



THAXTED COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

HARVEST 2025

A B C & U

EDITION 102

Editorial Information

Dates for the next edition - Christmas 2025

Date for copy to Editor: Saturday 1st November 2025

Publication date: Sunday 30th November 2025

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	Stephanie Hughes	Jill Jones Dena Oxley
	Glyn Pritchard	Richard Till.

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

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

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

Advertising Information

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

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

Full page portrait -	£140 for 3 issues - £50 for a single issue
Half page landscape -	£80 for 3 issues - £30 for a single issue
Quarter page landscape -	£43 for 3 issues - £15 for a single issue
Quarter page portrait -	£47 for 3 issues - £17 for a single issue

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

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

***THANKS AGAIN TO LOWIE OF
LOWREDPHOTO.COM FOR PROVIDING THE
COVER PHOTO AGAIN.***

Hello,

I'm very new here, but I love you. Love one another was Jesus' very clear instruction, so don't be surprised or alarmed! I am your new parish priest. Returning to live in beautiful North West Essex has been a lovely thing, isn't it a good place!

On the 7th July Bishop Guli, our Chelmsford Diocesan bishop, gave me the license to minister (gave me the *Cure of Souls*) in the beautiful benefice of Thaxted, the Sampfords,



Radwinter and Hempstead. It was a wonderful evening service in Thaxted Parish Church. For me, the best thing was that the next morning I woke up and immediately felt like the words, the previous evening, had done their work; I knew I was in the right place, that I felt rooted, at home, and the Anglican priest for this place, for these places, and for you.

In church and out, I am hoping you'll get to know me as I get to know you. Now, it's the day of the deadline for this magazine and I am at home after a service of Thanksgiving for Marriage in St Michael's, Gt Sampford. A lovely couple married in the church last year, came with their family and friends to ask for a blessing and to celebrate all the good things about their married life. This was wonderful, and the church is here for life's events. Talk to me about your life, and about life! There are many things to do, always, but never think I am too busy for you. I am here only for you, and God! Stop, and say hello to me, I do hope you will. Now, I am looking out at the fields opposite the vicarage, the other side of the Chelmer Valley. Some of those fields are harvested and some not yet, and it is raining. I love living surrounded by farmland and have

done so for most of my life. For the bread I've just toasted (a very late breakfast after that service in Gt Sampford), the Essex jam I put on it, the milk in the tea I've just drank (and the tea harvested in other places) I am truly thankful and in awe of the farmers. I am looking at those fields and can see that there is so much work! As I drink the tea, I am thanking God for all he gives us, and all we can offer back to him in thankfulness. I am saying a prayer for all who are bringing in the harvest, and I am thinking about the

news, the tragic and ongoing news of those suffering devastating deprivations, and who are in desperate need of food. The suffering, the starvation, in Gaza is in every way unconscionable. Come into the church to pray for those who will die this day from starvation in Gaza. Our churches are very good places; steeped in centuries of prayer and devotion from so many who have offered up to God their hope, their celebrations, their anguish, their love, their joy, their all, that God sees as the abundant life he gives.



God has blessed us,
but still God's children go hungry.
Lord, have mercy.

God has blessed us,
but still the poor cry out for justice.
Christ, have mercy.

God has blessed us,
but still we see inequality and oppression in
the earth.
Lord, have mercy.

With much love for all we share and for the
Gospel of Christ, I am ever yours,
Fr David

***The Revd David Sheppard, Rector of Thaxted, the
Sampfords, Radwinter and Hempstead.***

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Parish Council News

Andy Frater - Chairman

As we approach the season of harvest, a time for reflection and gratitude, I'm pleased to share an update on the work of Thaxted Parish Council.

Since the Easter edition, the Council has undergone a structural refresh with new Chairs appointed to several committees. I'm confident this renewed leadership will serve the parish with diligence and integrity. Cllr Victoria Knight is Vice Chair and Chair of Personnel, Cllr Alex Young chairs Planning, Cllr Williams leads Finance, Cllr Silver manages Assets, and Cllr Frostick now oversees Open Spaces.



Congratulations to **Jack Stannard**, this year's recipient of the Chairman's Cup, for his outstanding contributions to our community.

New Office Space

& Community Hall



We're delighted to announce that the Council's new office, located in the Community Hall by the Recreation Ground, is now fully operational. This space is also available for community bookings and private hire—ideal for meetings, workshops, and small events.

To complement the new location, we've installed a new town notice board outside the Hall. The old board by the Library is also being repaired and will soon be back in action.

Neighbourhood Plan – Revisions Underway

Revisions to the Neighbourhood Plan are in progress to reflect the evolving needs of our parish. A refreshed Liz Lake report has been commissioned to highlight Thaxted's unique character and heritage. We'll be inviting further community input as the revised policies are drafted—thank you to all who've contributed so far.

Celebrating Community Spirit

This summer, Thaxted hosted a series of vibrant events: VE Day celebrations, Morris Weekend, Thaxted Fayre and Dog Show, the Festival, and the Primary PTA Fair. These events were a testament to our strong community spirit. Huge thanks to all the volunteers who made them possible — it's been a truly memorable summer!

Looking Ahead – Winter Meetings & Inclusion

From October to March, Council meetings will be held at the Community Hall, a warmer and more cost-effective venue. We're also exploring digital attendance options to ensure accessibility during the winter months—complete with tea, coffee, and even gluten-free biscuits!

20's Plenty – Sign Design Winner

Congratulations to Poppy (Year 2) from Thaxted Primary School, winner of our 20's Plenty sign design competition! Her artwork will soon

be displayed around town to promote road safety. Thank you to all the young artists who participated!



Embracing Digital Innovation

The Council is embracing digital tools to improve efficiency and accessibility. We've integrated platforms like Claude for meeting admin, Scribe for bookings, Stripe for payments, and Paydit for donations. Our shared digital drive has even drawn praise from auditors for its transparency and innovation.

