



Yaxley Messenger

March 2023



Yaxley Fishing Lake in Spring

Photograph by Thomas Jacob



With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Suffolk <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk> has loads of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Suffolk (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris
www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

East Anglian Traditional Music Trust

Have you ever wondered about what went on in East Anglia before the delights of the screen captured us? East Anglian Traditional Music Trust (a charity) hold some keys to the past in our area.

Sunday 2nd of April
between 2 and 4 pm
Yaxley Village Hall
Old Ipswich Road
Yaxley IP23 8BX

**We invite you to join us for 2 hours of
entertainment.**

Entry to the event is free.

We will show you how to work jig dolls, you can watch Suffolk/Norfolk step dancers, and an energetic broom dance, hear tales told in dialect, listen to or join in with our talented musicians and singers.

We look forward to seeing you at our event and hope that it wets your appetites to learn more about East Anglian Traditions and Music.

**EATMT, info@eatmt.org.uk 07495 054669
www.eatmt.org.uk
Registered Charity 1082774
Red Gables, Ipswich Road, Stowmarket,
Suffolk IP14 1BE**

Clubs and Societies

The Art Club

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

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

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

Further details: Chris Virgo 788819.

The Garden Club (see page 14)

March 2nd at 7.30 p.m.

In the Village Hall

Ken from The Garden Enclosure will give a talk on
Spring Inspiration

Visitors Welcome: £5 to include light refreshments

More details: Abby 783984

The Yaxley Needlework and Craft Group

March 8th and 22nd

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

March 21st at 2 p.m.

In the Village Hall

Mary Newton—Forensic Scientist "Rape, a short word but a long sentence"

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 **5th April**



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

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01379 788754 or email: celiaarmstrong@hotmail.co.uk



St. Mary's Church

**South Hartismere Benefice
March 2023**

As I write this, I am enjoying seeing first signs of new growth; in many of our churchyards snowdrops are a particularly beautiful sight – so perfectly small and hopeful.

As you read this, we will be well into the season of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter. It starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Eve. But if you look in a calendar and count the days and they come to more than 40, don't be perplexed – this is because you don't count the Sundays in Lent!

Rather like Advent, Lent is seen as a time of preparation. The church colour for both seasons is purple, which is traditionally a royal colour, helping us to remember that Jesus is King and that he died at Easter. If you go into a church doing Lent you will see that things like the altar cloth are purple to show this and when I am doing a service during Lent I will wear a purple stole.

Of course, the most popular and well known tradition during Lent is to give something up, a tradition which originated from the stricter fasting practices. Maybe you have decided to give up a luxury during Lent this year?

In my day job as a Primary Church School Headteacher we talk to the children about these things. It can be really amusing to hear them be very keen to give up their least favourite vegetable!

More and more there is a new tradition of people trying to do positive things during Lent. At my school we often participate in things such as '40 Acts of Kindness' or '40 Acts of Generosity'. It is a great way to put others first. Imagine the impact if we all tried to add in extra kindness or generosity every day.

Mothering Sunday also falls during Lent. Traditionally, in the 16th Century, this was when people were expected to visit their 'mother' church. If that was too far to travel they would go to their nearest Cathedral. Later on, it was a day when maids and servants had a day off to go back and visit their mothers and families. It can be a tough day for those of us who miss their mums. If you would like to light a candle, have a few moments of peace and quiet or join us for a Mothering Sunday Service or any other, whether it be with your family or in celebration or remembrance – you will all be very welcome.

Take care,

Reverend Lauren

From the Parishes:

In Loving Memory:

Joyce Youngman, Mellis
and **Johnny Marland**, Gislingham





DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

As I write these words on a crisp January day, with the festivities seeming far behind, I'm aware the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine approaches, by the time you read these lines this sombre date will have just passed. Like many of you I have been reflecting on the impact this has had across our country and particularly here in Suffolk.

The tragic loss of life in Ukraine is deeply saddening and many people have been forced to flee their homes. The UK response to the crisis has been commendable, not least of all here in Suffolk where, as ever, I've been heartened by the response of our local communities.

I've seen first-hand, the compassion for Ukrainian refugees from residents across Suffolk and it is humbling to witness the way the Ukrainian families have settled into life here, with children attending schools and parents finding work. How difficult attempting a normal life in a foreign country must be, whilst worrying about loved ones forced to stay behind.

