



Yaxley Messenger

February 2023



Photograph by Zoe Wright

Village Hall News



Just to let you know that the Village Hall Committee is starting to plan a

Family Fun Day

at the beginning of **July** extending the invitation to all our surrounding villages too.

We would like to have lots of fun activities and entertainments for the children together with interests and entertainment for the parents too!

On that basis, if you would like to help, would like to run a stall, have a small business to promote or any other activity you would like to suggest, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Send an e-mail to celiaarmstrong@hotmail.co.uk or phone her on 01379 788754.

HIRE OF YAXLEY VILLAGE HALL

To book or enquire contact **Celia Armstrong on 01379 788754 or email: celiaarmstrong@hotmail.co.uk**



Quiz Night



Saturday
4th February
Yaxley Village Hall
7 for 7.30 p.m.



Entrance: £2.50 per head

Bring your own drinks and nibbles



Quizmaster: Ian Muir



Bring your friends for an amusing night out!



Clubs and Societies

The Art Club

Meets in the Village Hall on Tuesdays 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon

February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

All abilities welcome, £4.00. Come and create something artistic.

Further details: Chris Virgo 788819.

The Garden Club

February 2nd at 7.30 p.m.

In the Village Hall

Karon from Stackyard Nursery will give a talk on **Winter Colour**. Add colour to your garden using plants, sculpture and lighting.

Visitors Welcome: £5 to include light refreshments

More details: Abby 783984

The Yaxley Needlework and Craft Group

**February 1st and 15th
at 2 p.m. in the Village Hall**

Share skills, complete projects—with tea and chat £2.50
Do come along and join us.

More details: Celia Tel 788754 or email: celiaarmstrong@hotmail.co.uk

The Four Seasons Ladies' Group

February 21st at 2 p.m.

In the Village Hall

Tony Diamond "What do you want to know about chocolate?"

More details: Celia Pearson 788494

Yaxley and Mellis Reading Group

Enjoy reading? Want to discuss books with others?

Fourth Thursday afternoon of the month

Further details: Marie Needham 07904 121215 mnwhizz@yahoo.co.uk



The Parish Council

Next Council Meeting **22nd February**



The agenda/notices are on the Parish Noticeboard five days prior to the meeting

The Parish Clerk may be contacted by phone on 01379 783203 or 07958 623897 between 9.00 am and 7.00pm from Monday to Friday and on Saturday from 9.00am to 1.00pm. Please leave a voicemail message if there is no reply and the Clerk will return your call as soon as possible. Contact may also be made by email:- philip.c.freeman@btinternet.com or by letter to: Philip Freeman, 2 Mellis Road, Thrandeston, Diss, IP21 4BU

If there is an emergency then please phone 07958 623897

Website: <http://yaxley.onesuffolk.net>

Councillors: N Young (Chairman) I Luff K Pawsey Roy Hall
J R Hawes J R A Moore C Wright James Laughlin Karin Stubbington

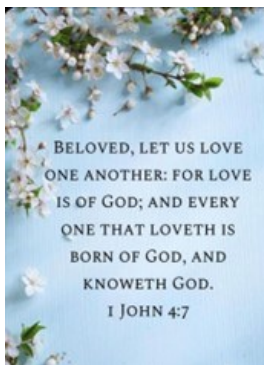
Did You Know?



The Village Hall now has its own website

Find it at:

www.yaxleysuffolkvillagehall.co.uk



St. Mary's Church

South Hartismere Benefice February 2023

Some of my long-suffering family and friends are accustomed to finding, tucked into my Christmas card, a short list of quotations or other items that have caught my eye over the previous year. Some of these have an obviously religious dimension, others less so.

As there would otherwise be a gap in the Newsletter this month, I thought I would share some of them with a wider audience. (Said family and friends know that they don't have to read what I send them - **and neither do you!**)

'Bidden or not bidden, God is present.' - *Carl Jung*

'Where there is no argument, there are only ever lies.' - *the novelist Howard Jacobson*

'False news is news. With the pity edited out.' - *Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate*

'The Virgin's womb is full; the tomb is empty; and the mercy of God is wider than my imagination. That gives me hope.' - *Chloe Reddaway, of the Centre for Arts and the Sacred at King's College, London.*

'Some people still believe that you and I were not born to be creatures of nightmare, that we don't deserve to go extinct. People are acting as though we were still worth saving. And if there are people who think like that - **maybe they're right.**' - *the novelist A L Kennedy*

'The pearl of God gleamed in the mire' - *the biographer of St Hugh of Lincoln, describing how the saint was able to see the inner loveliness of even those most horribly disfigured with leprosy*

'God and I have become
Like two giant fat people
Living in a tiny boat.
We keep
Bumping into each other
And laughing.'

