



The newsletter for the community of Orford and Gedgrave

Issue No. 382 January 2024

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All copy must be received by midday on Thursday 18 January 2024, preferably by email to:

orfordtrust@outlook.com or put through the Town Hall letterbox

Priority for inclusion is given to articles that are about or directly affect the community of Orford and Gedgrave and inclusion is subject to editing and availability of space. Contributors should be aware that this newsletter is published on the website of Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council and the New Orford Town Trust (www.orfordparishandtrust.onesuffolk.net)

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF VILLAGE VOICE IS MIDDAY ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY

FROM ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL CHRISTMAS TREES

Thank you to the New Orford Town Trust for supplying the two village Christmas trees. Thank you also to the fireman for putting them up, and for their valuable contribution to the village throughout the year. This is much appreciated by the NOTT, the Parish Council and everyone in the village.

BUS SHELTER REFURBISHMENT

The Parish Council has paid for the refurbishment of the bus shelter in Mundays Lane as it is an asset that needs to be maintained.

Marie Backhouse, Clerk to Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council

ORFORD EMERGENCY GROUP

The Emergency Group was first chaired and instigated by the late Mike Pearce. The current group consists of seventeen members. With the recent resignation of Mike Finney as Chair, (thank you Mike for your assistance with the group) a new Chair, John Backhouse, and Vice Chair Richard Mallett have been nominated. The current members have been assigned a role, this is either within the Atlas group who undertake the manual work, assisting with identifying the risk to the village and residents then helping to deal with those risks ahead of the arrival of the Emergency Services. The Comfort Group's role is to open the Town Hall and create a warm room with hot drinks for those that are evacuated from their homes. The Group works within the remit of East Suffolk Council Emergency Planning Team.

Community Emergency Planning Groups are just for key committee members but is open to all those who would like to help in the event of an incident occurring. The key role is to liaise with our local Emergency Planning Officer from the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit who can support with preparing the Community Emergency Plan.

It is important to identify local skills and resources available within the community. The group has a plan which is updated on an annual basis. This gives guidelines as to what needs to be followed to ensure safety of volunteers and residents. If anyone wishes to join the group or has any queries, please contact using the list at the back of this Village Voice. The group has some basic equipment which includes the recent purchase of a small water pump for use in minor flooding.

John Backhouse, Chair, Orford Emergency Group

ROBIN DENNY – THANK YOU

I would just like to say a big thank you for all the cards, messages and kind words following the death of my father Robin. They were very much appreciated and I'm thankful for such good friends. And special thanks to Louise, Denise, Gail and Julie for all the help at his wake.

Simon Denny

January dates for your diary

- Each Monday: badminton - Orford Town Hall - 10am-12noon
- Each Monday: Coffee and Chat - NOT meeting in January
- Each Wednesday: chair pilates - Orford Sports and Recreation Club, 11am-12noon
- Each Monday and Wednesday: Methodist Chapel tea room, lunch, 11am-2pm (re-opens Monday 8 January)
- Each Wednesday: badminton - 7-9pm
- Each Friday: pickleball - Orford Town Hall, 10am-12noon
- Each Friday: Bart's Hall warm room, hot soup lunch - Bart's Hall, 12.30-2.00pm
- Each Saturday: Orford Country Market - Orford Town Hall, 9.30am-1pm (re-opens Saturday 13 January)
- Monday 1 January: New Year's Day river dip - Orford Quay, 11.30am
- Friday 5 January: Talks for Thomas - Bart's Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm
- Thursday 11 January: Gardening Club - Orford Town Hall, 7.30pm

WARM ROOM: FRIDAY SOUP AT ST BART'S HALL, 12.30 – 2pm

All are welcome to join us for a simple soup lunch followed by coffee and cake. There is no charge, but donations are welcome.

Christmas Warm Room Openings: The warm room will be open as usual on Fridays 22 and 29 December, and then on Fridays throughout January.