As a regular visitor to our local schools, during a recent visit I was delighted to meet with a young Ukrainian student who my parliamentary team and I assisted in settling here. The student is now thriving within the school, and I was impressed to learn how easily they had settled into school and Suffolk life, supported by staff and fellow pupils.

Perhaps the biggest impact the conflict has had for many in the UK and around the world is on the cost of living. We still find ourselves in the midst of a challenging winter as we count the cost of Putin's energy war. However, despite this, we welcome the news that in recent weeks, gas prices have thankfully stabilised and started to fall. This will help in reducing the impact of the war on the UK's inflation and cost of living for everyone.

In addition to the impact on energy supplies and prices, Putin also appears to be weaponising food supplies. Both Russia and Ukraine are among the biggest exporters of fertiliser and a further consequence of the conflict has been a reduction in supplies of fertiliser to the UK. This has increased the cost of growing food and resulting in increased prices in the shops.

We all remain concerned about what the future holds for Ukraine and hope for a resolution soon, in the meantime our continued support for the UK Government's position in standing shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine is right. I shall do everything I can to ensure the needs of Suffolk's residents and businesses are heard in Westminster during these challenging times.

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 13

By Andrew Martinelli....

Variety, and not just spy thrillers or WW2 this month.

Outbreak

by Frank Gardner

Reading this during covid times was not my best decision. BBC security editor and journalist Frank Gardner delivers a fast paced and troubling adventure through the arctic circle, and a race to stop the spread of a highly contagious bio weapon. Very good, but...

The Berlin Exchange

by Joseph Kanon

1960's spy thriller, a favoured genre of mine! Post WW2 physicists, and people being exchanged. Intriguing twist in the tale of people being paid for, in turn propping up the regime. Not quite the same as buying gas, but a similar result?

Bradshaw's Descriptive Railway Hand-Book of Great Britain and Ireland

(1863 version!)

If you've watched Michael Portillo and his blindingly bright technicolour jackets, then this might be of interest. Not one that I have read cover to cover, but historically interesting to read about the towns and villages that are now rather different.

Some examples:

Bury St Edmunds

An old Saxon town and parliamentary borough, situated in so healthy a spot that it has been called the Montpelier of England in a beautiful part of West Suffolk, founded by Canute along with an

abbey, to commemorate the martyrdom of Edmund, a King of East Anglia, by the Danes in the year 870.

Hadleigh

A Market town in the county of Suffolk, built on the banks of the river Breton. It was celebrated some years back for the manufacture of cloth, but the inhabitants are now principally employed in the spinning of yarn for the Norwich weavers.

Diss

The church was built by the Fitzwalters. Skelton (the witty poet laureate to Harry the Bluff) was rector. In the vicinity is Shimpling, the Duke of Grafton's seat.

I could go on...and on... No mention of Yaxley Halt, as my version pre-dates it's construction and opening in 1922.

Pompeii

by Robert Harris

A fictional tale of Pompeii, with the early signs of trouble ignored, through the eyes of an engineer who tried to warn of the impending disaster. Very well written, and a real insight into what might have happened until the end.

From a guest:

Woman in Black

by Susan Hill

An old and known classic. I watched this in the theatre before I read the book. A wonderful and thrilling production had the hairs on my neck standing. The book is wonderfully written and deserves a read, even if you have seen the more recent (and reasonable) film. It still creates it's own atmosphere within the pages.

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

Email your notes to me at tony1andabby2@hotmail.com

Abby

Did You Know?



The Village Hall now has its own website

Find it at:

www.yaxleysuffolkvillagehall.co.uk

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

The Cherry Tree
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Tel: 01379 783 820



Do you have a garden? An allotment? a window box???
Are you an experienced gardener – or have done just a bit? !

Or are new to gardening/ have a new garden? Welcome

We have spaces for people to join the Garden Club – if you have new gardening ideas or knotty problems; if you've had some particular successes or failures; if you've got queries and/ or lots of experience – and if you enjoy your gardening – do come!

At present we have a range of knowledgeable speakers in the winter and visits to special gardens in the summer along with a summer garden party/BBQ.