- *Hafiz, 14th Century Sufi poet*

Finally, a remark attributed to St Augustine in the 4th/5th century, preaching to his congregation at Hippo in North Africa. This one didn't make it to the Christmas cards, and (to the best of my knowledge) has never been heard from any pulpit in the South Hartismere Benefice:

'From the stench in this building, I surmise that I have given you rather a long sermon....'

Alan

(The Revd. Dr Alan Harding)

You don't have to be...



...a skilled artist to join **Yaxley Art Club**. We are a friendly group offering mutual support and a forum for discussion and experimentation.

Complete beginner? We'll provide help and guidance to get you started. We also have a range of materials, media and equipment available if you want to have a dabble without it costing too much.

There's no subscription, just a charge of £4 per week (waived for your first session).

We meet in **Yaxley Village Hall** every **Tuesday morning from ten until twelve**. We also intend to arrange outings, practical demonstrations and events, if numbers permit.

Art is relaxing, rewarding and the embodiment of mindfulness, so whether your thing is casting life-sized bronze statues* or simply painting-by-numbers, you'll be warmly welcomed. *Whatever your ability, come along and give us a try!*

Please contact **Chris Virgo** on **01379 788819** or chrisvirgo@icuknet.co.uk for more information.

** Actually, casting life-sized bronze statues in the village hall might be a bit impracticable.*

Accommodation required in Mellis or Yaxley

for two delightful

Ukrainian mothers, each with a child under 10

Two double or two twin rooms required by end June, when their first year in the UK with current sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme comes to an end

Accommodation could be in one property or two nearby as one mother does not yet drive

Both mothers are employed locally, one full and one part time though seeking full time work

The children are in Yaxley Preschool and Eye Primary School

Fair rent payable, if sponsorship under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme is not desired

References available

Telephone Paul (current sponsor) on **07976 538982** for further details

The Yaxley Book Shelf Vol 12

By Andrew Martinelli....

Happy New Year! Another year begins and more books to be read.

All The Light We Cannot See

by Anthony Doerr

I wouldn't usually leap to buy Pulitzer Prize winners, and that wasn't the reason I bought this one. By far the most enjoyable and thought-provoking story I've read in a long time. This is the story of a blind girl, helped to see the world with a miniature model of Paris, and of a boy who has great skills but is forced into war. Their paths meander towards a meeting. Especially well written this was really difficult to put down.

SAS Rogue Heroes

by Ben MacIntyre

If you have watched the BBC series, then this will be of interest. The drama of the series is in some ways in the shadows of the reality. Incredible tales of how such rogue heroes did so much to help save the world from tyranny. Extraordinary bravery and sacrifice, this is another great read.

The White Russian

by Tom Bradby

When he's not been on ITN, or interviewing, Tom Bradby has had time to write a few books. This is not his first, but I enjoyed it more than others. Set in the Russia of 1917 this is a hunt for a murderer, mixed in with some sense of how Russia felt in the moments before the revolution, and the rest is history. One to read on the plane or on the beach.

Dominion

by C.J Sansom

Another one from a great author. Appeasement won the day and Britain stopped fighting in 1940. Although still recognisable in some respects, this is a picture of a Britain defeated and controlled, but with some resistance. Some familiar figures survive and hope to return freedom.

From a guest:

Watermelon

by Marian Keyes

A classic tale of the dynamics of a slightly dysfunctional family, who care for their sister/daughter in law in her hour of need. This is about a family, who in their own quirky ways, show love and support in their unconventional mannerisms, to help Claire find her way. Very moving. Very funny.

From Ian Muir

The Bullet that Missed

by Richard Osman

The third in the series of The Thursday Murder Club. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron are at it again. Investigating a cold case from 10 years ago, a new foe pays Elizabeth a visit. Her mission is kill or be killed. This is superbly entertaining full of humour and heart. Richard Osman just gets better and better. The four unlikely friends are dealing with a murder with no body and trouble comes knocking on their door.

Overall a really entertaining read.