For further information contact Caroline Gill 07799 655825

Caroline Gill

NEW YEAR'S DAY RIVER DIP

Back by even less than the no demand there was last year, once again there will be a few mad souls taking a very short New Year swim/dip off the slipway on New Year's Day, Monday 1 January 2024 at 11.30am, followed by a hot toddy in one of our wonderful public houses! And if enough people attend to swim and/or support, Matt Smy, our harbour master has (ok, 'may') promised to put his speedos on and join the dip....

Please do feel free to come and join me/us and blow away the cobwebs and Christmas indulgences. There should be enough space for everyone. As ever, we totally understand if you couldn't think of anything worse to do on the first day of the year. In the meantime, very Happy Christmas and New Year to all of the great village that is Orford!

Nick Pearce

TALKS FOR THOMAS IN AID OF THE THOMAS MARSHALL EDUCATION FUND

Local author Sarah Hardy gave us an evocative and fascinating talk in December about her novel *The Walled Garden*, set in 1946 on the Suffolk coast. She spoke movingly about the scars of war on those who survived – both from battle abroad and at home, reading beautifully written excerpts.

Our 2024 talk series starts on Friday 5 January when Mike Finney, retired submariner, will tell us what life was really like under the sea. If you've ever wondered about life in the Navy please join us for drinks, nibbles and the opportunity to ask questions. Mike's talk, 'Life in Steel Tubing' will entertain us all with stories of his career and activities in the depths of the ocean.

On Friday 23 February Andy Halliday's talk on 'Bombs, Bullets and Banter' will cover his thirty years in the Metropolitan Police alongside a career in international hockey as an athlete and coach. He will discuss the 'painful privilege' of his working years with very diverse roles on high performing teams and reflect openly and candidly on his unique experiences. From the despair of events surrounding 7/7 to the joy of working with Team GB at the London Olympics, he has a story that encapsulates the best and the worst of life at the sharp end.

All talks take place in Bart's Hall, Broad Street, Orford. They begin at 6.30pm with wine and nibbles, start at 7pm and finish around 8pm.

Please book your tickets (£10) in advance from Wendy Marshall on 01394 450090 or email contact@tmef.org.uk. Spaces are limited at the venue and we don't want to disappoint!

Katherine Silver-Murphy

JANUARY AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

All are warmly welcomed to join us at St Bartholomew's, Orford and our neighbouring churches for:

Christmas Services at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 24 December	Christmas Eve 4pm, Crib Service 10pm, Midnight Mass
Monday 25 December	Christmas Day 10am, Family Service with Guy Marshall 9.30am, Holy Communion at Sudbourne – Rev Dr Stephen

January Services at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 7 January	Epiphany, 9.30am, Sung Holy Communion – Revd Giles Tulk
Sunday 14 January	11am, Orford Holy Communion Revd Giles Tulk
Sunday 21 January	9.30am, Orford BCP Holy Communion Revd Giles Tulk
Sunday 4 February	9.30am, Orford Sung Holy Communion Revd Giles Tulk

A CHURCH NEAR YOU WEBSITE www.achurchnearyou.com provides details of all church services and events in the local area. For further information contact the Team Rector: Rev Giles Tulk 01394 450610 revgileswtr@gmail.com

Looking ahead

Saturday 2 March 2024, Friends of St Bartholomew's Quiz night and Supper in the Town Hall. Graeme Kay Quizmaster. Tables of 8. Tickets £22.50 available from Caroline Gill 07799 655825 / caroline@tropic.org.uk

Rev Giles Tulk

JANUARY AT ORFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 7 January	10.30am Stephen Caley – lunch follows
Sunday 14 January	10.30am Service arranged locally
Sunday 21 January	10.30am Annual Methodist Covenant Service and Communion Rev. Stephen Yelland
Sunday 28 January	10.30am Service arranged locally

There's a WELCOME to you all – our children stay in church for the service with their activities. Refreshments are served afterwards.

CHAPEL TEA ROOM reopens on Monday 8 January and every Monday and Wednesday at 11am through 2pm – visitors and local friends welcome to come along for a very relaxed coffee and cake – or a warming lunch. See us on Facebook where there are lots of wonderful comments for the Methodist Tea Room!

