- |                  |                    |                      |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Art              | General Crafts     | Nature Walks         |
| Book Clubs       | Geology            | Quilting & Stitching |
| Bridge           | Golf               | Science & Society    |
| Canasta          | Grow Your Own      | Scrabble             |
| Cycling          | Italian            | Table Tennis         |
| Family History   | Line Dancing       | Walking              |
| Flower Arranging | Luncheon Club      | Whist                |
| French           | Mah Jong           | Wine Appreciation    |
| Garden           | Music Appreciation | Zumba Gold           |

To find out more, contact us on 07385 879846 or go to Du3a's website <https://u3asites.org.uk/dunmow/welcome>  
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**ABC & U EDITORIAL INFORMATION**  
**DATES FOR NEXT EDITION - CHRISTMAS 2023**

Date for copy to Editor: Friday 3rd November 2023

Publication date: Sunday 26th November 2023

Download the magazine from our website [www.abc-u.co.uk](http://www.abc-u.co.uk)

**COMMITTEE**

Editorial	Mike Collins	editor@abc-u.co.uk
Adverts:	Emma	email: adverts@abc-u.co.uk
Anglican Church	Yvonne Baccush,	Glyn Pritchard
Baptist Church	Peter Archibald	Jill Jones
Catholic Church	Stephanie Hughes	
U R C	Julie Barnard	
Thaxted Society	Michael Culkin	Richard Till
Parish Council	Andy Frater	Dena Oxley

We would welcome more members on the magazine's editorial team. The committee is looking for new members to join in this developing new look magazine. If you have an interest in creating articles or other aspects of this magazine why not contact us to discuss the ways you could help.

We are always pleased to receive articles for inclusion. Write about what matters to you in Thaxted. We also want to include items such as births, weddings, etc. We do need to be told about events and interesting happenings, as we do not always know of them. We would be very pleased to hear from you. The views expressed are those of the individual writers. Please send any contributions to the editor before the deadline date above.

*We try to print everything we receive*

*- we can not print items we are NOT sent!*

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