A new Digital Booking button is now live on our website, making it easier than ever to access Council services.

Get Involved

Your Parish Council works best when our community is engaged. We encourage residents to attend meetings, share views, and get involved.

Visit www.thaxted-pc.gov.uk or contact the Parish Office to learn more.

Andy Frater, Chairman,
Dena Oxley, Clerk & RFO

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Thaxted - NEWS - Society

THE 'GUILDHALL' BUILT 1460-70

This is how we know it today but, in its past, it may have been known by other names and for other purposes. There is no doubt that it was built for the town and has continually been used for the town's benefit to this day. The Society is committed to ensuring the Guildhall's central purpose in Thaxted's life and while that purpose may change, standing where it does means that its importance is undeniable. It remains one of the earliest examples of a 'market hall', along with others one of which stood in Titchfield and is now part of The Weald & Downland Museum.

❖TOWN MARKET

❖BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBER

❖THAXTED S 1ST SCHOOL ROOM

❖COURT ROOM

❖POST WAR SCHOOLROOM

❖LOCK UP

TOWN MARKET

Given a smaller population the Guildhall was ample as a market. It was likely that this was regular with market folk coming to trade in poultry, cheese and butter. Without refrigeration or even easily available ice, food bought on the day was for consumption or preserving on that day. The market was held twice a week and there were two fairs a year, which seem to have been held in Town Street from the 15th Century.



Thaxted Guildhall. Its open ground floor used as a market for centuries.

BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBER

Thaxted's status as Manor, Parish, and Borough has waxed and waned over the centuries but there is ample evidence that the original meeting room for such bodies was the top floor, while the first floor remained unglazed and open to the elements during the day, with heavy shutters in place at night. Latterly, post glazing and the addition of Georgian

panelling and a fireplace, the first floor was used for meetings of the 'current authority' and is used for the Parish Council meetings today.

THAXTED'S 1ST SCHOOL ROOM and POST-WAR SCHOOLROOM

The Guildhall has been a school room twice, most recently during the last war when the first floor was a temporary school room for evacuee children from Leyton, under the tutelage of Kate Butters and much earlier courtesy of Yardley's Charity who paid for some repairs to the building while establishing a schoolroom for Thaxted on the top floor. Boys would be taught from 8 years to 14 years.



Teacher Kate Butters at her spinning wheel.

COURT ROOM

What court there was in Thaxted, was the aptly named 'quarrels hall', but it was far too small and badly located. (It still exists as part of Market Cross House.) A new building was required which would meet the needs and save costs. This was to become the Guildhall. The upper floor held the court of the market on market and fair days. The courts of the Manor, and Borough, held their meetings there, as did the Cutlers Guild and Yardley's charity. Today it houses the Thaxted archive alongside the Thaxted Morris exhibition.

LOCK UP

The lock up, accessible from both inside and out was, as its name implies a temporary place for any unfortunate, drunk, vagrant, and the like who would be put here awaiting going before a 'magistrate' in one form or another. A deterrent, by example, for bad behaviour. Given the enormous value and power of the Manor justice was swift and uncompromising.



FUTURAM EXCITANS

As for a future for such an iconic and valuable community building? The answers are as complex as the history, and maybe that is why its

future is complex also. Access to such an old building is notoriously difficult and for a building to be useful in a community today sensitive access solutions are essential. A balance must be struck between conservation and regular use. Equally for the visitor, attracted by Thaxted's charms and its history, having such an interesting building open and accessible is essential. Thaxted's Guildhall presents great promise from the outside and that promise should be fulfilled by its interiors, showing how it has been used and for what all through its history. A review of timber used in the construction of the Guildhall, 'tree ring dating', shows that the trees that made up these timbers were felled between 1428 and 1453. However green oak was never used in construction, so, a date range for the Guildhall's construction is between 1460-70. There was a commercial plantation of ancient oaks near Bardfield End Green. Weathered oak was stored there and widely used for important buildings in the area, most notably a number of the Cambridge colleges. This was the most likely source of the Guildhall's timbers. The fact they remain upright and warm to the touch after some 555 years is astonishing.



Anglia Ruskin University recently undertook research as to the role such buildings play in today's communities. Much of that work centred on Thaxted's Guildhall. Research will be published later this year and this will add to sum of our understanding of both history and purpose. Alterations and repairs over the years, have, in some instances,

clouded its story which is also the story of Thaxted. It would be exciting to reveal the true bones of both building and its extraordinary story.

In mid-2026 the Guildhall's future will be part of a wide-ranging review of such assets throughout Essex. Your Society will be spearheading a campaign to not only secure the Guildhall's future as a community asset in public ownership, but to ensure that, like the Windmill, it may be restored and rejuvenated long term, on a sound basis, enabling it to continue to play its part in the vibrant community that is, Thaxted! (an exciting future)



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THAXTED TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Thaxted twinned with St Vrain, France

Thaxted has been twinned for over 25 years with St. Vrain France. In May, our French Twinning friends came over with 20 adults and 15 children. Our French friends and kids had an amazing time with our members here in Thaxted. The association is for adults and children in Thaxted and the surrounding areas. When we go to France the only cost is the Euro Star for the adults as the children go free. The 3 day stay with one of our well-loved and known families is cost free. We all join together for adventure days out and meals. it is a great way for your family to have a short visit near Paris while being looked after by our host families and other Thaxted Twinning members.

This is a super way to have a go at speaking French, however most of our Saint-Vrain "*Jumelage*" friends speak English. Theresa is happy to give Free French lessons to adults and children who would like to become members of Thaxted Twinning Association.



WE NEED NEW FAMILIES NOW FOR NEXT YEAR 2026 who would like to come St. Vrain! NO MEMBERSHIP FEES.