Happy New Year to you all

Stephen Caley

ORFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

OUR NEXT EVENT!

Thursday 11 January 2024, 7.30pm, Orford Town Hall
James Horner, Head Gardener Benton End

'Reviving Cedric Morris' garden at Benton End'

James Horner recently begun the project of leading the revival of Cedric Morris's garden in Hadleigh, Suffolk. James brings fifteen years of experience, including three years training at Great Dixter. James has worked on garden projects in Italy, the Balearic Islands, London and North America. He will describe his horticultural approach and the processes of reviving this garden as well as presenting insights into how the garden will re-evolve so it can again inspire plants-people and artists.

Plants for sale!

Now is the time to join: £15 for the full year or £5 as a guest at an event. Contact Polly as below or just turn up a bit early on 11 January.

What you've missed:

Xa Tollemache of Helmingham Hall: 'A garden well placed: a designer's harmony between house and garden'

Seventy of us gathered to hear Xa's talk about her career and the gardens she has designed, who for, and what the particular aspects of her creativity had come into play when she was working with her clients. We all took something we could relate to our own gardens to move forward in 2024.

Our AGM and Social Supper

We had a record number of attendees, namely fifty, at our very short business meeting, accompanied by mulled wine and the social supper provided and cooked by the Committee for everyone to enjoy!

We are delighted to have enlisted the support of two new committee members to join our team to deliver the very full 2024 Programme!

Coming in 2024:

Thursday 8 February: Katy and Joey of Husk Supper Club about using local ingredients, especially fruit and vegetables, and preserving, with tastings!

Tuesday 13 February: Private Snowdrop Tour at Anglesey Abbey

Saturday 16 March: Jon Mason 'Creating a Wild Garden at Little Orchard'

Wednesday 27 March: spring visit to the Old Rectory, Orford

Polly Sharkey (Chair), creativefutures98@btinternet.com, 01394 450959

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

It was a beautiful crisp day on Saturday 2 December when St Bartholomew's held its annual Christmas Bazaar. This was very well attended and there was a real buzz about the church. The total raised for the church funds was £1378.

Many thanks to all who came and supported us on the day, or helped set up the church, run the stalls and then dismantle everything afterwards. Special thanks must also go to Piers and Suvi Pool at High House Farm, who are always so generous with providing the apples each year as well as supplying their delicious apple juice for so many other events we hold in the village. If you would like to be involved with next years' Christmas Bazaar and/or have any ideas for some new stalls or activities that we could do, please let me know. We are always open to any fun-filled suggestions!

Thank you once again.

Wendy Marshall, 01394 450090

THE BRASS BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Once again, The Band of the Royal British Legion, Leiston turned up at the church on Sunday 3 December and provided an excellent start to the Christmas festivities with a rousing and varied selection of tunes. This year there was the added bonus of the Band accompanying the audience with some well-known carols and Christmas songs. It was good to see old and new faces in both the band and the audience and we look forward to another uplifting concert from them next year. A total of just over £300 was raised for TMEF funds which will help supply the 'Christmas boxes' for all the children we help support. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Wendy Marshall and all the TMEF trustees

ORFORD MUSEUM EVENTS FOR 2024

On Tuesday 6 February 2024, David Warren will give a talk entitled 'A Personal sixty-year Journey on Orford Ness'. David will explain his connection with Orford Ness from when he spent four years there as a Scientific Assistant going on to become a National Trust volunteer Ranger and, later, an independent military researcher. His long-lasting affinity with the Ness increased during his time spent at Aldermaston. As a volunteer, David led a National Trust programme to find and record the memories of Orford Ness 'Veterans'. The facts and memories shared by fifty-five Vets motivated him and other volunteers to work on acquiring and adding new information to that already published by the National Trust. David's talk will include an overview of the vast range of military technologies that were carried out on the Ness, together with an explanation of the various projects newly discovered by independent researchers – now branded as IRGON. It will also demonstrate IRGON's use of CGI intended to give the public 'virtual tours' of the Ness and the interior of its many iconic structures.