We're starting up a regular members' question and answers slot – for instance -

How do you? : - deal with autumn leaves / build a compost heap/ grow leeks/ plan a garden/ deal with slugs / take cuttings of fuchsias / grow raspberries/ prune a plum tree/ deal with pond weed / deal with an overgrown pampas grass / get rid of bamboo?.....

What can I?: plant around here – what shrubs/ flowers/ veg grow well in this area – and what doesn't?....

Where can I? - find horse manure locally / find a good alpines nursery / find a nursery supplying ornamental grasses / find someone to mend the lawnmower?...

Have you ever.... And does/did it work?... created a no-dig bed / created a dry garden / created a bog garden / used a flame weedkiller / tried to grow aubergines/ used re-cycled materials in the garden?

What do you use for?? – edging lawns / keeping tall flowers from falling over / preventing eye accidents with canes / giving ground cover in deep shade? / creating a weed barrier under paths etc

Bring your questions !– and you may get several different answers / comments based on experience.

Share your knowledge and experience ! - if you've gardened at all - you've got useful experience.

Bring cuttings/ saved seed – and share them around. If you save your own seed, you may have more than you can use. Don't throw them out - bring them along!

We meet on the first Thursday of the month in Yaxley Village Hall at 7.15 for 7.30 in the winter, and by arrangement for visits in the summer. We have members from Yaxley, Mellis, Thornham, Wortham, Eye – so if you live in the local area, you're welcome to join. It costs £20 per year, and we usually need to pay for garden visits.

For more information contact: ... Abby on 01379 783984.....

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Opening Hours

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Tuesday 17:00-23:00
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Ring or text for information or to book an appointment

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Easter Bingo

Saturday 8th April
Yaxley Village Hall

**7.00 p.m. with “eyes down”
at 7.30 p.m.**

Bring your own nibbles and drinks
Everyone welcome



**Prizes
Galore!**



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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.**

My employer asked me to work some extra hours lately, but I don't appear to have received the extra pay. I asked my boss about it and they said they would look into it, but I don't seem to be getting anywhere. What should I do?

If you think your pay is wrong, or you haven't been paid for extra hours worked, the best thing you can do is talk to your employer and find out what's going on. If you and your employer can't agree on how much you should have been paid, you can challenge them. You should act quickly though – it'll be harder to get your money after 3 months from the date the problem arose.

You should start by checking your payslip if you've got one. This will help you see how your pay has been worked out. Check things like:

- Whether you've been paid for the number of hours you've actually worked
- If you've been paid at the correct rate
- If you've been paid overtime, a commission or a bonus
- Whether you've been paid any sick pay
- If your employer has deducted any money that you weren't expecting

Ask your employer to explain anything you don't understand on your payslip or why you haven't been paid what you believe you are owed. If you disagree with anything, explain why. If your employer has made a genuine mistake, ask them to pay you the money you're owed straight away – you should not have to wait until your next pay day.

If you need more help, you can contact Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk to get advice on the next steps.

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 .

Village Hall News



The Village Hall Committee would like to let you know what we are planning for the coming year.

Sunday, 2nd April from 2 to 4pm

The East Anglian Traditional Music Trust has booked the Hall for an afternoon of song and dance – everyone is invited as long as space allows!

Saturday, 8th April - Easter Bingo - 7 for 7.30 pm

Entrance: As many bingo books as you would like to buy. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Prizes galore!!

Saturday, 22nd April - Quiz Night - 7 for 7.30 pm

Entrance: £2.50 per head. Quizmaster: Richard Pursehouse. Everyone welcome – teams can be formed on the night. Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Saturday, 1st July - Family Fun Day - 11.30 to 4.00 pm

Lots being planned but more stalls and involvement needed – watch this space

And: Save the date for:

Saturday, 28th October – Children's Halloween Party

Saturday, 18th November - Another evening with Charlie Haylock talking about his involvement with “The Dig” – tickets will be available.

More is being planned throughout the year.

If you have any ideas about running an event or a club or any other suggestions you would like to make, please call Ian or Celia on 01379 788754 or by email to celiaarmstrong@hotmail.co.uk.

Also go and take a look at our new website - yaxleysuffolkvillagehall.co.uk where you will be taken on a virtual tour. You can also book your private party or event directly from the site.

www.yaxleysuffolkvillagehall.co.uk

Get in touch - Get involved

It's your Community Space