**Please contact us via thaxtedtwinning.co.uk
or 07740610213 Theresa - Chair of Thaxted Twinning."**



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Thaxted Singers

Maggi Griffiths

Thaxted Singers have had a very successful year with more performances than in previous years. Following on from our December concert and the Thaxted Town Carol Service, we performed in a joint concert with Amici Cantate from Bishop's Stortford in March involving over 70 singers. This was closely followed by participation at the VE Day 80th commemoration event in May. Our summer concert was closely followed by a choir festival including six local choirs as part of Thaxted Festival.



With a membership of 45-50 singers, the aim of Thaxted Singers is to present a wide range of choral music to the local community. We are always seeking to encourage new singers to join regardless of age or ability. New members are always warmly welcomed into this friendly, all-inclusive, non-audition choir. Follow us on Facebook and for more details about the choir, please contact Maggi Griffiths maggigriffiths@gmail.com



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What's on Weekly

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11am – 6pm Touchpoint Stansted Foodshare (small amount)
11am – 2pm Ham & Cheese Toasties/Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings.
2pm – 4pm Bridge Club
4pm – 5.30pm After School Tea-time, hot meal and dessert – check notice board for more information.

TUESDAY
10am Pilates for all abilities – must book 073635 376899
11am Chair Pilates
2pm – 4pm Thaxted Threads Sewing Group

WEDNESDAY
12.30pm Two course Lunch & coffee or tea, £10 per person. Must book 01371 830094. Check notice board for weekly menu.

THURSDAY Twice monthly
12.30pm Two course Lunch & coffee or tea, £10 per person.
Must book 01371 830094. Check notice board for weekly menu.

FRIDAY
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Contact information: Phone: 01371 830094
email: info@pamsplace.org.uk, website: pamsplace.org.uk
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Thaxted Arts and Crafts Fair 2025

Thaxted Arts & Crafts Fair Returns to Thaxted Parish Church for its 14th year with Local Talent, Handmade Goods, and Family Fun

The beloved Thaxted **Arts & Crafts Fair** is back and better than ever! Set to take place on Saturday 18th October 2024 at the magnificent parish church of Thaxted. Perched at the top of the town, this vibrant celebration of creativity will feature over 60 local and regional artisans showcasing a diverse array of handmade goods, artwork, and one-of-a-kind crafts.

From handcrafted jewellery and ceramics to home décor, paintings, and eco-friendly products, there's something for everyone at the fair. Shoppers can connect directly with the artists, support small businesses, and take home truly unique pieces.

"This fair is more than just a shopping experience," say the small team of volunteer organisers, "It's about bringing the community

together, celebrating creativity, and inspiring people of all ages. We also raise a huge amount of much needed funds for the church. Last we raised in excess of £4000 and we hope to do even better this year."

The in house catering will again provide all the tea, coffee and cake you could possibly need.

The event is **free and open to the public**, and family/dog friendly. Plenty of parking is available at many locations around Thaxted, and the venue is accessible. Donations are gratefully received.

Whether you're searching for the perfect gift, a unique addition to your home, or just a fun day out, the Thaxted Arts and Crafts Fair offers a welcoming atmosphere where art meets community.

Event Details:

What: Thaxted Arts & Crafts Fair

When: 18th October, 10 am – 4 pm

Where: **Thaxted Parish Church**, Watling St, Thaxted, Dunmow CM6 2PE

Admission: Free

Social Media- FaceBook and Instagram @thaxtedartandcraftfair

For more information please contact thaxtedartandcraftfair@gmail.com

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Thaxted's District Councillor - Martin Foley

My year as Chair of the Council

Chair's charity collects cheque

As the outgoing Chair of Uttlesford District Council, I was delighted to handed over the proceeds from my year in office to my chosen charity.

Over £10,200 was raised for the Uttlesford Foodbank during 2024/25 and the cheque was presented to Katy Mendes-Day, Director of the charity before the Annual Council Meeting in May.

I'm also very pleased to have been able to raise money for the food bank which helps individuals and families during times of crisis. I would like to thank everyone who has supported this worthy cause."



Katy Mendes-Day, expressed her sincere gratitude to Cllr Foley for recognising the importance of supporting the food bank. It is heavily reliant on the local community, businesses and councils for its survival and thus its ability to support those in crisis in our district. At a time when we are busier than ever and spending record amounts on stock, these funds are very gratefully received."

Among other highlights during my year as Chair, I was invited to more than 20 civic events and occasions including the Dunmow Flitch Trials, High Sheriff's Awards, King's Awards, and Justice Service at Chelmsford Cathedral. I also hosted a quiz evening and carol service.

This past year has been the highlight of the 30 years that I have been a District Councillor for Thaxted. It has been an interesting and enjoyable year as Chair and am honoured to have been able to represent the council and district at so many events, both locally and countywide. A particular highlight for me was being able to present the Freedom of the District to the 35 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal & Search) based at Carver Barracks – we are proud to have this prestigious and brave regiment in the area.

The Thaxted Planters

Cllr Theresa Egan

Thaxted Parish Council would like to give a warm thanks to all the Volunteers and Sponsors involved in our beautiful town planters.

We are sure residents in Thaxted and the many visitors to our Historic Town have been enjoying the summer display in the eight Planters that are located on the Bullring and in Town Street/Watling Street. This year they have been particularly colourful. Many people who came to the Thaxted Festival commented on how splendid they looked. ***It is so much part of what makes Thaxted a SPECIAL place both to live and to visit.***

As you all know they do not just 'happen' but are cared for and managed by a team of volunteers. Planting each Spring and Autumn; watering, dead heading needs to happen on a regular basis during the late spring and summer months. Any who are interested in adding to the small present working team would be very much appreciated. The more volunteers the better!



Over the last few years tulips have been planted each Autumn for a Spring display. Fresh bulbs are purchased from a wholesaler each year to ensure a vibrant spring display. A few local businesses and individuals sponsor these bulbs each year. We will be looking to include other Spring bulbs this year including daffodils & hyacinths etc. We also plant up Winter Flowering Pansies to give a colourful display during Autumn & dreary Winter days.