Our second talk for Spring 2024 will be given on Thursday 14 March by Philip Wise, Heritage Manager at Colchester and Ipswich Museums on **The Fenwick Treasure**, a hoard of Roman gold buried during the Boudican revolt and discovered in 2014 on the site of Fenwick's department store in Colchester. In this talk Philip, who was personally involved in arranging for the Fenwick Treasure to come to Colchester Castle Museum, will discuss its significance and what it tells us about life in Colchester at the time of the Boudican Revolt.

All talks take place at Butley Priory by kind permission of Sir Edward and Lany Greenwell. To book tickets, please go to our website at www.orfordmuseum.org.uk or contact our Treasurer at info@orfordmuseum.org.uk. All talks start at 6pm, last about an hour and include a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink.

Celtic Exhibition in Orford Castle

The exhibition in some of the Museum's display cases in Orford Castle of Celtic artefacts loaned to us by a local collector has drawn much attention and praise and we are, therefore, proposing to leave it in place until Easter 2024. If you haven't already seen it, do go – it is quite beautiful. Friends of Orford Museum have free entry to Orford Castle so if you would like to join the Friends, you will find details of how to do so on our website together with much else about Orford Museum, its history, publications and activities.

Audio/Visual Equipment for Hire

Is your group or organization planning an event that would benefit from the use of audio/visual equipment? Orford Museum has a range for hire which includes a projector, screen, PA amplifier with two speakers and a choice of microphones. We can also offer personnel to set up the equipment and connect it to your laptop, PC, Mac etc. For more information and availability, please email mike.welsh99@gmail.com or leave a message on 01394 450596

Elizabeth Spinney, Orford Museum

ORFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL: A VERY SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Commander Major Mike Norman began his talk to the pupils by saying that the reason he was there, was his great niece, and as he pointed to her sitting cross-legged in the front row. She had a proud smile on her face.

His introductory slide was *The Rescue of the 'Ben Asdale', a Fishing Trawler* – and below the title was the saying *'there is a very thin line between bravery and stupidity'*

The meaning of this became evident as his story unfolded and it was agreed by all, that it was a story of bravery, which was subsequently rewarded with much treasured, special medals which the pupils all got to see close-up.

Mike then proceeded to give the audience a little maths problem – *The year of the rescue was 1978, so how long ago was it?* – and several pupils worked out the correct answer.

He then told the dramatic story with a gentle voice, which had the pupils spellbound throughout. He invited his young audience to ask questions at any time and several children put up their hands, unafraid to asked very intelligent questions, the answers to which, added to the interest in the detail of the account.

At one point Mike, slowly and with great care, brought out the helmet he wore during the rescue. He challenged the audience to guess his age and promised that if anyone got the right answer, they would be awarded the honour of wearing the helmet! Most of the pupils guessed him to be much younger which made him smile, but one pupil was spot on when he said 'Eighty'! The helmet was placed ceremoniously on his head and I expect he will remember that for the rest of his life!

The description of the rescue was an emotional journey as the conditions were such that no one normally would have ventured out in a Sea King helicopter in force 8–10 gale. The crew however, agreed that they couldn't leave six fishermen to die in their trawler, which was being battered on rocks by enormous waves. Two men had sadly already died. The crew of the Sea King spent two hours winching the six men one by one into the safety of the helicopter. At one point the winch wire snagged on the door with a survivor holding on, who could neither be hauled up or down. They made a quick decision to lower him into the treacherous sea to take the tension of his weight off the wire which, thankfully, could then be released for the rescue to continue. The entire rescue operation was carried out in a very restricted area where the risk was that the blades could have hit the cliffs. One of Mike's slides showed a painting that depicted the scene of the rescue. It looked incredibly scary with the searchlights from both the helicopter and the Coastguard who were standing by, picking out the wreck of the trawler and the wheelhouse into which the men had gone awaiting their turn to be rescued. To everyone's relief, the almost impossible mission became a great success.