Share your favourite/ latest books with us—just a few words on each will do

Email your notes to me at tony1andabby2@hotmail.com

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**Check our Facebook page for opening
times and events**

The Cherry Tree
OLD NORWICH ROAD, YAXLEY, EYE IP23 8BH
Tel: 01379 783 820

Update from Councillor Nikki Young Chair, Yaxley Parish Council

It feels an awfully long time since Christmas and the New Year but 2023 is definitely moving forward apace. Inflation continues to impact our lives as indeed it did in the 1980's although I do recall an enormous parish for the Military circa 1984, I seem to recall it being in the region of 26% due in the main to No 10's gratitude for service in the Falklands but my memory may of course be shaded by youth. I don't recall subsequent rises in the same ball park! We will all see rises in Council Tax and the Constabulary Precept. I note that the public consultation in the County places Adult Social Care and Children's Services at the top of the list of priorities. The Parish Council agreed unanimously to 'not seek' any increase in the Yaxley Parish element of Council Tax.

Condenser at Leys Lane

The proposal to build a Synchronous Condenser at the North end of Leys Lane to link to the National Grid was discussed at length at the January meeting of the Parish Council. Conrad Energy were present to respond to the queries that Councillors had raised on two previous occasions. Yet again the company failed to respond to concerns and legitimate questions and were unprepared and unable to provide the information and data requested. As those that will need to live for decades with this large construction, we remain concerned with issues of ongoing site enforcement, the impact on a rural position from noise, flooding, maintainable, visual dominance of buildings and the failure of the company to consider construction on a brownfield site on or near the Eye Airfield.

Cherry Tree Close

Parking issues and vehicle movements in Cherry Tree Close were once again a significant issue on the agenda. Councillors, share the concerns of residents particularly relating to car parking near the main road posing a risk for children playing in the area and pedestrians. Until Cherry Tree Close becomes an adopted road, no action can be taken by the Parish Council, planning authorities, Highways or indeed the Police (parking issues). Cherry Tree Close and Cuckoo Close remain private land in the hands of the developer. I would therefore ask that residents are as careful as they can be, share the road responsibly and where possible park in driveways or garages. I would also ask that the amenity area is not

used as a car park: we argued 3 months ago that the grassland was needed as a community area when we received an application to develop the area for bungalows! We were further reminded that a failure for the roads to be adopted has an impact on drains and drainage (amongst other issues), resulting in Local Authorities not having responsibility for clearance of flood waters and detritus. The time may have come for residents of the Closes to come together to form a 'Residents Association' to deal more effectively with the developer and Local Authorities to seek resolution to this and other matters. The Parish Council could then be in a better place to support residents but at present has no powers to address matters as they arise.

Dog Poo

Finally, the matter of dog poo has once again come to our attention. Fouling of footpaths by dogs is an offence with a fine of up to £1000 where the mess is not removed. Please ensure if you are walking a dog anywhere in the village, that you have a sufficient supply of dog poo bags with you on the walk and pick up the poo as quickly as possible and put in the bins. There are dog poo bins throughout the village which are emptied every Thursday. Removal of dog poo from shoes is a health problem particularly when children tread it through school or onto carpets at home.



We have had reports of people receiving telephone calls claiming to be "the Council" who request bank details from the resident so that "Council Tax refunds" can be issued.

Your local Borough or District Council would never ring a resident to ask for their bank details to issue a refund. If a refund is due, they would either refund the money directly or send a credit notice to the bill payer's address.

If you receive a similar call, please hang up and do not provide the caller with any personal details.

Report all scam calls to **Citizens Advice Consumer Service** on **0808 223 1133**.



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Classic stamps are being replaced by those with barcodes.

The Royal Mail website still says that the last date for using the old stamps is 31st January 2023. However, in response to protests, a “six month grace period” has been granted, which Royal Mail says is not an extension. Whatever—the effect is that you need to use your old stamps by **July 31st**.

If you still have old stamps you can swap them for new ones.

If you have a printer you can print a form for swapping £200-worth of stamps from the Royal Mail website. If you don't have a printer you can request forms to be sent to you. 'Stamp Swap Out' forms are also available from the Customer Service Point at local Delivery Offices. Or you can call their Customer Experience Team on 03457 740740.