If you would like to become a Volunteer or part of the Sponsorship group or indeed have any ideas or comments -

PLEASE CONTACT: Theresa@thaxted-pc.gov.uk

There is a real sense of belonging that arrives both with volunteering and sponsoring!

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All gathered in

Jim Ford

Like many of their contemporaries the people of Israel were dependent on good harvests to survive. It is no surprise therefore to learn that their three great annual festivals were at least in part a celebration of a good harvest.

The first harvest was the barley harvest which took place in the Spring and the festival was known as *"Firstfruits."* More importantly it was linked to Passover when the Israelites remembered that God delivered them from slavery in Egypt.

The second harvest was the grain harvest took place approximately seven weeks later. The festival that celebrated it was known as the *"Feast of Weeks or Pentecost"*. The Christian church has of course adopted these two festivals for its own purposes. Passover has become Easter when we remember the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pentecost is now celebrated as the birth of the church when the Holy Spirit came

down on the first disciples and empowered them for mission.

Yet there is one more great festival which the Jews celebrated and that was known as the *"Feast of Tabernacles."* It took place around September/October and it celebrated the gathering in of all the crops. It was a seven-day party where the people ate, drank, and thanked God for the harvest. Unlike us they had no technology to protect them and so the success of the harvest was literally life or death. They also spent the week living in tents rather than in their houses. That was to remind them of their deliverance from Egypt and



God's protection of them when they lived in the desert for 40 years. In other words it was a reminder of their utter dependence on God. We may think we rely on Waitrose or Sainsburys for our food, but they in turn rely on farmers to produce and the farmers in turn rely on the weather. Guess

who controls the weather? God is still Lord of the Harvest.

There is one interesting thing about tabernacles. Unlike Passover and Pentecost it has not yet found a Christian fulfilment. As the Jews gathered in the harvest during Tabernacles so God will gather in his people at the end of time. Jesus will return one day and as the New Testament tells us he will gather all those people who belong to him together. All those who follow Jesus will celebrate on

that day. Jesus made a very poignant statement to Jerusalem in connection with this while he was on earth. A statement that still applies to many people today. *"Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem how often have I longed to gather your children like a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but you would not let me."* The key question for each one of us is, *"Will I come under Jesus's wing or will I stay outside? Will I be at the party on the last day or will I stay away?"*

Selfridges, Bloomingdales and Thaxted!

Gifted is now stocking soft toys from a company called "**Loved Before**" here at Gifted. The company's mission is to save soft toys from landfill. Owner Charlotte discovered during her time volunteering in a charity shop that donated soft toys do not sell well there, and the idea for "Loved Before" was born. The toys are repaired, restuffed, steamed and re-fluffed before offering them for sale. They are presented in a smart gift box with a short, written history of their former life. 50% of the profit from the toys is donated to the Make a Wish charity. The concept has really taken off. "Loved Before" toys can now be found shops such as Selfridges, Bloomingdales and Gifted in Thaxted! Find out more about Charlotte and her mission on her website www.lovedbefore.london

This concept is part of a movement towards sustainability in retail that we really welcome here at Gifted. Having seen our preloved clothing take off (the section has tripled in size since we introduced it two years ago) we knew that the idea of second hand is not a bad thing to lots of people. Alongside our other Sustainable initiatives such as the refill station, packaging free products and plastic free options we are very happy to do our bit.



Baptist Church News

Peter Archibald

Community Outreach.

As part of our activities we continue holding a service at Humphrey Lodge on the 1st Monday of every month at 10.30 am and a service at Craftcapability on the second Thursday of the month at 11.30 am

Our Church Hall Activities

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Community Breakfast held on the second Saturday of each month continues to have a good attendance and a variety of speakers covering a wide spectrum of topics.

For further details please contact Paul Tingey on 07494 757114.

Coffee & Company

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one and would like to chat and also have mutual support with people who understand, please come and join us for coffee/tea and cake. We meet on the last Saturday of every month between 10.00 and 12.00 For details visit www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com : or ring Debbie on 01371831548

Community Choir

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

Exercise Classes

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

Friday Coffee Morning

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

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

Sundays

We usually meet for Morning Worship on Sundays at 9.30am, sharing coffee after the service. On the first Sunday of the month our service includes Communion. A warm welcome awaits you at all our services.

Breakfast Church

On the second Sunday each month, "Breakfast Church" at 9.30am starts with a light breakfast followed by an informal, family friendly service. This service is especially suitable for families with children. Everybody welcome!

The Story

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

Messy Church

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

Second Saturday Coffee Mornings

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

Our Garden

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

Recorded Service

We offer a recorded service each week. If you would like to receive the link to this, please email ThaxtedURCMinister@outlook.com

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

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

www.thaxtedparishchurch.co.uk

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

Sundays	8 am	Said Mass on the first Sunday of the month
	11am	Sung Mass except on the first Sunday of the month when we celebrate at 10am Open Doors - an All Ages service.
Wednesday	10 am	Low Mass followed by Coffee Corner – All welcome to join us for coffee, pastries and friendly chat!

The Baptist Church, Park Street

www.thaxtedbaptistchurch.com

or facebook.com/thaxtedbaptists/

Contact : Minister Jim Ford Tel 07889758285

Sundays	10.30 am	Morning Service
		Communion the first Sunday in the month
Thursday	7.30 pm	Bible Study
Friday	10 - 11.30 am	Coffee Morning
2nd Saturdays	8.45 for 9 am	Men's Breakfast

For details of our other activities and events please see page 30.

The Catholic Church

For information contact : Patrick O'Brien 01371 830 480

Regular Thaxted Services SATURDAYS 5 pm in Parish Church

All other Services will be in Bardfield.

United Reformed Church Bolford Street

Contact our minister, Revd Mark Hayes.

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

Sundays	9.30 am	Morning Worship - with
		Communion included on the first Sunday of the month and Breakfast church is the second Sunday of the month.

Our Harvest Festival service this year is on Sunday 21st Sept at 9.30am

For our other activities and events please see page 31.