To end his talk, Mike read aloud a letter of gratitude which he and his brave crew received years later from one of the rescued trawler men who was twenty-seven years old at the time. He said he was now seventy-two and had fifteen grandchildren, none of which would have been possible had it not been for the bravery and the 'outside the limits' of the flying skills of the helicopter crew. He recognised that they had taken a calculated risk and ended with the words, 'God bless them'.

The pupils gave their special guest a tremendous – and much-deserved – round of applause.

Liz Feibusch

JANUARY UPDATE FROM THE PENINSULA PRACTICE

Staff training is important for our practice. On the following days, surgery sites are closed from 13:00 until the following day.

The specified site is open for booking future appointments and accessing repeat prescriptions.

Thursday 8 February 2024 – Alderton • Wednesday 6 March – Aldeburgh

All calls will be redirected to 111.

Happy New Year!

As we bring in 2024, we would like to wish our patients a Happy New Year, and encourage everyone to use this year to take care of their health using some of the following tips:

If you feel a new lump in your body, please contact us • Movement is good – moving your body in ways that you can and doesn't cause pain keeps your joints mobile and heart pumping • Brush your teeth twice a day (and at least right before you go to bed) • Drink lots of water • Vegetables and fruit are your friends • Your health is important to us – if you have any concerns or questions about your health, please contact us, we want to help!

Welcome to Dr Ian Rudland!

We are delighted to welcome Dr Rudland back to Peninsula Practice. Many of you will remember Dr Rudland who successfully completed his GP training with us and is very happy to be returning as a permanent member of our excellent GP team.

www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk or 01394 411641

<https://www.facebook.com/ThePeninsulaPracticeGPSurgery/>



01394 450235

We can help with any of the following:

Friendship and companionship • Collection of medication • Shopping • Dog walking / feeding pets • Form filling and help with technology • One-off garden tidy • Minor household repairs • A healthy meal • Transport to hospital and GP appointments • Provision of a personal care alarm and key safe • A Community Larder located in the entrance to the Kings Head car park • Weekly trip to Woodbridge (£2 charge) • Support for anyone who is impacted by a scam • Monday Coffee & Chat and Friday Soup • Other activities as requested and agreed

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and the local organisations who support us: The King's Head; Orford & District Surgery CIO; Orford General Stores, Orford Sports & Recreation Club; New Orford Town Trust; Pump Street Bakery; Saint Bartholomew's Church

ORFORD AND GEDGRAVE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN



...FLOOD, TIDAL SURGE, STORM, FIRE, POWER LOSS, EXTREME WEATHER,
VILLAGE ISOLATION...



IN THE EVENT OF A LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY CALL 999 AND ADVISE A MEMBER OF THE EMERGENCY GROUP. FOR ANY OTHER COMMUNITY EMERGENCY CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE EMERGENCY GROUP

The first member of the **EMERGENCY GROUP** to become aware of an emergency will immediately convene a meeting of all members of the **GROUP** at the Town Hall.

The **EMERGENCY GROUP** will assess the risk posed to the community and use the map in the Hall to identify persons at risk.

They will ensure that the appropriate emergency services (fire, police, ambulance, red cross) have been alerted.

They will plan the action needed and contact the **COMFORT GROUP** to prepare the Town Hall, the **ATLAS GROUP** for physical assistance, and other resources as necessary.

The Town Hall will be made ready to receive those in need of refuge (who should bring blankets, duvets, food, drink and personal medication).

If evacuation is required urgently then whistles and horns will be sounded in the risk areas to identify an emergency.

EMERGENCY GROUP

John Backhouse	01394 450919	07912 317778	johnabackhouse@icloud.com
Richard Mallett		07765543097	richardmallett530@btinternet.com
Anne Macro	01394 450741	07704 310910	annemacro123@gmail.com
Sue Johnston	01394 450469	07928 099293	suejohnston1@gmail.com
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			orfordtrust@outlook.com
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Michael Finney	01394 450093	07783 994157	mikefinney118@hotmail.co.uk

December 2023

RESIDENTS MAY FIND IT USEFUL TO KEEP THE ABOVE TO HAND IN CASE OF EMERGENCY