The deadline only applies to ordinary postage stamps: Special Stamps with pictures on and Christmas Stamps without a barcode will continue to be valid and don't need to be swapped out

Royal Mail website (www.royalmail.com/sending/barcoded-stamps)



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Botesdale Health Centre	01379 898295
Citizens' Advice Bureau (Diss)	01379 640530
Suffolk Police (non-emergency)	just phone 101
Suffolk Fire Safety	01473 260586
Electricity (emergency)	0800 783 8838
Anglian Water (emergency)	0800 145145
Essex and Suffolk Water (emergency)	0845 7820999

Supply your news/village events by **15th of the month please** to **Abby Brett** at Willow Lodge, Old Ipswich Road, Yaxley, IP23 8BX
telephone 01379 783984 or email: tony1andabby2@hotmail.com

Business advertising

The cost of advertising per month is: £4.00/quarter page, £7.00/half page, £12.00/whole page. **Please contact Tony Brett, as above.**

As the weather has turned colder, I've noticed mould and damp in our flat. It's mainly in our bedroom, including some black mould on the carpet. I've been chasing our letting agency, who say they'll speak to our landlord. I'm really worried about how this might affect our health. Our tenancy agreement isn't up for eight months, what can I do?

It's good that you've already raised the issue with your letting agency. Unfortunately, it isn't always easy to work out the cause of mould or damp. This can make it difficult to work out if your landlord is responsible, unless there's an obvious cause, like a leaking roof.

There are many causes of damp that properties can get. The most common are rising, penetrating, construction and condensation damp. On our website there is information that may help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do. Check your tenancy agreement too for mentions of repairs and damp, and reach out to Citizens Advice on anything you're unsure about.

A landlord will have to act in relation to damp if it makes the property unsafe for someone to live in. This could be for example, if it is making the tenant or a member of their family ill. The landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like if heaters are broken. If the damp has damaged items that the landlord is responsible for, such as carpets and window frames, they'll likely have to cover the cost of repairs.

One of the most common causes of damp is condensation. To prevent this, it's important to keep homes well-heated and well-ventilated, but for a lot of people this will be trickier to do given the colder weather and higher heating costs. You may be eligible for help to insulate and heat your home, and should visit our website to find out more.

On our website we also have advice on things that can make damp worse and may impact the landlord taking responsibility for repairs. These include drying clothes on heaters or blocking air vents.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your property but doesn't act, there are steps you can take, such as reporting them to the local authority. If you're in social housing you might also be able to use the landlord's formal complaints procedure. There is more information about this on our website. If it reaches the point where you want to get out of a fixed term tenancy agreement early, speak to Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk first, as there might be better ways to approach the issue. You may also find helpful information on <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/renting-privately/during-your-tenancy/dealing-with-repairs/>

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this and other issues, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060 or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. More information and our opening hours can also be found at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us.



DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

In the first instance, I hope you all had a very happy and peaceful festive season and my best wishes to you for the New Year ahead.

We all want to ensure that our children and grandchildren have good homes to live in. We also recognise the need for new housing developments where there is a need, and to ensure that there are affordable new homes, including social rented houses, built as a part of larger new developments. However, I have always firmly believed that decisions about new housing developments should be taken locally, and that brownfield development should be prioritised ahead of building on the countryside.

I am pleased to say that it is these principles that now underpin our planning laws. When I was first elected as an MP in 2010, the Government introduced the Localism Act to support local councils to develop evidence-based housing plans according to local housing need.

Suffolk's towns and parishes now also have the power to develop their own neighbourhood plans.

Thanks to these important Government reforms, the top-down regional housing targets were rightly scrapped, and Whitehall civil servants, many of whom have never set foot in Suffolk, lost the power to impose massive new housing developments on our area.

It is because of my belief in protecting the countryside from over-development, and letting councils take the lead in developing evidence-based housing growth plans based upon local need, that I recently worked with other MPs to block suggested changes to the planning system which would have potentially reintroduced a form of regionally set housing target by the back door, as well as fast-tracked developments in certain areas without proper local consultation or scrutiny. These changes were wrong and I am pleased to have played my part in stopping them from happening.

I remain firmly of the view that we must continue to better protect local consultation and decision making in the planning process.

I am currently fighting to ensure that new laws are introduced to allow a community right of appeal against a planning decision. Currently, developers have the right to appeal but communities do not. It is time to level the playing field. Bad planning decisions need to be challenged, and residents deserve the right to do so.

Over the past few years, there have been developments recommended and granted for approval because of the fear of the cost to the council of defending an appeal. Levelling the playing field by creating a new community right of appeal would support council planning officers and councillors to make the right planning decisions - decisions which are in the best interests of the local community rather than decisions that best protect the council from the costs of a planning appeal.

I shall continue to do all that I can to ensure our local councils have all the tools they need to make the right planning decisions in the future.