Thaxted Parish Church Upcoming Events

13th September – Friends of Essex Churches Ride & Stride.

(<https://www.friendsof Essex churches.org.uk/ride-stride>)

Please do support this amazing fundraising event either by taking part or sponsoring someone who is Riding or Striding!

28th September – Harvest Festival Mass at 11am and the Harvest Supper in the evening. Please contact Maggie Catterall (mcatterall49@gmail.com) to book your space at the meal.

18th October – Arts & Crafts Fair in the Parish Church from 10am – 4pm.

Weddings

Congratulations to:

George Webster & Victoria Mizen, married on 7th June.

Chris Evans and Emily Henderson, married at Milton on 23rd July

In Memoriam

Peter Bailey, Beryl Barbour, Trevor Bassett, Wynn Carr, Brian Clarke, Kim Cowell, Rick Gray, Grace Murphy, Dean North, Amanda Petchey, John Oswin Smith, Lui Joe Start, Frederick Vickery, Darren Wilks, John Wisbey.

This could be your advert!

See inside front cover for advertising details.

Contact Emma in time for the Christmas edition due out at the end of November.



Thaxted Windmill Trust CIO

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Conserved for its Community Heritage -

Project 2025 - 2027

As many of you will have noticed, the work on the Windmill has not yet commenced. This is due to a variety of reasons and the Trust are hopeful that progress with the project will be seen soon. Until then, here's an overview of the activities that will be on offer as part of the Windmill restoration:

During the two years of this project, there are a series of day schools, training workshops and other activities which are open to everyone and free to attend. The dates are to be confirmed but if you are interested and would like further details, please email johnwebbswindmill@gmail.com

Day Schools

- 1 The Thaxted Windmills and the History of Windmills
- 2 How the Windmill was built and how the medieval Mills in Thaxted were designed and constructed.
- 3 Grain through the ages.
- 4 The historic routes to the Thaxted Windmills and from them to the flour markets.
- 5 Photography Buildings and Landscapes.
- 6 Mills in Art

Training Workshops

- 7 Sorting and cataloguing the boxes of archives relating to the Windmill.

8 Visit to the Essex Record Office

9 The Cleaning and Care of the Artefacts

Followed by sessions to clean and care for the artefacts, using the skills acquired during the training.

10 Creating displays of artefacts

11 Producing content and artwork for Interpretation in heritage projects .

Followed by sessions to research content and images and draft text, using the skills acquired during the training.

12 How to research your Family History, including examples from the Thaxted Mill Owners and Workers.

13 Producing Learning Materials

Followed by sessions to research content and images and draft text, using the skills acquired during the training.

14 Wildlife identification skills; how to undertake wildlife surveys

Followed by seasonal sessions to survey and record wildlife, using

the skills acquired during the training.

15 Leading guided tours and walks.

16 Management and Maintenance of the Building Fabric and Management and Maintenance of the Millwrighting Machinery

Also: Cultural and social exchanges with Mills worldwide. Heritage Open Days -Thaxted's Archives in the Guildhall. Visit to the Bulmer Brick and Tile Company.

www.johnwebbswindmillthaxted.com / Johnwebbswindmill@gmail.com

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Flower Power

Emma



It's a Tuesday evening in early March and I'm sitting in a church in Thaxted watching Violeta as she attaches a pair of angel wings (somewhat precariously it must be said) to her final display. It's touch and go for a while, but with the help of a second pair of hands, the wings stay aloft. We can all breathe again.

I hadn't long moved to Thaxted when I was invited to come along to a meeting of the Thaxted Flower Club. But I don't know anything about flower arranging, I said, as visions of my rather pathetic attempts to 'arrange' flowers flashed before me. Oh you don't need to

worry about that, they said, you'll be watching other people arrange the flowers. Phew.

Like most people I know, I love flowers. My heart lifts when the first daffodils and tulips appear in the shops. But I don't know the Latin





names to anything and my idea of arranging flowers is limited to say the least. But since joining the Thaxted Flower Club I've seen and learnt quite a lot. Angel wings, butterflies, orchids, Ely Cathedral, windmills (of course), handtied posies, the cons of oasis, the efforts to be more environmental. A new generation of young demonstrators are taking to the stage and sharing their passion and creativity with energy and enthusiasm. It's been lovely to spend an evening in the company of people who are generous with their talent, prepared to share their skills, personal stories, tips and inspiration. **As for me... I've made my first Christmas Wreath.**

I've used wire supports in a bowl. (Trust me, that's progress).

I've watched in awe as club members created an array of amazing displays for Mother's Day this year. (Monies raised go to charity).

So if you love flowers as much as I do, come along. There's tea and biscuits. It's very friendly. And one of the best bits; for a modest sum you can buy a raffle ticket and the chance to win one of the displays.

I may even get my grandmother's rose bowl off the shelf. It's been a great year for roses.

The Thaxted Flower Club meets at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of every month (except January and August) at the United Reform Church, Bolford Street, Thaxted CM6 2PY.

New members and visitors welcome. Easy parking. Disabled access.

Find us on Facebook & Instagram.

Email:

thaxtedflowerclub@gmail.com



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Thaxted Garden and Craft Show

Joanna Legge

The Thaxted Garden and Craft Show has been celebrating the fabulous local talent and community spirit for over 50 years.

I have been on the committee for several years now and am always blown away by the variety of entries, and the high level of talent within our community. For me it is essential that we have a platform within our community to showcase individuals skills and come together to celebrate them.

Each year, we bring together families and friends of all ages to enjoy making, creating and growing. So if you grow, bake or make there will be a category for you and we would love to see your creations.

Theme?

We always have a very loose theme for our show and this year it is space. This is mainly for the children's sections, but please feel free to use it as inspiration for your own entries. There is also a community section which is open to all ages and abilities. For 2025 we have; tallest sunflower, re-purposing rubbish into something useful or decorative and make something useful or decorative out of rags.

The Schedule and how to enter

In each category there are rosettes to be won, and in the children's sections there are also cash prizes. It is very easy to enter, either pick up a schedule from Lowes or Gifted in Town Street, Thaxted or download a schedule from our website, www.thethaxtedshow.co.uk. Fill out the entry form and either drop off a printed version to Gifted or alternatively send it to us via email or upload it using the form on our website.

Then just bring your entries to the United Reformed Church on either Friday 19th September 6-8 pm or Saturday morning 8-10:30

am, where a member of our team will help you find the right place in the display.

Visit on the day

Even if you feel you have nothing to add to the show, coming along on the Saturday or Sunday to view the entries, possibly stopping for a little light refreshment, helps us enormously. The show is open to visitors from 2-5 pm Sat 20th and 12-5 pm Sun 21st. Not only will it of course put a few pennies towards next year's show, but there is no show without an audience. Plus we have a **'Peoples Vote'** so if you disagree with the judging have your say and vote for your **'Best in Show'** exhibit. The prize giving ceremony is at 5 pm on Sunday.

A huge thank you to those who are one of our numerous returning entrants. Without you wonderful people we of course have no show! If you are reading this and thinking you might want to enter something for the first time, please do, we will be extremely happy to welcome you and your creations!

We are a volunteer group funded entirely by donations from the general public, as well as support from The Thaxted Fayre Trust and Yardley's Charity.

Pictures to come

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Humanitarian Aid - Bread

Yvonne Baccush

What would I do if given a sack of flour to feed my family to prevent them from starving to death? I have no idea at all. A sack of flour but nothing else. No yeast, no oil, meat, vegetables, tomato puree, only a small amount of water; no kitchen, no cooking utensils, no roof over my head to protect me from the elements. Whatever would I do? Of course, it is inconceivable this would happen here in the UK - total devastation of our Country or community.

I lived abroad in North Africa for many years where there was a plethora of fruit, vegetables, fish, meat, olive oil, tomato paste, pasta and potable water was on tap. The majority of people had comfortable, modern homes. However, during one period after a political revolution, it was difficult to find meat within city butchers and one had to seek supplies in rural areas where large flocks of sheep were kept by local farmers. Moreover, supermarket and grocery shops ran out of imported foodstuffs although the local pasta factory kept up their supplies. Sugar and flour was sold through the government by a

sackload for each family but I did not want to keep sacks of these to attract weevils and ants. Therefore family relatives with larger families would call by my home with bowls of flour and sugar by the kilo.

Local women would make cakes at home using flour, sugar, honey and nuts and these would be taken on large, round aluminium trays to be baked by their nearest bakery. No-one starved during this transition period. Throughout North Africa and the Mediterranean generally copious amounts of bread are eaten daily with both lunch and dinner. Family members go to the bakers to buy long, baguette-style loaves to accompany main dishes, salads and side dishes, i.e. dolmas, koftas and salads. Occasionally I would see Arab women making their own bread similar to Indian fluffy paratha - small dough balls flattened by hand until they are almost transparent and then cooked over a high heat with a little oil.

To live amongst rubble after losing your home with all its comforts and facilities is something we find it hard to envisage in our own lives yet wars in the Ukraine, the Middle East and

East Africa leave millions destitute without the means to overcome their situation. Although we have seasonal flooding and fires in America and Europe which have resulted in many people experiencing homelessness, in our societies we can expect to receive some aid from Government

agencies, charities and insurance to help those people to rehabilitate. Hopefully, no-one should starve.

Again, what if I was in a situation where all I was able to obtain, at the risk of my life, was a sack of flour to feed my family? I haven't a clue. What would YOU do with only a sack of flour?



Guildhall Girls Thaxted WI

Hannah Arrowsmith, President

Guildhall Girls Thaxted WI have had a busy year as usual with numerous events including a brilliant Croquet afternoon with Newport Golf Croquet Club, an indoor June garden party, and various crafting activities and scrumptious afternoon tea trips. We have also enjoyed a wide range of fascinating speakers from Canary Girls (munitions workers) to BSL to holistic health at our monthly meetings.

Coming up in the next few months we have talks on The Titanic, Wellbeing with the Sultana Man, the Witches of Essex and have craft afternoons, a visit to Audley End WI open day and ten-pin bowling and theatre outings planned.

We are a friendly, welcoming group of women so, if you fancy joining your local WI or maybe just coming along for a taster session to see how you like it, please contact us at guildhallgirls@gmail.com

We meet the first Thursday of every month, 7.30-9.30 at Pam's Place in Thaxted.

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News from Thaxted Surgery

Life at Thaxted Surgery continues to be busy and varied!

We are delighted to see that we have been rated no 74 out of 6209 GP practices nationally, with 97% of patients rating us as good overall. Thank you to all our patients who took the time to complete and return the survey. However, we recognise that we do not always get it right and are always open to constructive suggestion and discussion about how and where we could improve. If you would like to get involved in supporting and working with the surgery our PPG (Patient Participation Group) is always on the lookout for new members. You can leave your details at Reception or email into the surgery on hweicbwe.f81131-reception@nhs.net with your details.

GP Registrar

We are sad to say that Dr Saye has now left us for his next training practice. We were very lucky to have “kept” him for a whole year and enjoyed teaching him and learning from him. We will be having another GP Registrar, but they won’t be joining us until the new year. In the meantime, we will be welcoming back our annual year 6 medical students starting their six week rotations in October.

Changes Ahead

There are some changes ahead nationally that will affect us and all GP practices. We do not know how exactly we will be affected but we are watching and waiting. The immediate change affecting us is the reduction in the number of ICBs (Integrated Care Boards) and ICBs with bigger footprints being established. We are currently part of Herts and West Essex ICB but we will be moving into the new Greater Essex ICB.

Appointments

Between the 1st June and 30th June we had a total of 143 appointments which we had to record as **Did Not Attend (DNA)**. We do understand that sometimes there are circumstances beyond your control but where possible we ask that you notify the surgery if you are unable to attend an appointment or no longer need an appointment – that way we can release it and offer it to someone else.

How to contact us?

Do you know about the “contact us” portal on our website? This is for non-urgent clinical queries, sick note requests, and questions about investigation results and can be found on our usual website. Simply click on it and follow the steps <https://www.thaxted-surgery.co.uk/>

We still offer all the other access routes too – phone, in person, via email, online appointments.

Non NHS Work

Along with other surgeries Thaxted does sometimes undertake non-NHS work for patients – this work is not covered in our contract with the NHS and therefore is chargeable. This includes work such as private medicals, DVLA forms, certificates and some letters. Our fees have been static for many years, but we have recently had to increase them. The updated fees are on display in reception and on the website and have been in effect since 28th July. We now also ask for all work to be paid for in advance.

PPG (Patient Participation Group)

We are very fortunate to have a supportive PPG here at Thaxted and are very grateful for the monies raised by them over the year. We are currently planning on converting another room into a consultation room so all funds raised now and in future will be going towards this. As well as funds raised by the PPG, we have benefitted from donations from Hunts Charity that we used to purchase a new defibrillator and blood pressure machines.

Vaccine Clinics

Last but not least, we are approaching flu and covid time again. We are delighted to say that this year sees the return of the inhouse fluathon. We will be inviting all those eligible for flu to come in on Saturday 4th October – please keep the date free and book with us and support your local surgery. There will be a covid clinic later on in October and this will be run as a joint clinic with the other 3 surgeries in our PCN. Eligible patients will receive an invite. Again, please can I urge you to support your local surgery and attend this.

The NHS logo, consisting of the letters "NHS" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a solid blue rectangular background.



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Autumn 2025 Programme

Sue Collins, Chairperson

A survey completed by many of our regular attenders last December indicated that talks on local history, places and people were popular. Our Autumn programme reflects this.



Sessions start on October the 8th with a talk by Mark Rickards "Conserved for its community" about John Webb's Windmill.

Ross Midgeley will be giving an intriguing talk entitled *"Walking the Hamster to the fountain – 1000 years of history in Hempstead"*.

The half term ends on October 29th with "A life well lived" an insight, in her own words, into the life and times of Kate Butters, a much-loved Thaxted resident. This will be presented by Mike and Richenda Collins.



After a half-term break on November 5th there will be five more sessions including a history of the Thaxted Chronicle players. We will end, as last year, with some sort of festive event. Look out for more information about dates and topics on Facebook, and on posters around the town.

Sessions are held in Pam's Place at 7.30 pm and cost £5.00 per week to include refreshments. If you would like to join our mailing list, please contact simmons.peter@btinternet.com .

We look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming newcomers this coming term.

MESSY CHURCH HOLIDAY CLUB CELEBRATES CREATION

Thaxted Messy Church started the summer break with a holiday club celebrating God's Creation.

Thirty five children and parents attended three mornings making craft, sharing stories and singing at Thaxted United Reformed Church.

Over the three days, we enjoyed various craft activities that celebrated the Bible story of Creation. We also completed books telling the story of how God created the earth, the universe and everything in it.

Craft work included making gardens and a mobile of the sun and moon, and making a collage celebrating everything that God created.

This is the third year that the holiday club has run and several families have taken part each year.

Messy Church is run by Thaxted Churches working together and meets on the second Tuesday each month, from 4.00pm to 5.30. For more information, please email ThaxtedMessyChurch@outlook.com



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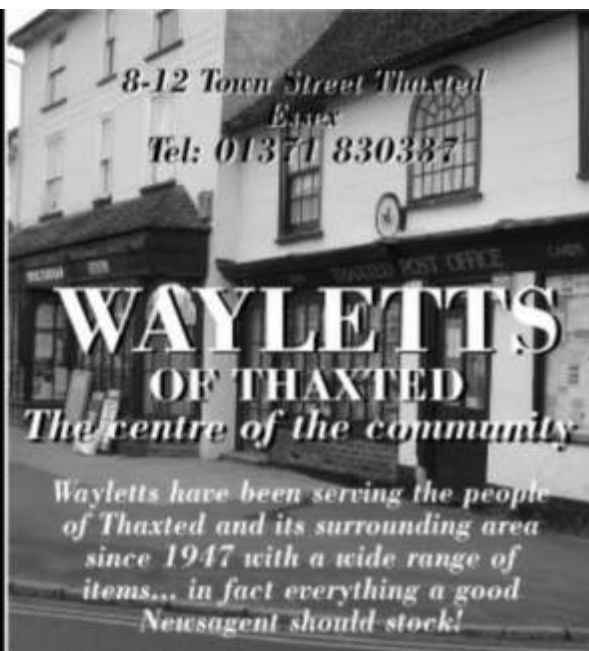
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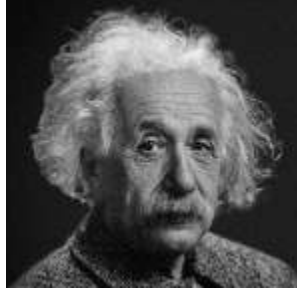
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Where are we going?

Rev'd Mark Hayes. Thaxted United Reformed Church

Among the greatest scientists of recent history was Albert Einstein. He was a man who was so focussed on his scientific work that he often neglected everything else,



including his personal appearance – as evidenced by the state of his hair!

On one occasion he was making a train journey out of town in order to get to a speaking engagement. As he sat, engrossed in his work, in his seat, the ticket collector stopped to punch his ticket.

Looking up in shock, Einstein realized he didn't know what he had done with his ticket. He began frantically searching through his coat pockets, and then his briefcase. Gently the ticket collector said, "We all know who you are, Dr. Einstein. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it."

But, as the ticket collector moved along, he looked back to see Einstein on his hands and knees searching under the seat for his ticket. The ticket collector walked back, "Dr Einstein, please don't worry about it. I know who you are and I'm sure you

would have bought a ticket." Exasperated, Einstein looked up and said, "I, too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going."

Today, many people seem confused about

both who they are and where they are going. The mantra that "everything in Britain seems to be broken" is something I often hear. When we look around us, much that we see can feel depressing. All of this is happening at a time when there are significant changes in the world order. The current conflicts which rage so viciously are a heavy load for our collective hearts to bear. Suffering upon suffering and a seemingly relentless cycle of death and destruction leave us overcome with grief for our broken world.

Mark's gospel records an incident when a scribe, having watched Jesus arguing with the Pharisees and Sadducees, approaches Jesus with a question. He wants to know which of the more than 600 laws of Moses is the key that unlocks the meaning of the whole.

In his answer, Jesus brings together a verse from Deuteronomy,

"you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength,"

with a verse from Leviticus,

"Never seek revenge or cherish a grudge towards your kinsfolk; you shall love your neighbour as yourself."

There is little point in having our mouths full of scripture if our hearts are full of hate. Holiness shows itself in love, not separation. Wholehearted love for God translates into love for neighbour and creates community in the face of all that promotes sectarian mentalities and separatist practices.

We may feel overwhelmed and hopeless when we consider the battles raging around the world, and the devastating scenes of suffering may at times be too painful to watch but each one of us can make an effort to love our neighbour. We can each make a difference. Our freedom and way of life are expressed by how our communities come together to work for the common good.

At a time when so many pressures seek to pull us apart, we can hold fast to the command of Jesus to love our neighbour, be that our next-door neighbour, neighbours in our wider community, our country or humankind as a whole.

Barn Dance - Ceilidh - English Country Dancing

CALLING ALL COUNTRY DANCERS!!

Thaxted country dance club has been part of the life in Thaxted for over 100 years. But sadly the club closed as the numbers attending made it un-viable.

HOWEVER

*There is a surge of new interest.
Anyone interested in learning country dancing to a live band !*

And have having a great time.

Please look out for announcements and more info on social media and posters throughout the town.

For more info contact: tom ...or mike.thaxted@live.co.uk





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On Wednesday 24 September, Dunmow u3a will be **celebrating its 10th anniversary**. There will be bunting, cake and displays along with Dunmow's Town Crier. We will also be welcoming Andrew Baker who will be talking to us through **"70 Remarkable Years: A Portrait of and Retrospect on Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II"**. 1.30pm for 2pm start. He will be looking at her youthful accession; steadfast character; family and homes across her Kingdom and she managed to remain a symbol of national unity over seven turbulent decades while retaining the affections of her subjects.

On Wednesday 22 October, 1.30pm for 2pm start, Joanne Larnar will be teaching us **"How to Draw People and Animals"**. Do you think you can't draw? Would you like to give it another try? Joanne is an accomplished artist and she promises to show examples and comparisons and answer any questions we might have so that we will end up being more able to create a likeness of people and animals in your life. She will also encourage us to try out some of her tips and techniques and produce a step-by-step, detailed drawing of an eye.

At our last monthly meeting of the year, on Wednesday 26 November, 1.30pm for 2pm start, Karen Lawrie will be warning us **"If you don't use it, you lose it!"**. A great believer in the physical and mental benefits of keeping active, in this light-hearted interactive talk, Karen will focus on having fun and a laugh while getting her message across.

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

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

Dunmow u3a has **over 40 member-led interest groups** from arts to exercise and languages to sports, with indoor games, discussion groups and outdoor activities in between.

To find out more, email **membership@dunmowu3a.org.uk** or visit the Du3a's website **<https://dunmow.u3asite.uk>**

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Flower Arrangers Needed!

Visit Thaxted Parish Church most days and you will find beautiful flower arrangements that brighten up the Church. They are the creation of the small group of flower arrangers who meet regularly to create the wonderful display of flowers in the Church.

We are looking for more people to join us to help create these beautiful displays. You don't have to be a florist, a member of the congregation or have much experience in flower arranging to join the group – and we will be very happy to teach you.



If you would like more information please contact Janet on 01371 830184; we look forward to welcoming you!

THAXTED SPEEDWATCH MORE VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED!



We already have a great group registered and TRAINED to Volunteer for Thaxted Community Speed Watch and have been out trying to inform speeders to slow down AND RESPECT 30 MPH. If would like to help - Please Contact:

theresa@thaxted-pc.gov.uk

THAXTED LIBRARY NEWS

Janet Easterbrooke - Senior Customer Services Assistant

Children's Events

It has been a busy summer in the children's library! Key stage one children from Thaxted Primary visited with their classes in the summer term. It was great to meet them all and hear about their school topic, minibeasts and plants. **The Summer Reading Challenge**, 'The Story Garden,' had a fantastic uptake this year. Well done to all those children who joined, we have loved hearing all about your fantastic reading over the summer!

For the autumn term we will be **celebrating Halloween** with a free Halloween themed crafts session on Tuesday 28th October, 2.30 – 4.00 pm. Look out for posters in the library and event details on the Thaxted Library website . For younger children, **Halloween Rhymetime** will take place on Friday 31st October at 9.30 am. Come along and show off your spooky outfits!

Just a reminder that **Lego Club** now takes place on the first Tuesday of the month, 3.30 – 4.30 pm. Come along and have fun building a Lego creation! There is also lots of Duplo available for younger children.

Adult Events

Our drop in coffee and chat sessions continue to run on the third Saturday of the month from 10.30 am – 12.00 pm. Pop in to have a 'cuppa', chat and browse our books and information.

Library membership is free; all you need to join as an adult is some photo ID. Membership gives you access to all 74 Essex Libraries, 6 million books on the library catalogue and a wealth of digital resources and reference material. Library membership also provides free access to Ancestry and Find My Past if you are using the computers available in the library.

Library Opening Hours

Tuesday 2.00pm – 5.30pm

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

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Animal bedding: shavings, hay, straw, hemp etc.

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